



Friday 25th September 2026

Halwill Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 2 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

I am so pleased to see the children coming into school happily and aiming high in all their lessons. We are privileged to see the children at work and play and we always like to have opportunities for you to do the same.

We will be combining our Harvest Festival Assembly with an Open Class session.

Harvest Festival is an extremely important festival for us as it celebrates our agricultural community and what our farming families contribute to our society. We warmly welcome parents and carers to attend our **Harvest Festival Assembly on Tuesday 20th October at 2:30 pm**. We will be collecting for the Food Bank so please donate non-perishable foods and hygiene products in the last week before half-term.

After the Harvest Assembly, we will be having open class sessions for each class, where you will be able to come into the classroom, have a look at your child's books and the work they have done so far and say hello to their class teacher.

The Open Class will be from **3:00 – 3:45 pm on Tuesday 20th October**.

Piano teacher

I am delighted to tell you that we have secured a new piano teacher Mrs Constance (Connie) Wade. Mrs Wade will be teaching on Tuesday afternoons commencing 6th October. Next week she will be doing an assembly with the children so they can meet her and find out more about her.

Mr Alex Rogozynski is still teaching guitar, ukelele and piano but we are aware he has a waiting list.

If you are interested in private, paid for, piano lessons, please contact Mrs Wade directly on dotplayspiano@gmail.com and find out more information from her website: www.dotplayspiano@gmail.com

Pupil Ambassadors

Pupil Ambassadors play an important role in helping to make our school a positive, welcoming and successful place for everyone. They act as role models, demonstrating our school values through their actions, attitudes and behaviour. Ambassadors have the opportunity to develop their confidence, communication and leadership skills while representing the views of their peers and supporting key areas of school life. By taking on these responsibilities, pupils help to strengthen our school community and make a real difference to the experiences of others.

Teachers will be talking to the children about the available roles and we wanted to share this with parents so you can support your child in applying for a role, if they wish to. Of course, not everyone who applies for a role will be successful and we support the children with being resilient and praise them for aiming high and putting themselves forward.

September 30

Okehampton Transition Y6
Open evening

October 1

National Poetry Day

Appledore book Festival visit –
John Dougherty

October 19

Flu Vaccinations

October 20

Harvest Assembly 2:30 pm
Open Class 3:00 – 3:45 pm

November 2

Non Pupil Day

November 3

Term starts

December 18

Term ends

We have the following roles available:

Librarians for our School Library

We are looking for pupils in Year 4 to 6 who would like to be pupil librarians at school.

The pupils we are looking for:

- like talking about books with other people and finding out what they like to read;
- enjoy reading all sorts of books;
- would enjoy tidying and organising and know how to look after books;
- are able to work on their own or as part of a team.

The job will involve:

- helping school adults with sorting and tidying the books;
- thinking of ideas that inspire other people in the school to want to read;
- helping to run book clubs and assemblies promoting a love of reading;
- Being responsible for choosing new books for the library.

If you are interested, please write a letter to Mrs Rothery explaining why you would be good at this job by Monday 5th October. There will be an interview with Mrs Rothery. We look forward to having you on the library team!

Digital Leaders

We are looking for pupils in Year 4 to 6 who would like to be Digital Leaders at school.

Digital Leaders help our school use technology safely and successfully. They support with technology in lessons, including helping other classes when needed. They carry out questionnaires to find out which games children are playing now, so our internet safety talks stay relevant. They also deliver assemblies on internet safety to pupils across the school. Digital Leaders must be responsible, confident and helpful. They should communicate clearly, work well in a team and listen carefully to others. They may also take part in meetings with the wider Federation and other DISP schools, sharing ideas and good practice.

If you are interested, please write a letter to your teacher, explaining why you would be good at this job by Monday 5th October. There will be an interview for this role. We look forward to working together to promote a safer on-line world.

Sustainability Ambassador

We are looking for pupils in Year 4 to 6 who would like to be Sustainability Ambassadors Leaders at school.

