



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

It's been a busy couple of weeks and I have been very impressed with the way the children embrace every aspect of school life. On Monday, Years 3 to 6 took part in a Cross Country event at Holsworthy College.

Congratulations to

Harry Class 3 —1st Place

Finley Class 3—3rd Place

Matilde Class 3—2nd Place



Certainly, a super aim high attitude enabled this wonderful result. Well done, I am very proud of you.

I am also incredibly proud of those children who were nervous about running but had a go anyway. This resilience will really help them in future life when they are faced with new and uncertain situations.



As part of the Appledore Book Festival, the author Tanya Landman visited us yesterday. Tanya was truly inspirational and shared her journey to becoming an author. She has written more than 40 children's books and is winner of the prestigious Carnegie Medal. We are very grateful that every child was given one of Tanya's books to keep.



Outline of Support

Some parents will receive a document called an 'Outline of Support'. This is nothing to worry about but is just a way of us letting you know that your child is getting some extra support or intervention in school. The majority of children will, at some time, in their school lives need a little extra help and it's our job to proactively spot when this is needed so children can catch-up appropriately. The 'Outline of Support' is a way of documenting this and informing you. An 'Outline of Support' is not given to children with Special Educational Needs as these children will receive a 'My Plan' and parents are invited in to agree and review these.

Every Day is Open Day

If you or someone you know is looking for a September 2025 primary school place or to join at another point, please do contact the office and arrange a visit. We would love to show you all the wonderful things we do. We don't have a particular open day as we love you to see the school in action on a regular day. We offer personalised tours that give you the opportunity to ask questions and meet our fantastic staff and children.

Breakfast Club

I would like to thank all parents who use the Breakfast Club for booking by 3:30 pm Halwill of the previous day. This is really helping us because the office print the register for the Breakfast Club staff at this time; so it has been really clear who we are expecting each day and enables us to safeguard the children and ensure we have enough provisions.

Medical Conditions

At the start of each academic year, we want to review and check our records of medical conditions. Please complete this form, even if you have already told us about your child's medical condition as well as anything that is new. Please include allergies, asthma and anything else we need to know. <https://forms.gle/Yz7u5JTD8hiw5qbp8>



Attendance

We want your child to thrive in The Carey Federation, every day. We build strong and enduring relationships because we believe this is the foundation pupils need to fully engage in our community, to feel a sense of belonging and succeed.

Every child has a right to access education, and everyone is responsible for supporting and promoting excellent school attendance and punctuality. The Carey Federation are committed to providing the highest quality of education to our pupils and we recognise the clear link between attendance and the attainment of our pupils.

Thank you for supporting this. Our attendance is good because you make every effort to send your child to school, unless they are not well enough to be here.

Whilst we understand holidays can be beneficial; this has to be weighed up against the loss of learning. In addition, children can be adversely affected emotionally when they return to school having missed fun activities their peers are discussing, feel confused or unsure when faced with lessons that follow on from those they have missed and find that friendship groups have changed in their absence. For these reasons, we will not authorise holidays unless for compassionate or extenuating circumstances. If unauthorised holidays are taken, Devon County Council is likely to fine you.

We have updated our Attendance Policy, based on the latest DfE guidance, which you can read on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/parents/attendance/>

Here are some key points from it:

Absence for illness must be reported by phone, voicemail, email or in person to the school office by 9:00 am

Absence requests for medical / dental appointments, religious / cultural observances and exceptional circumstances, must be requested by completing an S2 form and submitting it to the office with as much notice as practically possible.

An unauthorised absence is defined as one where we are not satisfied with the reasons given.

Reasons may include:

- Parents keeping children from attending unnecessarily or without reason
- Missing sessions before or during the school day
- Absences which have never been properly explained
- Arrival after the register has closed
- Day trips and holidays in term time that have not been agreed
- Leaving our school without authorisation during the day

Persistent Absence is defined as: 10% or more of sessions missed (based on each pupil's possible sessions). Absences may be authorised or unauthorised.

Persistent lateness is defined as pupils who have five or more late marks recorded in a single half-term.

On the following page is information shared by Devon County Council.

