

Halton Community Combined School

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Website: www.halton.bucks.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr. Colin Horsfield



Positivity :: Respect :: Honesty :: Perseverance :: Loyalty :: Courage

The Heads Up

AUTUMN TERM

ISSUE 1

Tuesday 23rd September 2025



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school for the new academic year. I hope that you all had a lovely summer and were able to do everything that you had planned to do. As is often the case, we have welcomed many new families into our community this term and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you. It has been a really positive start to the term already and the children have all begun the year as if they have never been away. There is a lovely sense of calm, but with a determination to get the year off to the best start possible. Our school value for this half term is 'positivity' and it is very obvious for me to see this when I visit all of the classrooms, even though we have only been back for a few weeks. Well done everybody for making such a positive start to the year, long may it continue!

PTA News Save the dates

Thursday 25th September—AGM, 7.30pm (online)

Thursday 6th November
Wine Tasting Night, 7.30pm

£25 per ticket where you will be able to taste 2x fizz, 2x white and 2x red, accompanied by cheese and crackers.

See page 5 for more information

We are always on the lookout for volunteers, particularly to support organising our events. If you would like to help please contact the PTA directly via your class WhatsApp group, the school office or haltonptachair@gmail.com

Individual photographs

Our school photographer will be in on **Thursday 2nd October** to take individual and sibling photographs.



Mrs Dawkins
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Allen
Family Support Coordinator

SAFEGUARDING

Keeping your children safe is paramount to us and that includes times when they are not in our care, for example when they are at home or online.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads at our school are **Mr Horsfield, Mrs Dawkins** and **Mrs Allen** (above). We are always available to help you and your children and we can be contacted at any point if you have a safeguarding concern.

Your concerns will always be taken seriously and will be treated sensitively.



Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning remains really important to us here at Halton and we are really pleased to be able to welcome back Mike Williams this year. Mike has already worked with us for over two years and during his visits he works with children across all classes to complete various projects in our outdoor learning spaces. Every child in the school will work with Mike at some point this year and we hope that we continue to see the positive impact of this on our whole school community.

Betsy

Another member of our team who has come back from a very long break is Betsy, our school dog! For those of you who haven't met her, Betsy comes into school each week and spends time in every class. We are aware that not everybody likes dogs and we would never force a child to spend time with her. If you do have any queries, please come and see me and I will be more than happy to talk about the types of activities that Betsy gets involved in. Likewise, you can look on our 'School Dog' website page via the following link:

<https://www.halton.bucks.sch.uk/school-dog/>



PE

A reminder that children can come to school wearing their PE kit if their class has PE that day or if they are attending a sports club.

The classes have PE on the following days:

Monday: Year 1, Year 2, Year 4

Tuesday: Year 3

Thursday: Year 5

Friday: Bluebells, Year 6

Clubs

All of our extra-curricular clubs have now started. Please make sure that your children know which clubs they have been signed up for and remind them that they must attend. Already we have had several occasions where children don't want to go or they didn't know that they had been signed up. Thank you to Miss Lambie and the office staff for organising such a wide variety of clubs for everyone.

Phonics Workshop—Wednesday 1st October

Next week, on Wednesday 1st October at 9.15am, Mrs Dawkins will be hosting a phonics workshop for parents in Bluebells, Year 1 and Year 2. The aim is to talk through our phonics scheme, Twinkl Phonics, so that you have an understanding of how we will be teaching phonics to your children. She will also talk through the home reading books so that you know how best to use these to develop your child's reading at home. If you would like to come, simply wait by the office on Wednesday after drop off and we will welcome you in to school.

Timings of the day

Bluebells: 8.50am—3.15pm

Years 2,4,6: 8.40am—3.20pm

Years 1,3,5: 8.45am—3.25pm

Please make sure that your children arrive in time for registration. More than 10 minutes after the start time above is classed as late on your child's attendance record.

Key dates for this term

Thursday 25th September - PTA AGM at 7.30pm (**online**)
Wednesday 1st October - Phonics workshop for Rec, Y1, Y2, 9.15am
Thursday 2nd October – individual and sibling photographs
Tuesday 7th October - SEND coffee morning (*more info to follow*)
Tuesday 14th October – Parent Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-7.00pm
Thursday 16th October – Parent Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-6.30pm
w/c Monday 27th October – School closed for half term
Monday 3rd November—Inset day, school closed
Tuesday 4th November—School and Kids Kapers reopen
Tuesday 11th November - Remembrance assembly
Wednesday 3rd December – Preschool and Bluebells Christmas play, 10.00am
Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December – Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas play, 2.00pm
Wednesday 17th December - Christmas lunch
Thursday 18th December – Christmas Jumper Day
PTA Christmas disco 6.00-7.30pm
Friday 19th December – School closes for Christmas holidays
Tuesday 6th January – School and Kids Kapers reopens

Inset days for 2025 / 2026

Like every year, the school has four inset days every year, in addition to the one set by the local authority at the start of September.

