

Wednesday 16th September 2026

Halwill Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 1 Autumn Term

THE CAREY FEDERATION



Upcoming Events

Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer!

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to the new academic year. They have all settled well and those that have moved into a new class have risen to the challenge. Teachers and children have been building relationships and there is a lovely atmosphere in the school.

Class Dojo

For those that have consented to be on Class Dojo, teachers have been sharing updates and reminders with you. It does have a messaging aspect but please avoid using this and continue to contact the office as teachers are not checking Class dojo regularly and your message may be missed.

Class Page on the Website

Teachers have updated the Class Page on the website with a forecast of all you need to know for this term including curriculum areas to be covered and a timetable which includes PE days.

Class 1 Reception

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/children/class-pages/reception-class/>

Class 2 (YR1 and YR2)

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/children/class-pages/y1-and-y2-class-2/>

Class 3 (YR3 and YR4)

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/children/class-pages/y3-and-y4-class-3/>

Class 4 (YR5 and YR6)

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/children/class-pages/y5-and-y6-class-4/>

September 16

Friends AGM meeting at 2.30pm

September 24

Holsworthy YR5 and Y6 Open evening

September 30

Okehampton Transition Y6 Open evening

October 1

National Poetry Day

Appledore book Festival visit – John Dougherty

October 19

Flu Vaccinations

October 23

Half Term

November 2

Non Pupil Day

November 3

Term starts

December 18

Term ends

Forest School

Forest School is a new initiative will take place on a Friday afternoon as follows:

Autumn 1 – Class 1 and 2

Autumn 2 – Class 3

Spring 1 – Class 4

Spring 2 – Class 4

Summer 1 – Class 3

Summer 2 – Class 1 and 2

On Forest School days, please can children bring in 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. Long hair should be tied up. Unfortunately, if children don't have the correct clothing they will be unable to participate as it is a requirement of the risk assessment.

PE

Children will either have:

1 PE lesson with Mrs Dart, (specialist PE Teacher) and 1 with their class teacher or

Forest School and 2 PE sessions with their class teacher.

To find out when your child's PE lesson is, please see the timetable on the Class Page on the website. Here is a summary:

Class 1 – Monday

Class 2 - Monday

Class 3 – Tuesday and Thursday

Class 4 - Thursday

Children need to bring in their PE kits to change into for the afternoon lesson and will need to be in their PE kit for them to take part.

Medical Information

In order to have the latest medical information about the children, including allergies, we ask all parents to complete this form. Even if you have already told us about your child's medical condition or if your child doesn't have one, please complete the form

[2026/27 Update of Health Care Needs for your child – Fill in form](#)

Useful Links

School Contact

Details

Tel: 01409 221476

Email:

admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk

Website:

<https://www.thecareyfeederation.co.uk/>

Safeguarding: If you have any concerns about a child, please speak to one of the safeguarding team or email safeguarding@halwill.devon.sch.uk

Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Ruh Alford

Deputy Safeguarding Leads

Miss Jayne Miners

Mrs Rosie Cawsey

Attendance Officer

Mrs Ceren Brooker

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

These are on our website:

<https://www.thecareyfeederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/parents/term-dates/>

WE ARE A NO NUTS SCHOOL

After School Clubs

We are running a programme of After School Clubs. All clubs can be booked via your MCAS app.

Monday	Club: Art and Sketching Teacher: Mrs Waters Max number: 20	Year R - 6	14 th September to 19 th October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Wednesday	Club: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Teacher: Mrs Neale Max number: 20	Year R - 6	16 th September to 21 st October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Thursday	Club: Football Teacher: Sophie Dart Max number: 20	Year 3 - 6	17 th September to 22 nd October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Thursday	Club: Board Games Teacher: Miss Dannan Max number: 20	Year R - 2	17 th September to 22 nd October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students

New criteria for Free School Meals - two types

Eligible targeted: this covers children in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. These children will attract pupil premium and other disadvantage funding for their schools. Other education entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will be based on targeted free school meals.

Eligible expanded: this covers children who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400. Children will be entitled to free school meals only.

