



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

Federation trip to Disney's Aladdin at Theatre Royal Plymouth, Thursday 1st February

I am sure all the children are getting excited about the whole Federation trip next week! I know we are. Please see the letter sent home for full details. Don't forget children will need a **packed lunch** (unless entitled to a Free School Meal and you have already ordered this, a **snack** (nut free) for later and a **water bottle**. All federation staff will be joining, including office staff. This means there will be no one in school. If you need to contact us, please email admin as this will be monitored periodically. We will have contact lists with us so will call parents if we need to.

On return, please refrain from parking near the turning circle as 2 large coaches will need full access for drop off.



Medical Conditions Update

If your child has been diagnosed with a NEW medical condition (including allergies, food intolerances and asthma) since we last requested this information in the Autumn Term, please complete the form

here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWw5prG6_5GQHSxw3qmH_bVHxV8dLvrmsZyHsxnLzLSW2b9w/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you have already completed this form and there are no further changes, you do not need to complete the form.

Class Assemblies

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to watch your child share their learning with you in their Class Assembly. Here are the dates and times:

Friday 23rd Feb – Class 4 Halwill 2.45pm

Friday 1st March – Class 1 Halwill 2.45pm

Friday 8th March – Class 2 Halwill 2.45pm

Friday 22nd March—Class 3 Halwill 2.45pm

NSPCC Number Day 2024 - Friday 2nd February 2024



We are delighted that on 2nd February 2024, we will be joining the NSPCC in celebrating National Number Day. During the day, the children will engage in a variety of number activities which will strengthen their understanding of this area of maths. On this day, we are inviting the children to come into school in non-school uniform but wearing something that is linked to number and digits. For example, they may wish to wear a hat or sports shirt with a significant number on it, a t-shirt with a specific number of animals on or they can dress up as a character or someone linked to a number. This is an opportunity for the children to be as creative as they like. We look forward to seeing lots of numbers around school. If you would like to make a voluntary £1 donation towards the NSPCC, class teachers will collect this.

Catherine Gee, Federation Maths Lead

Wear an Accessory to School Day – Friday 9th February

From the 5th – 9th February, it is Children's Mental Health Week. Our focus is 'Be Respectful to Myself' and links to our Carey Quality of 'Being Respectful'. We will work around this theme during the week. On Friday 9th February, children can wear an accessory with their school uniform, if they would like to. For example, a hat, a scarf, a bow, gloves etc. Please ensure all accessories are appropriate and safe for school and please remember, *'If it's too precious to lose, it's too precious to bring.'*



RSPB Big School Birdwatch



At Halwill Primary School we are very fortunate to be situated in the heart of the beautiful Devon countryside and this year we have decided to get everyone involved in the RSPB Big School Birdwatch.



We will be working together across all year groups to see which birds regularly visit our school grounds. It is a fantastic opportunity for the children to take their learning outside the classroom and work with others across the school.

Term Dates 2024 - 25

Term dates for 2024 -25 have now been agreed by governors. Please find them attached to this newsletter and on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/parents/term-dates/>

Please note the non-pupil day on **Monday 16th June 2025** is not attached to a holiday. It will provide an extended weekend for families during a long 8 week half term.

Year 4 Times Tables Rock Stars Meeting, Monday 5th February at 3:30

As you may know, Year 4 have a statutory assessment in times tables in the summer term. Times tables are the bedrock of maths, whether in primary school, secondary school or beyond.

We will holding a brief parent meeting for Year 4 parents about times tables and specifically to support the use of Times Tables Rock Stars at home. You are invited to join with your Year 4 child and use the program on the Chrome books. We will give you hints and tips to support your child at home. I do hope you will be able to attend.



