

Halwill Primary School



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 16 Spring Term

Upcoming Events

Dear Families,

On Monday we had the Grand Opening of our newly refurbished school library with a visit from author Tom Palmer who talked to the children about the books he had written and about aiming high and not giving up when he started writing over 20 years ago! Our Librarians had the very important job of welcoming the author and parents and wider family who came in to visit the library and spend some time in the hall to see exhibitions from Holsworthy Library, Okehampton Library and Dogbery and Finch book shop. The children thoroughly enjoyed showing their families around are new library and sharing a story with them. Thank you to all who came along to support us and to the Friends for serving refreshments.



February 13
Last day of term

February 16
Half term

February 23
Non pupil day

February 24
Term starts

Wild Tribe – Class 3

After school club – Tennis

Class 3 & 4

After school club – Dance club

Class 3 & 4

February 25
After school club –Board games and

Lego Class 1 – 4

Halwill Primary School Consultation

Meeting 3:45pm

February 27
Ashwater Primary School Consultation

Meeting 3:45pm

March 3
Parent Consultations 1:45 – 6.00pm

March 5
World Book Day

March 19
National Child Measurement

Programme

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

July 22
Last day of term



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/>

MCAS the new school app – MY CHILD AT SCHOOL

Dear parents, thank you to all of those who have activated their accounts this week. Please can those parents who have not received an email or need it resent, let us know as soon as possible so we can resend.

When we return on Tuesday 24th February we will be using MCAS, so clubs, permissions and consents for clubs and payments will all go through the app. You will also book school dinners through the app.

If you have not activated this, then you will be unable to book your child into a lunch or book on to an after-school club, Morning Health Club or a trip. We will also be using this for booking parents evenings.

We are moving to MICAS to save the school money as this system fully integrates with the School Information System.

I am aware, we may have some early issues to overcome as we all embrace this change, but I am hoping moving forward you will find the system easier to use, feel more informed and part of The Carey Federation.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Alison Horn
Finance Officer

Army Engineer Regiment Visit

The children had a brilliant visit from Kris Jewitt from the Engineering Regiment, where he spoke about his time touring with the army. He brought in some army rations for the children to look at, a drone and his army vehicle that the children could explore.



Wild Tribe Spring 2nd Half 2026

Class 3 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.

After School Clubs Spring 2nd Half 2026

Please see After School Clubs on our website and remember to book through the new MICAS app. <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/>

Please note, once you have collected your child from after school club, ensure you leave the school grounds swiftly.

Burton Art Gallery, Bideford

The children's artwork is now on display 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. Please do go along over half term as it is a wonderful opportunity to see your child's work hanging in an art gallery.

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

This is an important opportunity to meet your 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 via the MICAS app. 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.

Exeter Museum and Synagogue – Thursday 12th March

Class 2 Ashwater and Class 3 Halwill will be visiting Exeter Museum and Exeter Synagogue on Thursday 12th March. A letter has gone home today and payment and permissions are on MCAS.

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.thecarey federation.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.

Monday 23rd February is a non-pupil day and we return to school on **Tuesday 24th February**. Wishing you all a lovely half term.

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
Dougie – Class 3 (2 nd Feb)	Amber – Class 1 Thorin – Class 3	Rex – Class 1 Louis – Class 2	Matilde – Class 4 (2 nd Feb)	Hazel – Class 2 Ada – Class 3
Brody – Class 2 OBH – Class 4 (9 th Feb)	Nicholas – Class 4 (2 nd Feb) Bethany – Class 3 (9 th Feb)	Scarlett – Class 3 (2 nd Feb) Harry – Class 4 (9 th Feb)	Jessica - Class 2 (9 th Feb)	Freddie W (2 nd Feb) JR – Class 2 (9 th Feb)



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



✓ We Collect

 Clothes	 Paired shoes	 Handbags	 Hats
 Bags	 Scarves and ties	 Bras	 Jewellery
 Socks	 Belts		

✗ We Don't Collect

 Duvets and blankets	 Pillows and cushions	 Carpets, rugs and mats
 Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing	 School uniforms with and without logos	 Corporate clothing and workwear
 Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material	 Furniture and large items	 Batteries



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

BEST
START
IN LIFE

DiAS
Devon Information
Advice and Support
for Special Educational Needs



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>

[www.ljdcoaching.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/ljdcoaching)

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



LAUNCESTON YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE PRESENTS

THE NEXT GENERATION

SCHOOL of ROCK

THE MUSICAL

BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT MOVIE WRITTEN BY MIKE WHITE

**MUSIC BY
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER**

**BOOK BY
JULIAN FELLOWES**

**LYRICS BY
GLENN SLATER**

An Amateur (Youth Group) production by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Ltd

**THURSDAY 19TH – SATURDAY 21ST
FEBRUARY**

LAUNCESTON TOWN HALL, PL15 7AR

**GET YOUR TICKETS AT
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/LYMT**

