



## Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to all our families! I hope you had a lovely Christmas despite the prevalence of illness that most people seem to have encountered.



Yet again, we had another strange end of term. This time it was snow and ice which caused us to have to be flexible and resilient. Thank you so much for your co-operation and understanding with the changes to the start and end of the day as well as changes to the evening performance and relocating the church service to the school. I am sincerely sorry if the change of the evening show meant

you were unable to attend. I was pleased to see many parents and extended family were able to join us and I am sure you will agree that the children were superb in their shows and the carol service.





Many thanks to the teachers and teaching assistants who prepared the children so well and a special thanks to Tom and Jean Orchard, whose superb 'Aim High; Be Resilient' approach meant we were able to safely open and carry on with the Christmas events.

Now that we have returned without the ice, **we will not be able to allow anyone to drive up to the school** as you could clearly see the school wasn't built to safely accommodate all the parents' cars unless we provide a lot of man/woman power! If you have a medical need that means **you are unable to walk up the driveway, please let the office know** and you will be added to the list of people approved to drive in.

### Home-Learning

We have had some replies to our questionnaire regarding our new Home-Learning Policy that was implemented last term. I appreciate that the end of term was very busy so we have extended the deadline for completing this to tomorrow, **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 3:30 pm**. We really value your feedback as we would like to know how it worked for your family, whether this was a positive experience or not. We will be looking at the feedback in our staff meeting after school tomorrow and your feedback will really help us to know if we need to make adaptations. We will then start home-learning from next week. Please click here to complete the form: <https://forms.gle/sUSB6pwYgaSTwAbXA>

### Class Pages on the Website

Teachers are in the process of updating these and we will let you know when these are completed.

### New Reception Starters September 2023

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 they are due to start primary school in September! Applications close on 15 January, so visit DCC's website before then <http://soc.devon.cc/5JV3d> If you can't apply online, please call 0345 155 1019

We are a small school which means places are limited so please ensure applications are made in time and that Halwill is put as first choice, to avoid disappointment. If you or someone you know would like a tour of the school, please contact the office and we will be happy to arrange this.



Devon  
County Council

Is your child  
due to start school  
in September?

application  
deadline  
15th January

## Wild Tribe

**Class 1 & 2** will have Wild Tribe on Tuesdays for the first half of the Spring Term. On Wild Tribe 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. During Wild Tribe sessions, children may be given hot chocolate and marshmallows. If you would like to see the ingredient list, please speak to the Office and please let us know if your child **CANNOT** have these.

## Clubs

Please see the clubs for this half term and next, on our website:

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

Mr Hayler's final club session last term was cancelled due to the weather. This will be credited to your fee this half term.

## School Money

We appreciate that we are in financially challenging times and for this reason, the Governors have agreed to keep the cost of After School Clubs to £1 and Morning Health Clubs to £2.75. These are incredibly competitive prices, particularly as they do incur a cost to the school. However, we felt that we want to support our families in these difficult times. Likewise we have maintained the price of school dinners and uniform and not passed on any increased costs to parents.

However, we do need debts on SchoolMoney to be paid promptly as we aren't able to sustain the financial burden of these. I know January is always a tight month but I would like to gently remind you to please pay money owed as soon as possible. In the next few weeks, we will need to write to individual parents if the debts have not been settled. If you need help to pay via the app, you can bring a debit or credit card to the school office and it can be quickly and easily paid. If you are struggling financially, please request a call or meeting with me and we can look at how to support you with this.

## Attendance Policy

We had an Autumn Term like no other in terms of children and staff being poorly and I know our parents are very sensible in keeping children at home when they are unwell and sending children to school when they are well enough to be in. This is demonstrated in our excellent overall attendance of 93.8%. Here is a helpful guide as to whether you should keep your child off or not: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Given that there has been and is likely to be a lot of sickness and we have had periods of lockdown in the last few years, please ensure children are in school when they can be. Holidays during term time will not be authorised unless considered as exceptional circumstances. The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional circumstances' are that they are: 'rare; significant; unavoidable and short'. Full details can be found in our Attendance Policy on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/parents/attendance/>

The Attendance Policy also has information about punctuality:

*The school is open from: 8:50 am. The school day starts at 9.00 am. All pupils should be in their classroom at this time. The first (morning) registration session starts at 9.00 am. Pupils will receive a late mark if they are not in their designated classroom by 9.05 am. The register closes at 9.15 am. Pupils will receive a mark of absence if they do not attend before this time. Attendance after the register closes will receive a mark to show that the pupil is on site, (U) but will count as an absent mark.*

*As far as possible, medical, and dental appointments should be made outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, an S2 Absence Request Form must be completed and sent to us prior to the appointment along with an appointment letter. Pupils must attend before and after the appointment wherever possible. If the appointment requires the pupil to leave during the day, they must be signed out by an adult listed on the pupil's record. Should a pupil arrive late following an appointment, they should be signed in by a parent.*

I know that these are just reminders because as I have already noted, our parents are very supportive of the school's policy on attendance. Thank you for your continued co-operation in this important matter.

### Vacancy

Sadly Michelle Peyton has decided to move on from her role as Catering Manager. She will be greatly missed by the children and staff. I would like to thank Michelle for her hard and wish her well for the future.

Devon Norse employ our catering staff so if you or someone you know would be interested in working in our lovely school, please see the information below.

## **SOUTH WEST norse**

### **HALWIL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **JOB VACANCY**

### **KITCHEN MANAGER**

**Monday to Friday**

**08.30am – 1.30pm**

**(25 hours/week, term time only)**

**£10.15 an hour**

**£900.60/month**

**(Paid 12 months a year)**

#### **Duties to include:**

Food preparation/serving meals to children/Stock Taking and Purchasing/ Weekly Paperwork recording via a tablet/Staff training.

Washing up dishes/General Kitchen duties/Manual Handling.

**Full training given & uniform provided**

**A Southwest Norse DBS check will be carried out for this role**

For more details please contact  
jane.shreeve@norsegroup.co.uk  
(please state 'Halwill KM' in subject)  
also posted on Indeed

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### *Dates for your diary:*

#### February

13th to 17th      *Half term*

#### March

31st      *End of term*

#### April

17th      *Start of summer term*

#### May

1st      *Bank holiday*

8th      *Bank holiday*

29th May to 2nd June      *Half term*

#### June

5th      *Non-pupil day*

#### July

21st      *Last day of term*



## Safeguarding at Halwill

### The Safeguarding Team

#### **Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

Mrs R Alford

#### **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

Mrs A Rothery

Miss J Miners

Mrs R Cawsey—SENDCo

#### **Attendance Officer:**

Miss S Revers

#### **Safeguarding Governor:**

Mrs G Marshall

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





Was your child born between  
1st September 2018 and  
31st August 2019?

## How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at

[www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)

from 15th November 2022 to the 15th January 2023

If you cannot access the school  
admissions website you can get  
more information by calling our  
Education Helpline on

**0345 155 1019**

or email: [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk)



Even if you have already given  
details to a primary school, you  
must apply for a place through the  
Admissions Team. This is the only  
way to apply; other forms or lists  
held by schools will not count.

Devon  
County Council 