As a Sustainability Ambassador, you will help our school become a greener, more environmentally friendly place. You will encourage pupils and staff to reduce waste, recycle responsibly, save energy and care for our outdoor environment. Working with other ambassadors and adults in school, you will share ideas, lead campaigns and promote sustainable practices through assemblies, events and classroom activities. This role is ideal for pupils who are passionate about protecting the planet, enjoy working with others and want to inspire positive change within our school community. They may also take part in meetings with the wider Federation and other DISP schools, sharing ideas and good practice.

If you are interested, please write a letter to your teacher, explaining why you would be good at this job by Monday 5th October. There will be an interview for this role. Good luck and we look forward to working with you to take care of our environment.

Useful Links

School Contact

Details

Tel: 01409 221476

Email:

admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk

Website:

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/>

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/>

WE ARE A NO NUTS SCHOOL

School Councillor

We are looking for pupils in Year 2 to 6 who would like to be School Councillors

As a School Councillor, you will represent the views and ideas of pupils across the school and help make positive improvements for everyone. You will attend School Council meetings, listen to the opinions of your classmates and share their suggestions with school leaders. Working as part of a team, you will help plan events, discuss important school matters and contribute to decisions that support our school community. This role is ideal for pupils who are responsible, confident communicators (or want to develop their communication), good listeners and keen to make a difference in school. There may be opportunities to meet with the wider Federation or DISP schools.

If you are interested, please write a short speech, explaining why you would be good at this job and why your classmates should vote for you by Monday 5th October. There will be hustings, which means you will deliver your speech to your classmates and they will then vote for who will represent them. Good luck! By taking part, you are helping us practice the British Value of Democracy.

House Captains

We are looking for pupils in Year 6 who would like to be House Captains

Our House system strengthens the sense of community within our school. By bringing children together in mixed-age teams, pupils develop teamwork, leadership, and a sense of belonging while building friendships across year groups. Through earning house points and taking part in a variety of competitions and events, children are encouraged to work towards our school motto and Carey Qualities. A house system also provides opportunities to celebrate a wide range of achievements, helping every child feel valued and proud to contribute to their house and the wider school community.

If you are interested, please write a short speech, explaining why you would be good at this job and why your classmates should vote for you by Monday 5th October.

Librarians Wanted for our School Library



We are looking for pupils in Year 4 to 6 who would like to be pupil librarians at school.

The pupils we are looking for:

- like talking about books with other people and finding out what they like to read;
- enjoy reading all sorts of books;
- would enjoy tidying and organising and know how to look after books;
- are able to work on their own or as part of a team.

The job will involve:

- helping Mrs Rothery with sorting and tidying the books;
- thinking of ideas that inspire other people in the school to want to read;
- helping to run book clubs and assemblies promoting a love of reading;
- Being responsible for choosing new books for the library.



If you are interested, please write a letter to Mrs Rothery explaining why you would be good at this job by Monday 5th October. There will be an interview with Mrs Rothery and current librarians. We look forward to having you on the library team!

Medical Information

In order to have the latest medical information about the children, including allergies, we ask all parents to complete this form. Even if you have already told us about your child's medical condition or if your child doesn't have one, please complete the form

[2026/27 Update of Health Care Needs for your child – Fill in form](#)

After School Clubs

We are running a programme of After School Clubs. All clubs can be booked via your MCAS app.

We are also opening up Board Games Club to KS2. Please book via MiCAS if you would like to book your child.

Monday	Club: Art and Sketching Teacher: Mrs Waters Max number: 20	Year R - 6	14 th September to 19 th October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Wednesday	Club: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Teacher: Mrs Neale Max number: 20	Year R - 6	16 th September to 21 st October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Thursday	Club: Football Teacher: Sophie Dart Max number: 20	Year 3 - 6	17 th September to 22 nd October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Thursday	Club: Board Games Teacher: Miss Dannan Max number: 20	Year R - 6	17 th September to 22 nd October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students