Holiday Requests

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. It is the policy of our school to celebrate achievement and full attendance is a critical factor to a productive and successful school career.

In 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. In addition on 19 August 2024, an amendment to the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 came into force and set out a new National Framework for issuing penalty notices. 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 this school.

I must take this opportunity to remind you, that 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.

This school will be notifying the Local Authority in all of the circumstances listed above.

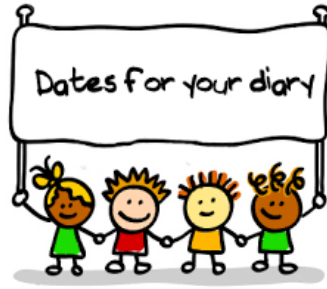
Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. In addition to natural parents and any person with parental responsibility, any person considered to have day to day care and control of a young person is deemed to be a parent in matters relating to education and school nonattendance (s576 Education Act 1996).

From 19th August 2024, following changes to secondary legislation, the amount charged in a penalty notice was increased.

The first penalty notice issued will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

The second penalty notice issued will be charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 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 and we apologise, but as you can appreciate this policy represents the schools responsibility and commitment towards providing your child's education and supporting their future life opportunities. We hope you will support us by ensuring that your son/daughter obtains the maximum benefit from their time at school by attending punctually for the 190 days each year that the law requires (unless prevented from doing so by an unavoidable circumstances).



Friends of Halwill School AGM – Wednesday 2nd October, 9:00 am

Please do come along; we are always looking for new parents to join! We really value the Friends work in helping with fundraising. As they say, 'many hands make light work'!

Class 1 Parent Information Meeting – Monday 7th October, 2:30pm

Please come along to this informal meeting where teachers will introduce how they teach phonics, maths and English.

Harvest Festival Assembly – Friday 4th October 2:45 pm

We warmly welcome parents and carers to join our Harvest Festival Assembly. The children will be sharing their learning about Harvest with you. Please also send in non-perishable foods and toiletries ahead of the assembly. These will be sent to the food bank.



Parent Consultation

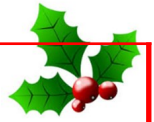
This is an important opportunity to meet with your child's teacher so they can share their academic and social progress with you. This term the meetings will be on.

Tuesday 12th November. 1:45 – 6:00 pm

We will let you know when you are able to book your ten minute slot, nearer the time. The meetings will take place in school but we can also offer a virtual meeting.



Christmas



Yes! We are already thinking about Christmas!

Christmas is an incredibly busy time for children, staff and parents and sometimes, the activities we focus on, can take away from the true meaning of Christmas. Although we are not a church school, Christmas is a Christian festival and it is important that celebrations in school reflect this, regardless of the individual faiths we hold.

We have reflected and thought carefully about how Christmas will be celebrated in the Federation and this is our plan moving forward.

The Church service will have a much greater importance and will be led by Class 4 (Year 5 & 6), There will be far more opportunities for Class 4 to deliver readings and talk to the congregation. Class 1 (Reception) will perform their nativity within the church. Therefore, Class 1 and Class 4 will not perform a separate play.

In total, there will be three church services. The first, will be for the school children only and second two, will be for parents and carers of Class 1 and Class 4. Please understand, that we have had to restrict to parents of Class 1 and 4 for space reasons, as we will continue to be in the Halwill Baptist Chapel. Information about ticketing will be shared nearer the time.

The dates are as follows:

Monday 16th December, 10:00 am – Church service for all Halwill school children (parents are unable to attend this)

Tuesday 17th December, 9.30 am - Church service for Class 1 & Class 4 parents

Tuesday 17th December, 5.00 pm - Church service for Class 1 & Class 4 parents

Class 2 and Class 3 will continue to perform a Christmas play which parents and carers are invited to.

Tuesday 10th December, 9:15 am – Class 2 Christmas play for parents

Tuesday 10th December, 10:15 am – Class 3 Christmas play for parents

Wednesday 11th December, 5:00 pm – Class 2 Christmas play for parents

Wednesday 11th December, 6:00 pm – Class 3 Christmas play for parents



Year 6 Parents - Applying for a Secondary School Place

Has your child recently started in Year 6 and due to join secondary school in September 2025? If so please remember that applications must be submitted by the **31st October 2024**.