This year our inset days will be:

Monday 3rd November
Monday 5th January
Monday 13th April
Monday 29th June

On these dates, the main school, Pre-school and Kids Kapers will be closed.

Kids Kapers finishing time

A reminder that Kids Kapers closes at 6.00pm every day. If you are running late as a result of traffic etc, please call them directly on **01296 623635** to let them know.

Lost property

If your child has lost an item of uniform, lunch box etc, please look in the cupboard which is situated in the main entrance. The cupboard is already quite full and we would urge you to put your child's name in all of their belongings.



Hiring our school hall

Our large hall is available to hire at weekends as well as evenings throughout the week. We can accommodate one-off events or regular bookings, depending on availability.

£25 per hour

Our hall is approximately 12m x 12m with a high ceiling (*perfect for birthday parties with bouncy castles!*)

Also available with the hire:

- 80x chairs
- 8x large rectangular tables which will seat 8-10 people
- Access to an oven, microwave and hot water machine

If you would like to check for availability, or you have any further queries, please contact our school office via office@haltoncc.school or 01296 622264



Who do I contact

Who do I contact to discuss... Reporting an absent child Lunches Change of address or contact number Parent Pay Medication Leave of absence requests Uniform After school clubs	→	The Office Team Mrs Rainbow (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs am) Mrs Parsons (Thurs, Fri) Mrs Vylgina (Tue, Wed, Fri) office@haltoncc.school 01296 622264
Who do I contact to discuss... Safeguarding or child protection concerns Confidential information	→	Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mr Horsfield Mrs Dawkins Mrs Allen
Who do I contact to discuss... Family support Attendance Service Family contact	→	Mrs Allen (Family Support Coordinator) callen@haltoncc.school
Who do I contact to discuss... SEND enquiries Educational Healthcare Plans	→	Lucy Barker SENCO@haltoncc.school
Who do I contact to discuss... Speaking to a governor	→	Lindsay Ablitt (Chair of Governors) governor@haltoncc.school or office@haltoncc.school
Who do I contact to discuss... Pre-school	→	Vicki Bowden (manager) preschool@haltoncc.school Krystyna Vylgina (invoices) payments@haltoncc.school
Who do I contact to discuss... Kids Kapers (breakfast and after school club)	→	Krystyna Vylgina (bookings and invoices) payments@haltoncc.school Julie Frier (Manager) office@haltoncc.school 01296 623635
Who do I contact to discuss... Questions about learning My child's reading book Personal wellbeing Behaviour concerns Friendship concerns	→	Class teacher Please arrange a convenient time to meet or speak on the telephone. <i>*Seesaw is only for homework related queries or for submitting work</i>
Please make your child's class teacher your first point of contact however our Senior Leadership Team are also available to offer support if necessary. Mr Horsfield – Headteacher Mrs Dawkins – Deputy Headteacher Mrs Allen – Family Support Coordinator Miss Barker – SENDCO Ms Bates – Lead Teacher Mrs Powell – Lead Teacher They can be contacted via office@haltoncc.school or on 01296 622264		

We will always aim to respond to you as quickly as possible. Please be mindful that the majority of staff do have a teaching commitment and therefore the most convenient time to meet would be after school.



WINE TASTING

Join us for a fun wine-tasting evening, hosted by an expert. Sample six delicious wines, learn fun facts to impress your friends (or just zone out and enjoy the taste), and soak it all up with tasty cheese and biscuits!

Thursday
6th November

Halton School
7.30pm

BOOK NOW

TICKETS VIA PARENT PAY



Tickets
£25

"Something like you, something like a beast,
something like a bird, something like an angel."

He laughed. "Something like that."

"They say that shoulder blades are where your
wings were, when you were an angel," she said.

They say they're where your wings
will grow again one day."

SKELLIG

by DAVID ALMOND



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 16:00 to 17:30 Age 9-11
 18:00 to 19:30 Age 11-16

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 16:30 to 17:45 Age 7-8 & 9-11
 17:45 to 18:45 Age 11-16

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