



Halwill Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 12 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

What a fantastic start to Advent we have had! A huge thank you to the Friends for putting on a wonderful Christmas Fair. It was lovely to see so many families attending. Very well done to the Class 4 helpers who ran stalls.



The children thoroughly enjoyed Christmas lunch last week and looked very festive in their Christmas jumpers. The Christmas tree is looking beautiful! Thank you the Friends for this.

A huge well done to Class 2 and Class 3 for putting on wonderful Christmas plays. The children showed so much confidence and stage presence with their acting skills and beautiful singing. Thank you to all the staff for preparing the children and the super props.

Upcoming Events

December 16

Christmas Church Service
(Class 1 and Class 4 parents)
Tuesday 16th December at
9:30 am and 5:00 pm at the
Baptist Church

December 18

Last Day of Autumn Term
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January 5

First Day of Spring Term

January 6

Wild Tribe – Class 4

After school club – Football
Years R-3

After school club – Dance
Class 1-4

January 7

After school club – Board
Games and Lego
Class 1-4

June 26

YR,1 & 2 The Gruffalo, Theatre
Trip



Class 2 Christmas play



Class 3 Christmas play

Arrangements for Class 1 and Class 4 Christmas Church Service, Tuesday 16th December, (9:30pm and 5:00 pm)

Morning service: Please drop Class 1 and Class 4 children **promptly to school at 8.50**. We will be walking children to the chapel promptly at 9.00 am so they have time to change and be ready for a 9.30 am start. We will walk the children back to school so please ensure they have a waterproof coat and wellies if it is wet.

Evening service: All children have a role in the evening service so we look forward to seeing them. Please drop children to the chapel at 4:40 pm. Please hand over your child to a member of school staff.

There will be a retiring collection for the Children's Hospice Southwest.

Interim Leadership Support for St Giles-on-the Heath School

As you may recall, during the Spring and Summer of 2025, we provided leadership for St Giles School. This term, Angela Fleming has been leading St Giles on an interim basis. Mrs Fleming will continue to lead St Giles in the new year, however, due to personal commitments Mrs Fleming will be reducing her days at St Giles, therefore, we will share temporary leadership support for St Giles, alongside Mrs Fleming for the Spring Term.

After School Clubs (Spring Term)

Please see our After School Clubs for when we return in January on our website.

<https://www.thecarey federation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/>

Wild Tribe Spring 1st Half 2026

Next half term, Class 4 will have Wild Tribe on Tuesday afternoons. On Wild Tribe days, children need wellies and waterproof trousers and coats to wear over their uniform. Long hair needs to be tied up.

Applying for Your Child’s Reception Place September 2026

If your child was born between 1/9/21 and 31/8/22, the window to apply for their primary school place is now open. Details are later in the newsletter. The deadline is January 15th 2026.

Every Day is Open Day!

We love you to show prospective parents the school in action on a regular day. Please contact the office to book your personalised tour.

School Dinner Money

Please kindly settle any money owed on School Money by the end of term. Thank you.

Holidays

A reminder that Thursday 18th December is the last day of term and the children return on Monday 5th January 2026. I look forward to seeing many of you at the church services. May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and new year.

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

Useful Links

School Contact

Details

Tel: 01409 221476

Email:

admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk

Website: [Halwill Primary School – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools](http://HalwillPrimarySchool-HalwillandAshwaterPrimarySchools)

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

The Carey Qualities



Relationships by being Resilient, Resourceful, Reflective and Respectful

Each week children are awarded certificates in our Celebration Assembly for making a significant effort to develop one of our Carey Qualities. The following children were awarded certificates. Well done to them all.

For building Relationships	For being Resilient	For being Resourceful	For being Reflective	For being Respectful
Mia – Class 2	Sofia – Class 1	NC – Class 1	Brody – Class 2	
Arthur – Class 4	Scarlett – Class 3	EH – Class 3	Joseph – Class 2	
(4 th Dec)	Joshua – Class 4	(4 th Dec)	Emily – Class 4	
Grace – Class 2	(4 th Dec)	Franklin – Class 1	(4 th Dec)	
TLR – Class 4	Kacey – Class 1	Niamh – Class 4	Elodie – Class 2	
(11 th Dec)	Ted – Class 4	(11 th Dec)	Daisy – Class 3	
	(11 th Dec)		(11 th Dec)	

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.thecarey federation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/parents/term-dates/>



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.



Unauthorised Holiday/Leave Request

As you will be aware, Government Guidance advises that schools should not authorise requests for term time absence unless the school has received suitable evidence of exceptional circumstances. The Government does not consider a family holiday to be an exceptional circumstance.

In the absence of suitable evidence of exceptional circumstances, on this occasion the school cannot authorise your request for a Term Time Absence. We believe that if students are to benefit from education, good attendance is crucial. It is the policy of our school to celebrate achievement, and full attendance is a critical factor to a productive and successful school career.

I must take this opportunity to remind you, that should you still choose to take your child out of school unauthorised, then the school must refer the absence to the Local Authority for the consideration of initiating Parental Responsibility Measures. If you have Parental Responsibility, this could mean receiving any of the following.

- A Penalty Notice. Should a Penalty Notice be issued, one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £160, which is reduced to £80 if paid within the first 21 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated. If a previous Penalty Notice has been issued within the past 2 years, then the Local Authority will proceed straight to Court.
- A Magistrates Summons that could lead to a criminal record, a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment for up to 3 months.

We understand the disappointment that a refusal may cause, but as you can appreciate, this policy represents the school's responsibility and commitment towards ensuring your child's full and efficient education.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born
between 1 September 2021
and 31 August 2022?



Apply online at:
devon.cc/admissionsonline

or scan the QR code. Applications open from
15 November 2025 to the **15 January 2026**

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing **admissions@devon.gov.uk** or call our Education Helpline on:

0345 155 1019



You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.





Family Hub Advice &
Guidance Line, 0800
5385458

Mon-Fri 10am—4pm

'Connecting Moments'- Digital SEND Support for Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**?

Join us for **Connecting Moments** – a friendly online space designed just for you.

What's it all about?

- **Connect with other families** in a small, welcoming group
- **Share experiences and ideas**
- **Build a peer support network**

Please join us on the **12th December at 10am**, for a **1 hour session**– email childsc.familyhub-mailbox@devon.gov.uk to book a space, places are limited and the session will be run via Teams.

If you would like support from the Devon family hub, please scan this QR code and complete our request for support form



Friends of Halwill School

EASYFUNDRAISING

- Start your online shop on the [Easyfundraising](#) website/App.
- We get a little money from the retailer when you shop.
- Scan, sign up and choose Halwill Primary.

PLEASE SIGN



For help setting up speak to the Friends: Guy Becky or Laura.
*Stand a chance to win £250 for the school this month.



LJD COACHING



STRATTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME



£25

PER SESSION

Only £10 for children living/schooling in Bude & Stratton.

FREE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Limited spaces

CLAIM FSM VOUCHER HERE:



FREE FOOD

FREE LIGHT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH (HOT & COLD) FOR ALL CHILDREN



DATES

December

- Monday 22nd
- Tuesday 23rd

January

- Friday 2nd

ACTIVITIES

- Multi-Sport
- Dance
- Music
- Art & Craft
- Lego



TIME

9:00am - 2:00pm



Book online now:

<https://tinyurl.com/29mrrz2t>

