

Monday 6th October 2025

Halwill Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 5 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

We have a lot happening in the next few weeks! Please read on to find out more...

Additional Club

Starting this week, there will be an after school Football Club for Class 4 on Wednesdays. This will be taken by Mr Alford. Please see details on the website

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/> or ask for a form at the office.

Clive Pig -Brining Ancient Egypt to Life Class 3 Halwill and Class 2 Ashwater at Halwill School

Please note that the date of Clive Pig's visit has been changed to Monday October 13th due to a clash with the Stephen's Shield Cross Country. Clive Pig will be supporting the children's learning and knowledge of their history topic, Ancient Egypt. Details are going home in a letter today.

Harvest Assembly, Tuesday 14th October, 9:15 am

We look forward to welcoming parents and wider family to our Harvest Assembly. We will be collecting non-perishable foods and toiletries for donation to the food bank. Please kindly send these in ahead of the assembly.

Stephen Shield Cross Country- Thursday 16th October

This is a highly competitive race and is held in Torrington. Selected KS2 pupils have attended this annually. We have previously selected pupils at the Holsworthy College completion, however as HCC are no longer running sports events, we are holding internal trials on our school field this Wednesday. We do want to give all the Class 3 and 4 children the opportunity to have a go at the trials whether they are keen runners or find running more challenging. We encourage all children to do even a small section. Please ensure children have their PE kits on Wednesday 8th October.

Y5/6 DISP Football Tournament- Hosted by Halwill Primary School- Wednesday 22nd October

As mentioned previously, we are working with a group of maintained schools called Devon Independent Schools Partnership. Through this, children attended a Tag Rugby Festival at Winkleigh School a couple of weeks ago. Soon it will be the Carey Federation's opportunity to host at Halwill School. We will shortly select the teams and a letter will be sent home if your child is involved.



Upcoming Events

October 7

Wild Tribe Class 3

After School Club - KS2 Hockey

After school club - Showtime Club

Y1 – 6

October 8

After School Club – Football

Class 4

October 10

Bags2School

October 13

Clive Pig visit at Halwill

for Class 2 Ashwater and Class 3

Halwill

October 14

Harvest Assembly 9:15 am -parents and carers welcome

October 16

Stephen Shield Cross Country,

Torrington – selected pupils only

October 21

Tempest Individual

08:30 families

photographs/siblings

October 22

Y5/6 DISP Football Tournament
Hosted at Halwill School, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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 22

KS2 children singing at Exeter Cathedral

November 27

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

Staff News

Mrs Brown will be leaving the Federation at the end of the week to pursue another role in education. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and I am sure you will join me in wishing her well in her new career.

We welcomed Debbie Elkins at the beginning of term as our Teaching Assistant and Meal Time Assistant, Debbie has settled in very well to her new role. We are also delighted to welcome our newly appointed Finance Administrator, Alison Horn. Alison has a wealth of experience working in other schools and for the Local Authority.

Christmas Dates

We have set our Christmas dates, please see the 'Upcoming Events' list. Class 2 and Class 3 will be performing plays. Class 4 will be leading the church services and Class 1 will be performing their nativity in the church services.

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. However, children are asked to be at **both** performances



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.

December 10

Christmas lunch

December 11

Class 2 Christmas play

9:15am and 3.45pm

Class 3 Christmas play

10:30am and 5pm

December 16

Christmas Church Service

(Class 1 and Class 4 parents)

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/>

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.

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

Useful Links

School Contact Details

Tel: 01409 221476

Email:

admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk

Website: [Halwill Primary School – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools](http://HalwillPrimarySchool-HalwillandAshwaterPrimarySchools)

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

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
MG – Class 2		HB – Class 2 Finley – Class 4	Finley – Class 2 Harry – Class 4	Mia – Class 1 OBH – Class 4

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[Safeguarding Lead](#)

Mrs Ruh Alford

[Deputy Safeguarding Leads](#)

Miss Jayne Miners

Mrs Rosie Cawsey

Mrs Alix Rothery

[Attendance Officer](#)

Mrs Ceren Brooker

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.

3rd October 2025



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

Holsworthy Community College is part
of the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
family

Dear parents and carers,

It was fantastic to meet so many future students, parents, carers and families at our recent Open Evening. We hope that you enjoyed exploring the school site and meeting many of our current staff and students. If you need to revisit the presentation or digital copy of the prospectus, these can be accessed via the link below:

[Transition | Holsworthy Community College](#)

The next stage of our transition offer is through a series of open morning events. These are designed to allow students in the current year 5 and 6 with their parents/ carers, to visit the school during its normal working hours. This will give you the opportunity to tour the school and see the typical teaching and learning that takes place across all our curriculum subjects. This is undoubtedly the best way to experience a typical day at Holsworthy Community College.

We expect these open mornings to be popular so booking a slot is essential. To reserve your place, please contact our reception team via admin@hccdevon.org or 01 409 253430.

Open mornings take place on the following dates and times; we envisage that they will last an hour.

- Friday 10th October at 8.40am and 9.40am
- Monday 13th October at 8.40am
- Tuesday 14th October at 8.40am
- Thursday 16th October at 11.10am
- Friday 17th October at 8.40am
- Monday 20th October at 8.40am and 11.10am

If you have any questions or queries about the College or any aspect of the move from primary school to secondary education, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Mr P Ruse
Vice Principal



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



 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 logo



Corporate clothing and workwear



Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material



Furniture and large items



Batteries