



Halwill Primary School
Newsletter No.1
Autumn Term. 14th September 2021
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Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

The children had an excellent first week back and have settled well in to the new routines and new classes, if they were moving up.

A very warm welcome to our new families. Our new reception children and other new pupils to the school have also settled in well. Naturally a new school or change of routines can be unsettling for some children and we are very mindful of this and support the children if they need extra nurturing.

Class Dojo

Class teachers have been setting up their Class Dojo groups so hopefully if you haven't already been added you will be soon. Teachers will continue to use Class Dojo to set homework and share messages with parents. Please let us know if you have problems accessing Class Dojo.

For more general enquiries, pupil absences and messages for me, please email or call the school office.

Class Pages on the Website

As we have a new website, teachers will be undertaking training this afternoon in how to upload to the website. They will then be able to update their Class Pages with information about topics for this term. We will let you know once this has been done.

Read, Write Inc.

This is the reading programme we introduced last year for Reception to Year 2 and for some Year 3 children. We have found it made a real impact on children even through the lockdown. Thank you to Mrs Beer who led this last year, she will continue to work alongside Mrs Rothery, who will be leading this in her capacity as English Lead and joint Head of Teaching and Learning. As Covid restrictions have eased we are now able to access the support of an external Read, Write Inc. specialist so we can refine our delivery.

Mrs Beer and Mrs Rothery have been reorganising the groups and we hope to resume Read, Write Inc. this week.

We didn't manage to hold a parents meeting last year due to the further lockdown so we will plan this soon, as we would like to go through the programme theory with you and how you can support your child with it at home. I will let you know when this is happening. Here is some information for parents who are new to Read, Write Inc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjlPILhk7bQ>

Booking Lunch Via SchoolMoney App

A big thank you as most parents booked via the app, in advance last week. Please do continue to book by Friday for the following week as this really helps us to run smoothly in the mornings. Don't forget to 'check-out' even if your child is on Universal Free School Meals (Class 1 & 2) or is eligible for Pupil Premium.

School Funding Parliamentary Review

The Government will review how school funding is to be allocated and MPs will vote on this soon. Ahead of this, I had the opportunity to go to Westminster last week and speak to MPs about the issue. I felt it was important to raise the flag for rural schools because having worked in both urban and rural areas, I know that discussions can be very London-centric with little understanding of the challenges in small, rural schools. It was well received and our MP Geoffrey Cox as well as other Devon MPs attended. There was certainly a buzz about rural schools and an appetite to do something positive following the event, which I hope will be capitalised on.

After School Clubs

You should have received information about this last week. It can be found here on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/>

Wild Tribe

This half term, Class 4 have Wild Tribe on a Tuesday and will require waterproofs to wear over school clothes and wellington boots. If they don't have waterproofs then some other long clothing to cover arms and legs (not jeans) should be sent in.

School Bus

One of the parents of a child who travels on the bus has offered to create a School Bus WhatsApp group to share if the bus is running late in the mornings, for example. Obviously, we cannot divulge parent numbers without your permission.

Therefore, if you would like to be included in the WhatsApp group, please email the office with your preferred telephone number and please state that you agree to your name and number being shared with the parent setting up the WhatsApp group. Please be aware that all parents in the group will be able to see your number so by agreeing to the school sharing your number, you are agreeing to all parents in the group having access to this.

Tribute to Trevor May

We are saddened to learn that Trevor May has passed away. Trevor had been a school governor and regularly delivered assemblies to the children. They were always full of warmth, kindness and joy. He spent time talking to each child and told them stories about countries of the world, the children were always spell bound. He will be missed by us all.

I am sure there will many more who will echo similar feelings. I found him to be a wonderful inspiration to the children and a great supporter of our school as a governor and beyond. I am very sad that we will not have the opportunity to have him in school again but he will always be in our hearts and I am sure his impact on the children will be felt for many years to come.

We send our sincere condolences to Trevor's family.

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

October

25th to 29th *Half term*

November

1st *Non-pupil day*

2nd *Non-pupil day*

December

17th *End of term*

Please remember to
order your
School lunches via
schoolmoney by
Friday of each week.
This helps us cater correctly.
Thank you



MUSIC LESSONS

If you are interested in your child having music lessons, please contact our peripatetic music teacher Alex Rogozinski.

Phone: 07565 951786

Email: alexrogo@hotmail.co.uk



Have you moved house? Changed your mobile number?

No longer have a landline?



Please ensure you keep us informed of all changes to your contact details. This can easily be done by using the SIMS parent app (details above).

SIMS Parent

If you have not signed on to SIMS Parent, please do take a look. It is your way of ensuring we hold your most up to date contact information as well as your parental consent for day to day things in school



If you have not received your email invitation or are having issues, please email the office.