



Halwill Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 16 Spring Term

Dear Families,

On Friday's Celebration Assembly, we awarded certificates to all those who participated in the 12 Reads of Christmas Challenge. Well done to all the children who logged their 12 reads on their Christmas bookmark. I am so impressed with the excellent 'aim high' attitude shown and most importantly, the children are really developing a love of reading. The names of all those who participated were put into a draw and the two winners, Daisy (Class 3) and Niamh (Class 4) were given a book token.

See Class pictures below of the children with their certificates.

Class 1 and 2



Class 2 and 3



Upcoming Events

February 3

Wild Tribe – Class 4

After school club – Football YR R -Y3

After school club – Dance Class 1 – 4

February 4

After school club – Board games and Lego Class 1 – 4

February 9

Library Grand Opening 3:00 – 4:00pm

February 10

Wild Tribe – Class 4

After school club – Football YR R -Y3

After school club – Dance Class 1 – 4

February 11

After school club – Board games and Lego Class 1 – 4

After school club – Dance Class 1 – 4

February 13

Last day of term

February 16

Half term

February 23

Non pupil day

February 24

Term starts

March 3

Parent Consultations 1:45 – 6.00pm

March 5

World Book Day

April 2

Last day of term

April 20

Term starts

May 4

Bank Holiday

June 5

Non pupil day

June 26

YR,1 & 2 The Gruffalo, Theatre Trip



Library Grand Opening Monday 9th February – Families invited at 3:00 – 4:00 pm

I am delighted to tell you that the children's author Tom Palmer will be opening our library with the children on the morning of Monday 9th February.

At **3:00pm**, we invite parents and wider family to come in and visit the library with your child and spend some time in the hall to see exhibitions from local libraries. Dogberry and Finch bookshop will also have a book stall and will have Tom Palmer's books for sale. The Friends will also be providing refreshments. If you would like to make a donation, there will be a bucket for a collection to go towards more books for the library.

The event runs from 3:00 – 4:00 pm so you can either come in at 3:00 or come into school after pick up. We look forward to seeing you.



WORLD BOOK DAY 5th March 2026

On **Thursday 5th March** the children are invited to celebrate World Book Day.

The children can come to school on that day dressed as a book character of their choice.

The whole school will be sharing a book at the start of the day and then each class will be doing some linked activities across the curriculum. At the end of the day, we will hold a sharing assembly to look at what each class has been doing.

Ideas for families can be found on the link below.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

Burton Art Gallery, Bideford

The children's artwork will soon be displayed in the Burton Art Gallery as part of their Annual Schools Exhibition. You will be able to view your child's work in the Annual Schools Exhibition which will run from 30 January – 15 March 2026

Start of School Day

A reminder that we have a 'soft-start' from 8:50 am so by 9:00 am all children should be in school and ready for learning to start. Coming in, even a few minutes late, can be very disruptive to the children already in class and those arriving late can feel awkward coming into a quiet classroom. Thank you for your support with this.

Useful Links

School Contact

Details

Tel: 01409 221476

Email:

admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk

Website: Halwill Primary School – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools

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

Outlines of Support

Sometimes children need a little extra support or intervention. Teachers will be noting any additional support or intervention for those children that need it, on an 'Outline of Support' and will send these home in the next couple of weeks. Please note the 'Outline of Support' is not aimed at children with Special Educational Needs, as these children will have a 'My Plan'. Teachers will invite parents in to look at these together in the next couple of weeks. If you have concerns that your child may have a Special Educational Need, please raise this with Mrs Cawsey, the Federation SENDCO. You can contact her via the school office to arrange a meeting.

Parent Consultation – Tuesday 3rd March. 1:45 – 6:00 pm

This is an important opportunity to meet you child's teacher, look at their books and discuss their progress. We will let you know when you can book in your 10 minute slots. Meetings are offered in person or via Teams.

If your child has Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) you will also be invited to a separate meeting to discuss their MyPlan.

MCAS the new school app – MY CHILD AT SCHOOL

MCAS is the new school app replacing SchoolMoney which we are intending to launch on Monday 9th February across the Federation. To aid this process it would most helpful if you could download the free app ahead of Monday called My Child At School. You will receive an email notification which you need to accept and it is fully integrated with our school systems.

This app will allow you to book and pay for your dinners, trips and uniform. We will also use this for online consents for trips and online consents for all school permissions.

Any balances that are on School Money will be transferred to your MCAS account.

We will be sending guidance via an email on Monday and there will be hard copies in the school office if needed. On **Tuesday 10th February** we will be offering a drop in opportunity for anyone who needs assistance with the app.

In the meantime, it would greatly assist us if any arrears could be cleared. You will only be able to book school lunches up to half term through School Money.

Mrs Alison Horn
Finance Officer

Xmas4Schools

Thank you to all those who placed an order with Xmas4Schools as it helped us raise £36.00



Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

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
Franklin – Class 1 Sidney – Class 3 Evelyn – Class 4 (26 th Jan)	Elsie – Class 3 Ivy – Class 3 Ryan – Class 4 (26 th Jan)	Frankie – Class 2 (26 th Jan)	Ella – Class 1 Elodie – Class 2 Callie – Class 4 (26 th Jan)	



Halwill Primary School

Please leave your donations, in the bike shed

Tuesday 24th March 2026 between 09.30am to 3.00pm

(Bag 2 School collecting Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 9am)

BAG 2 SCHOOL is free fundraising, that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second hand clothing. All the bags will be weighed, and we will be paid for the total weight collected.

Please use your own bags and there is no limit to the number of bags you wish to donate. Just ensure the items are in the "we collect" list.

Help us raise money for Halwill Primary School while you have a good clear out!