Applications received after this date will be classed as late and they will be considered after all those who applied on time.

You can apply online by visiting:

https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAR2fkBEZQk8ku_4djGvFF1o66dNAQtvie1_yNrdPpLMH9Y8BqXb7msl3tso_aem_0ZynRI9C17JgOI7NgZ6huA

Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

Celebration Assembly Awards

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

For building Relationships	For being Resilient	For being Resourceful	For being Reflective	For being Respectful
	Grace—Class 1	Belle—Class 3	Jessica—Class 1 Daisy—Class 2 Amelia—Class 2 Thorin—Class 3 Poppy—Class 4	Alfred—Class 2 Gabriel—Class 4

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:

Mrs C Brooker

Safeguarding Governor:

Mrs A Clark

Safeguarding

Remember if you have any issues regarding Safeguarding that you wish to raise, please email

safeguarding@halwill.devon.sch.uk

This week we have been reminding children about farm safety.

FARMING IS NOT CHILD'S PLAY

People often believe that farm children understand farm risks, but most children who are hurt in farm incidents are family members.

- A farmyard is not a playground so establish rules about what young people can and can't do on the farm.
- Keep children away from farm machinery and moving vehicles.
- Children under 13 years old must not drive or operate tractors or other farm machinery or
- Children under 13 years old must not ride as passengers on tractors, ATVs or other farm machinery.
- Ensure drivers have a clear view of corners and install mirrors to increase visibility if necessary
- Make sure slurry pits and tanks are securely fenced and inaccessible to prevent children from getting near the area

October 2024

4th Harvest Festival—2:45pm
25th Kents Cavern Class 3 trip
28th to 1st Nov Half term

November 2024

4th Non-pupil day
12th Flu Immunisations
12th Parent Consultation 1:45pm—6:00pm

December 2024

10th Christmas Play Class 2—9:15am—10:15am
10th Christmas Play Class 3—10:15am—11:15am
11th Christmas Play Class 2—5pm—6pm
11th Christmas Play Class 3—6pm—7pm
16th Church Christmas Service for all children—10am—11am
17th Christmas Church Service Class 1 and 4—09:30am—10:30am
19th End of term

January 2025

6th Start of term

February 2025

17th to 21st Half term
24th Non-pupil day

March 2025

26th Mary Poppin's whole school trip



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

Friends of Halwill Primary School

“The Friends of Halwill school” are parents who work together to help enrich the experiences of school, for example supplying craft and snacks at the Christmas Party! We are always looking for help and support, whether it’s offering ideas, help at events etc we would love to have you on board.

Other ways to support Friends is to sign up to easy fundraising, your shopping online can mean a donation to the school.

Or buying name labels from My Nametags, by using the school ID 28989 the school can get a donation from the sale and school uniform is more likely to get reunited with its owner!

We also have Facebook pages for Friends “Friends of Halwill Primary School” and “Halwill Primary School’s 2nd hand uniform” where for a small donation you can find some good quality used uniform.

Thank you
Friends of Halwill Primary School

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/assets/blt2159bb3d91e9d580/easyfundraising-poster-a4.pdf>

<https://www.mynametags.com/>



Turn your online shopping
into everyday magic for

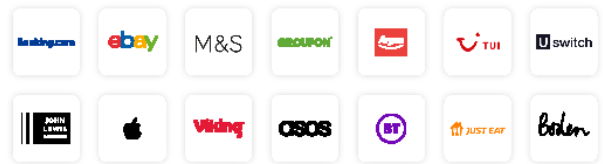
Friends of Halwill Primary School

with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us.
It won't cost you any extra!

How to sign up

- 1 Visit the link below or scan the QR code
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause
- 2 Search for us
- 3 Your favourite brands donate whenever you spend with them



Download the
easyfundraising App



Excellent 3,945 reviews on Trustpilot

Friends of Halwill Primary School will be holding our
AGM on Wednesday 2nd October at 9:00 am. You
are all welcome to join us.

Thank you

Friends Of Halwill School

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.