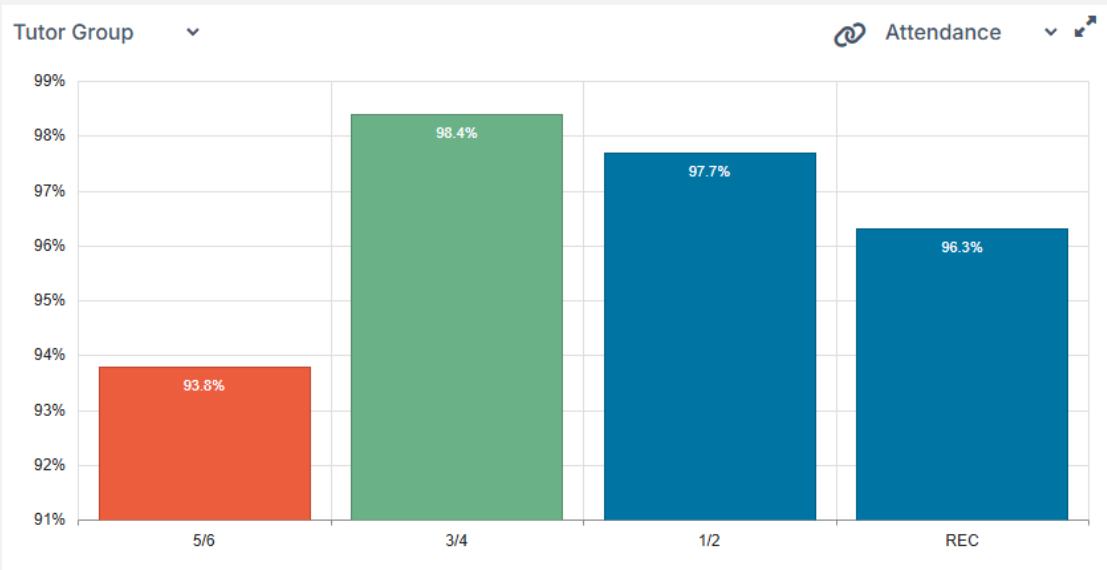
Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

Attendance
Overall attendance

Attendance 

96.5%

-0.9% Last 7 Days



Attendance Percentage	Days of School Missed
98%	4 days
96%	8 days
94%	12 days
92%	16 days or three weeks
90%	20 days or four weeks
85%	30 days or 6 weeks



Dear parent / guardian,

We are delighted to share with you a new NHS funded service designed to support young people aged 7-12 who are experiencing worries or anxieties; **Lumi Nova**. With the end of the school year approaching, we wanted to remind you to take advantage of our offer as your child/ren transition into the summer and new academic year.

What is Lumi Nova?

Lumi Nova is an intergalactic adventure game to support young people to fight fears and manage worries. Whilst exploring planets, customising characters and earning treasure your child breaks their fears and worries down into manageable steps, learning life-long skills and building resilience.

Watch this short animated video to learn more: [Lumi Nova Introduction Video](#)

Who can use Lumi Nova?

Lumi Nova was created for 7 - 12 year olds (school years 3 - 7) who are having difficulties with fears, worries, or anxiety related to social situations, separation or phobias.

Lumi Nova can help your child to face their worries by breaking them down into small manageable challenges and can support your child with:

- Returning to school or starting a new school
- Making new friends and going to social events
- Speaking in front of a group
- And lots more!

How do you access Lumi Nova?

Accessing Lumi Nova is quick and easy. Use the link below to register and you will receive a text message to guide you through getting started or scan the QR code.

[Luminova.app/devon](https://luminova.app/devon)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – Are you entitled to apply?

Even though your child is entitled to universal infant free school meals in reception, year 1 and year 2, if you are eligible for free school meals it is important that you register as soon as possible as this attracts income for the school and will also allow you to benefit from:-

- **A full set of school uniform**
- **Free attendance at Breakfast and After School Clubs**
- **2/3 reduction in residential fees**

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

To apply please use the following link

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live

If you require any assistance, then please do not hesitate to contact the school offices.

Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

We need you to help spread the word. So please share details of the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme through your newsletters, school apps, and other communications to parents and carers, so that the families in your school community know about the experiences they can enjoy this summer for less.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'.

Speech and Language Therapy

EASY ACCESS DROP IN

We are starting new easy access drop ins for pre school children.

Would you like any advice and support for your child's speech, language and communication skills? Visit one of our easy access drop ins with your child to see a Speech and Language Therapist. Get advice, support and strategies from the team.

Drop in sessions are now being held in different locations across Torbay, South Devon and North Devon. Exeter, East and Mid Devon.

If you would like to attend a drop in, please scan the QR code below to find a location and time that works for you.

