

Monday 29th September 2025

Halwill Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 4 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

The children in Y1-6 thoroughly enjoyed the visit from author John Townsend on Friday. John was very entertaining and informative. Many of his books are animal related and so the children were very engaged. They answered and asked lots of questions enthusiastically. A huge thanks to John Townsend for coming to our school and to the Appledore Book Festival for making this happen. They have provided each child with a copy of one of John's books; we are very grateful for their generosity.



The Year 5&6 children who attended the Tag Rugby Festival at Winkleigh on Friday had a fantastic time. They played against 5 other schools and aimed high throughout. Well done to all of them.



Upcoming Events

September 30

Wild Tribe Class 3

After School Club - KS2 Hockey

After school club - Showtime Club

Y1 – 6

October 10

Bags2School

October 14

Harvest Assembly 9:15 am -parents and carers welcome

October 16

Clive Pig visit at Halwill

for Class 2 Ashwater and Class 3 Halwill

October 21

Tempest Individual photographs/siblings

October 24

End of Term

November 3

Non pupil day

November 4

First day of Autumn 2nd Half

November 10

Flu Immunisation

November 11

Parent Consultation 1:45- 6:00pm

November 27

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, KS2 Theatre Trip

Library

Our librarians have been busy organising our new selection of books donated by the Devon Mobile Library Service.



December 11

Class 2 Christmas play

9:15am and 3.45pm

Class 3 Christmas play

10:30am and 5pm

December 16

Christmas Church Service

Tuesday 16th December at

9:30 am and 5:00 pm at the

Baptist Church

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

These are on our website:

<https://www.thecarey-federation.co.uk/ash-water-primary-school/parents/term-dates/>

House Captains and School Council Election Results

Well done to all the children who put themselves forward for the roles of House Captain or School Councilor. They all delivered speeches and thought carefully about what they had to offer. I am very pleased to see such resilience, especially if they weren't elected.

Congratulations to the following children who were democratically elected by their peers.

House Captains

Owls – Chloe and Henry

Bells – Arthur and TLR

School Council

Yr 1 Hazel and Jessica

Yr 2 Mia and LH

Yr 3 Ada and Ivy

Yr 4 EH and Reggie

Yr 5 Freddie W and Evelyn

Yr 6 Emily and Freya

Christmas Dates

We have set our Christmas dates, please see the 'Upcoming Events' list. Please note, where there are two performances or services, this is to enable us to fit in as many parents and extended family as possible so we request that you only attend one of the events. We will be ticketing this nearer the time.

Menu swap!

We are swapping Thursday and Fridays menu around next week so please do book in for Thursdays school dinner if you want fish and chips! The chicken wrap will be on Friday.

Also just a reminder to book school dinners ahead for each week!

Thank you.



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.

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

Useful Links

School Contact Details

Tel: 01409 221476

A message from Friends

Friends of Halwill Primary School AGM meeting will be on Friday 10th October at 2.45pm, at school.

All welcome, please come along if you're interested. We are always looking for extra ideas and help!

Friends communicate mainly through the newsletter and on our Facebook page - please follow us so you don't miss any events etc. Facebook – 'Friends of Halwill Primary School'.

Thank you

Friends

Attendance

Thank you for your support with your child's attendance. I know our families do send children into school when they are well enough to be here. I am also aware that there have been bugs going around and we do ask that children remain off school for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhea. We appreciate that this will affect children's attendance but cannot be helped. Therefore, it is very important that children are in school when they are able to be. Please see an important letter regarding holiday requests later in the newsletter.

Change of Non-Pupil Day 2026 – Royal Cornwall Show, Friday 5th June 2026

This year we had a non-pupil day that wasn't attached to a holiday. Next year we have the same planned in the Summer Term on Monday 22nd June 2026. However, on reflection, we feel that it would benefit our farming families if this non-pupil day was moved to coincide with The Royal Cornwall Show. This would allow families to attend the show on Friday 5th June 2026. We hope that many families will make the most of this opportunity to enjoy an event that is so important to our rural heritage. Please note, as we are providing this opportunity, we will not be able to authorise requests to attend the show on Thursday 4th June.

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
	FV – Class 1 Ellis – Class 2 EH – Class 3 Thomas – Class 3 Megan – Class 4 Arthur – Class 4	Erin – Class 2 Nicholas – Class 4	JR – Class 2	Albie – Class 1



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



Halwill Primary School

Please leave your donations, in the bike shed

Thursday 9th October between 09.30am to 3.00pm

(Bag 2 School collecting Friday 10th October)

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!

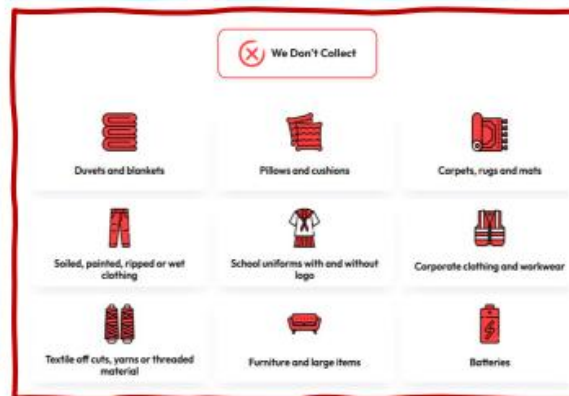
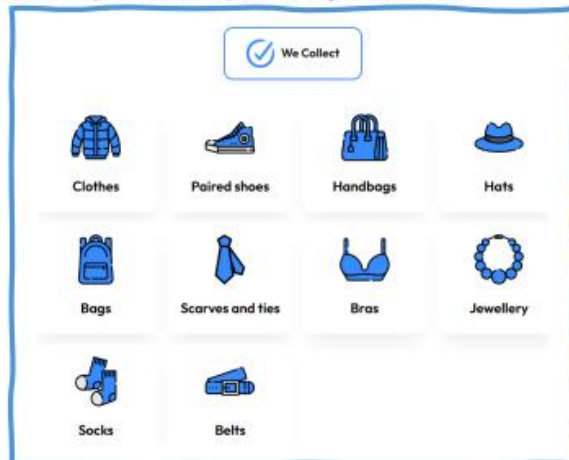
If you have several bags to donate, please do **NOT** drive into school at drop off and pick up times.

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 Online Wellbeing Courses for Families Across Cornwall and Devon

Families across Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and the Isles of Scilly can now access **free online courses** to support parenting, child development and mental wellbeing.

Created by NHS professionals, these flexible courses cover topics like:

- Understanding your child's behaviour
- Supporting emotional health
- Navigating teenage years

More information can be found here - inourplace.co.uk/cornwall-and-devon .

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.