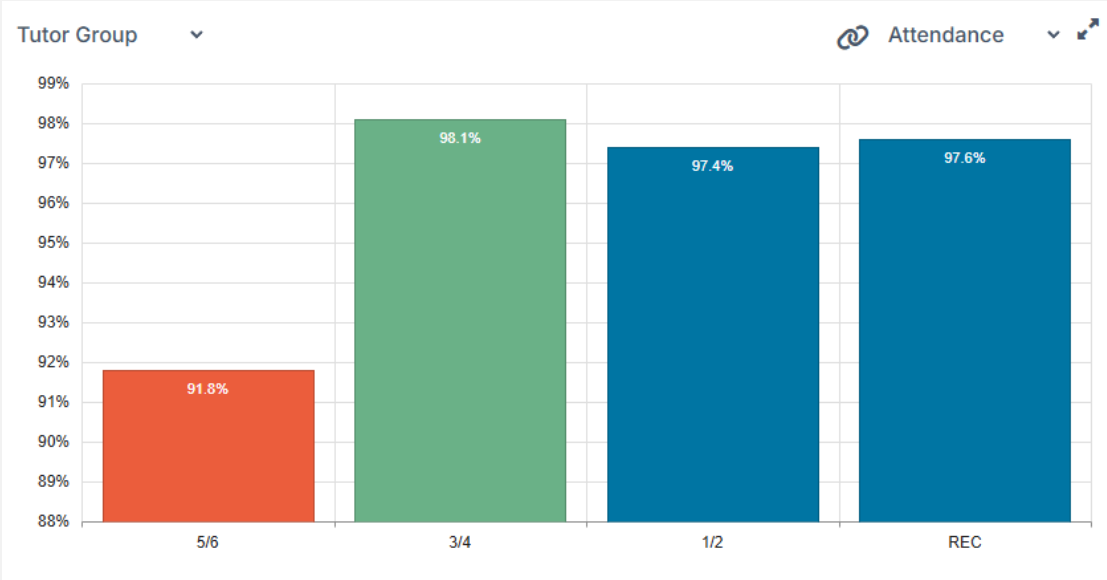
Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

Attendance
Overall attendance

Attendance

95.7%

-0.9% Last 7 Days



Attendance Percentage	Days of School Missed
98%	4 days
96%	8 days
94%	12 days
92%	16 days or three weeks
90%	20 days or four weeks
85%	30 days or 6 weeks



Dear parent / guardian,

We are delighted to share with you a new NHS funded service designed to support young people aged 7-12 who are experiencing worries or anxieties; **Lumi Nova**. With the end of the school year approaching, we wanted to remind you to take advantage of our offer as your child/ren transition into the summer and new academic year.

What is Lumi Nova?

Lumi Nova is an intergalactic adventure game to support young people to fight fears and manage worries. Whilst exploring planets, customising characters and earning treasure your child breaks their fears and worries down into manageable steps, learning life-long skills and building resilience.

Watch this short animated video to learn more: [Lumi Nova Introduction Video](#)

Who can use Lumi Nova?

Lumi Nova was created for 7 - 12 year olds (school years 3 - 7) who are having difficulties with fears, worries, or anxiety related to social situations, separation or phobias.

Lumi Nova can help your child to face their worries by breaking them down into small manageable challenges and can support your child with:

- Returning to school or starting a new school
- Making new friends and going to social events
- Speaking in front of a group
- And lots more!

How do you access Lumi Nova?

Accessing Lumi Nova is quick and easy. Use the link below to register and you will receive a text message to guide you through getting started or scan the QR code.

[Luminova.app/devon](https://luminova.app/devon)

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.

Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

We need you to help spread the word. So please share details of the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme through your newsletters, school apps, and other communications to parents and carers, so that the families in your school community know about the experiences they can enjoy this summer for less.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'.

Speech and Language Therapy

EASY ACCESS DROP IN

We are starting new easy access drop ins for pre school children.

Would you like any advice and support for your child's speech, language and communication skills? Visit one of our easy access drop ins with your child to see a Speech and Language Therapist. Get advice, support and strategies from the team.

Drop in sessions are now being held in different locations across Torbay, South Devon and North Devon. Exeter, East and Mid Devon.

If you would like to attend a drop in, please scan the QR code below to find a location and time that works for you.