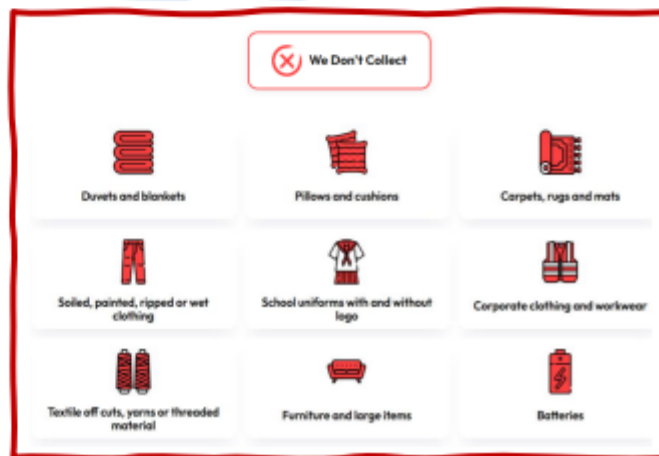
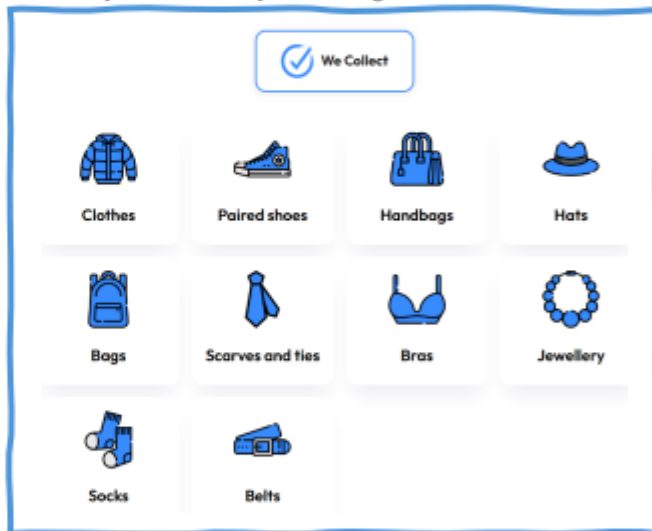
If you have several bags to donate, please do **NOT** drive into school at drop off and pick up times.

This will cause congestion and block access for people who have prior permission to drive down to school, during this time.

If you need to drive down, with your donations please stick to the times above.

Many thanks

Friends of Halwill Primary School





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

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.



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

Devon County Council



DiAS
Devon Information Advice and Support
for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



LJD COACHING LIMITED

FOOTBALL Activity

Days
17th & 18th February 2026

LOCATION
 Bude Town Football Club
 Broadclose Park
 EX23 8DR

Time
 9:00am - 3:00pm

Ages
 4 - 11 year olds

Cost
 £15.00 a day

Football boots recommended
 Shin Pads must be worn
 Bring a coat and change of clothes.
 Bring packed lunch, refillable water bottle and snack.

<https://playwaze.com/ljd-coaching/e85c1jhpv5i/session-display?eventId=PhysicalEventSeries%2F123649-B&overrideAdminView=True>

To Book



Scan me!

 www.ljdcoaching.co.uk

Holworthy Amateur Theatrical Society
 presents

ROBIN HOOD

Mon 2nd - Sat 14th
 February 2026

7.30pm (Saturday Matinee 2.30pm)

Tickets (£12 adults/£10 16years and under) available online from:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/holworthytheatre
 from Saturday 1st November 2025, 9am.

HATS BOX OFFICE OPEN 1st November 2025, 9am-2pm. 01409 253826
 and then every Saturday, 10am-2pm from 10th January 2026


Ticketsource telephone booking: 0333 666 3366. Mon-Fri 9am-7.30pm and Sat 9am-5pm.
 (Calls charged at local rate)

HATS Theatre, Bodmin Street, EX22 6BE
 Charity Number: 111023


Safety around dogs


The bond between your child and dog can bring fun and happiness to family life. We don't expect our own dog to bite, but any dog can bite if they feel they have no other option.


Children are most likely to be bitten at home, by a familiar dog. Luckily most bites are preventable and close supervision is key.


-  **A calm, happy dog** is less likely to react unsafely to children's natural exuberance.
- Give your dog a safe space of their own where they can go if they need time out. Have a rule to leave them alone when they're there.
 - Keep them occupied – physical exercise and mental activity help keep your dog happy.
 - Teach your child to be calm and kind with your dog. Avoid shouting, teasing or restrictive cuddles.



-  **Close supervision** is the most important thing to keep children safe.
- Watch, listen and remain close when your child and dog are together.
 - If either your dog or child seems unhappy, positively and calmly separate them. You can throw your dog a treat or toy, or lead your child away.
 - **Understand your dog's body language** so you can spot signs they feel uncomfortable or stressed.
 - When you know you'll be distracted during busier times, use safety gates to keep children and dogs separate. Or, take your child or dog with you.

-  **Your growing child** – as your child changes, the risks can change too.
- Teach the rules to your child from an early age and keep explaining them as your child understands more.
 - As your child becomes more mobile, review changes needed, like adding safety gates.
 - Think ahead about your changing family life and new risks that can emerge. Read our fact sheet on bringing baby home.

-  **Trigger times** – teach your child to leave your dog alone when they are:
- Sleeping – no-one likes to be woken up suddenly.
 - Eating or having a treat – they might think you're going to take their food.
 - Have a toy or something else they really like – they might not want to share!

-  **Still worried?**
- If you're worried by the way your dog is with your child, talk to your vet. They'll check your dog's health and can refer you to a qualified animal behaviourist.
 - Visit the **Animal Behaviour and Training Council** website to find a qualified behaviourist near you.



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