



Halwill Primary School
Newsletter No.12
Spring Term. 10th January 2022
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Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back and we hope 2022 brings them lots of luck and happiness. I hope you were able to have the Christmas you planned. Thank you so much for your overwhelming support at the end of last term. Thank you also for your generous cards and gifts to the staff and to me. It really wasn't necessary but very much appreciated.

COVID Update

This part of Devon escaped most of the impact of COVID until last term, when unfortunately, rates were very high locally and as you know we were hit by this in the last two weeks of term. I am pleased to see an almost full school return and that children have recovered well, though some report feeling tired. Unfortunately, now that COVID is endemic in the population, it is likely that COVID will continue to disrupt things.

We continue with our measures, including, increased cleaning and handwashing, face coverings and maintaining the bubbles and the staggered start and end of the day, along with use of the one-way-system.

We have CO2 monitors and keep classrooms as ventilated as possible and we will be requesting air-purifiers under a new Government scheme.

We are pleased to be able to resume having external staff back in school.

Here is a reminder of the changes we are implementing based on updated Government guidance:

- If your child tests positive with COVID-19, It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. However, if the result is still positive, they must isolate for 10 days.
- If someone your child lives with is positive for COVID-19, your child must do daily rapid LFD tests (1 a day for 7 days). According to Government advice, they are able to attend school but please do inform the school office if someone in your child's home is positive and ensure that the person who brings them to school is COVID negative.
- Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended **from Tuesday 11 January**. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. **LFD test results must be submitted to the NHS**

We also ask that you regularly test your child using an LFD test, whether or not they have symptoms. We have had clarification that you no longer need to wait 90 days before an LFD can be used after being positive for COVID. This rule has now changed due to the emergence of the Omicron variant. **Therefore, even if your child recently had COVID, you can use an LFD to test them.** If you are struggling to obtain LFD tests, please ask the school office and we can provide these.

Welcome to Mrs Evans

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Victoria Evans who is the co-teacher of Class 3, along with Mrs Rothery, for the remainder of the year. Mrs Rothery will look after the class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Evans on Thursday and Friday,

You may remember that Mrs Evans was a teaching assistant in Class 3 before she qualified as a teacher, something the Halwill teachers encouraged her to do, having seen her many strengths and potential to be an excellent teacher. Mrs Evans and Mrs Rothery were able to have a thorough sharing of information before Christmas and continue to communicate with each other now that term has commenced. Mrs Evans came in last Wednesday to meet the children before she officially started on Thursday.

We would like to invite **Class 3 parents to a virtual Meet the Teacher session via Zoom** so you can be introduced properly to Mrs Evans. The date and time will be confirmed via text and the Zoom link will be shared on Class Dojo.

Apply for your Reception place by 15th January 2022

If your child will be in the September 2022 cohort for Reception, please do contact the office if you would like to visit the school. The application system to apply for a reception place at primary school in September 2022 closes on 15th January. Apply online at the Citizens Portal. You can apply after this date but applications will be considered late and may be at a disadvantage. If you cannot apply online, please contact the Education helpline on 0345 155 1019 and ask for a paper copy of the form to be sent to you.

Reading Meetings for Parents

To help you understand the Read Write Inc. scheme, how it is used in school and how you can help your child at home please join us for a virtual meeting on **Wednesday 19th January at 4:30 pm**. Please note this is a change to the original advertised date and time as it was intended to be a live meeting. It will now be a meeting for Federation parents **via Zoom**. A link will be posted on Class Dojo.

For children in Year 3 and above **who are not on the Read Write Inc. scheme**, there will be a virtual parent meeting on **Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 4:30 pm**. Again, this is a change to the original advertised time. Zoom details will be shared nearer the time.

Class Pages on the Website

Teachers are in the process of updating these with Spring Term information on the website. A copy of the key information will be shared on Class Dojo by the end of the week.

Flu Immunisation Thursday 20th January 2022

Please see information about this on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/2021-22-flu-nasal-spray-parent-links/>

Thank You to Holsworthy Rotary Club

We thank the Rotary Club as they have agreed to sponsor the next three environmental books in the Wild Tribe Heroes series for the primary schools in the Holsworthy catchment area. These books are designed to help teach the next generation in Devon about climate change. These will certainly be a useful and inspiring teaching resource for the children. They will be shared with the children in assembly.

Healthy Snacks

To encourage a long-term healthy lifestyle, the development of healthy eating habits is encouraged and we recognise and thank parents for their support with this. We strongly encourage children to bring in a drinks bottles filled with water rather than juice.

All Class 1 and 2 children are provided with a free fruit or vegetable break-time snack through the 'Free Fruit for School' scheme. These come in a great variety and the children thoroughly enjoy them..

In Class 3 and 4, if children would like to bring in a break time snack we encourage fruit or vegetable snacks and if your child would benefit from a carbohydrate snack, please ensure this has a low sugar and low salt content.

Shin Pads

Class 4 will have Hockey on Thursdays as part of their PE curriculum. It is recommended that they bring in shin pads if they have them. These can be bought cheaply for example at this site for £3. https://www.sportsdirect.com/searchresults?descriptionfilter=Kids%20Shin%20Pads#dcp=1&dppp=120&OrderBy=price_asc

Wild Tribe

Class 1 and 2 will do Wild Tribe on Tuesday afternoons. They will require waterproofs and wellies to wear over their uniform or if they don't have waterproofs, children should bring in long sleeve tops and trousers (not jeans) and a waterproof coat. Long hair must be tied up.

After School Clubs

These will commence week 10th January. Please find information here: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/>

On Tuesdays, Class 3 & 4 will have Netball Club with Di Stanbury.

On Thursdays Class 1 & 2 will have Football Club with Scott Hayler. It is recommended that children bring in shin pads for the club, if they have them.

Please note that if your child's club was cancelled last term because of COVID, Sarah Revers will reduce the fee for any clubs booked this half term, once you have completed the club registration form. Please note, this is a manual process so if you don't see the reduction you expect on SchoolMoney, please kindly let Miss Revers know.

Success outside of School

A huge well done to Finley in Class 2. He has won the motorbike trials Oset Championship Cup 2021!

Each month last year he travelled to Cornwall for the trials competitions and won each one which has resulted in him winning the Cup. He has worked so hard, practising all the time and putting so much effort into it. He has certainly aimed high and it has paid off.

If your child achieves success outside of school, please do share it with us as we love to celebrate their achievements.



Music Tuition

Lessons will recommence with Ruth Hayes and Alix Rogozinsky this week. The tutors should contact you directly to confirm this. Please contact the office if you are interested in your child having lessons.

Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

January 2022

19th *Reading meeting for parents of children doing the Read, Write, Inc scheme. 4.30pm.*

20th *Flu vaccinations Years R to 6.*

February

16th *Reading meeting for parents of children in year 3 & above. 4.30pm.*

21st to 25th *Half term*

March

28th *Tempest Class photos*

April

8th *End of spring term*

25th *Start of summer term*

May

2nd *Bank holiday*

30th May to 3rd June *Half term*

July

22nd *End of summer term*

September

1st *Inset day*

2nd *Inset day*

5th *Pupils return to school*

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.

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