Safeguarding at Halwill

The Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Alford

Attendance Officer:

Miss S Revers

Safeguarding Governor:

Mrs A Clark

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs A Rothery

Miss J Miners

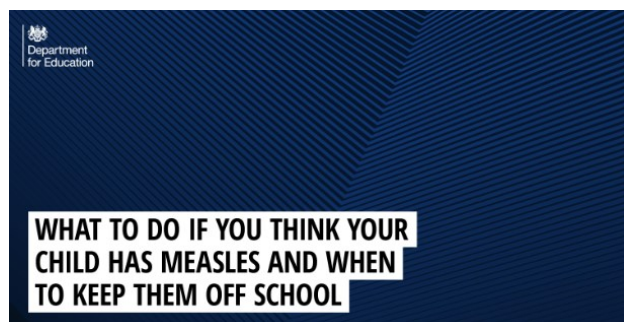
Mrs R Cawsey—SENDco

Safeguarding

Measles

Please follow the link to find out more information about measles:

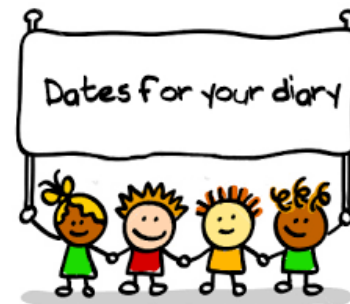
<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/22/what-to-do-if-you-think-your-child-has-measles-and-when-to-keep-them-off-school/>



Dates for your diary:

February

1st	Theatre Royal Aladdin trip
2nd	NSPCC Number day—Non uniform day (number related)
5th	Year 4 parents—Times Tables Rock Stars meeting 3.30pm
9th	Children's Mental Health Week—Wear an accessory
12th to 16th	Half term
23rd	Class 4 Assembly 2.45pm
26th	National Child Measurement Programme 2024. Yr R & 6



March

1st	Class 1 Assembly 2.45pm
8th	Class 2 Assembly 2.45pm
11th	KS1 Performing Arts Festival Y1 and 2 at HCC
22nd	Class 3 Assembly 2.45pm
28th	End of term

April

15th	Start of term
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May

6th	Bank holiday
27th to 31st	Half term

June

3rd	Non-pupil day
24th	Yr 5 & 6 Cricket Festival at HCC

July

8th	Beach Festival Y3 and 4 at Bude
23rd	End of term

Term dates: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/parents/term-dates/>

Please see the following message which we have been asked to share with you by Devon County Council:

We believe that in order for a pupil to fully benefit from their education, good attendance is crucial. As of September 2013, an amendment to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 came in to force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. These changes reinforced the Government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted authorised absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

A family holiday is not normally considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised by the school.

Should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measures could be instigated. This could mean receiving any of the following;

- *A Penalty Notice*
- *A summons to the Magistrate Court which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment for up to 3 months.*

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority if a pupil has a number of unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can be acquired when;

- 1) Leave has been requested, but the circumstances are such that the school is unable to authorise the leave and it is taken anyway.*
- 2) Leave is not requested and/or the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason (example – a family holiday). Only the Head teacher can authorise an absence. This year there have been occasions when schools have been notified that the pupil is sick, but the school later discovers and reasonably believes that the reason given for the absence is not genuine.*
- 3) A child continually arrives late after the registration period has closed.*

Schools need to notify the Local Authority in all of the circumstances listed above.

Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated.

We understand the disappointment that the refusal of a leave request may cause, but as you can appreciate this policy represents the school's responsibility and commitment towards providing your child's education and supporting their future life opportunities.

COULD YOUR CHILD BE ENTITLED TO A SUBSIDY TOWARDS THE COST OF RESIDENTIAL OR DAY TRIPS, SPORTING EVENTS, SCHOOL UNIFORM, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, BREAKFAST CLUB, AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AS WELL AS FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN KS2?

If you are in receipt of any of the following, your child could be entitled to a subsidy towards the cost of the above:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).

Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

Please apply even if your child is in Foundation, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives a meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme. As well as financially benefiting as described above, your child may receive additional learning support where appropriate because of the additional funding that school receives from Government for known free school meals pupils.

How to apply

Through the Citizen Portal (https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live) which is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision.

Parents and carers can also ring the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.