Monday 9th October 2026

Halwill Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 5 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. Last term ended with a wonderful Harvest Assembly and an opportunity for families to come into class and see the children's work. Well done to the children for showing such confidence in delivering the assembly.

Remembrance

A huge thank you to Bella and Belle in Class 4 who represented the school on Remembrance Sunday. They laid a wreath with great dignity at the war memorial in Halwill as part of the Remembrance service.





We will be holding a cross-Federation Remembrance Assembly via Teams on 11th November to commemorate this important occasion. There are poppies and other items available for the children to buy in school for a donation.

Class 4 will also be visiting the war memorial on Wednesday and laying another wreath.

Children In Need, Friday 13th November- Challenge Yourself 2026

The Carey Federation Marathon Challenge

This year, the BBC Children in Need appeal is encouraging everyone to "Challenge Yourself 2026" by creating their own challenge inspired by the number 26.

To support this amazing cause, the children and staff from Ashwater, St Giles and Halwill will be joining forces to take on a marathon challenge. Together, our three schools will run a combined total of 26.2 miles, with every child contributing to the distance and playing their part in this fantastic team effort.

On Friday 13th November the children can wear non-uniform but please ensure it is appropriate for running.

THE CAREY FEDERATION

Upcoming Events

November 11
Federation Remembrance Assembly (Children only)

November 13
Children in Need Day (non-unform suitable for running – donation requested)

November 19
Parent Consultation
Class 1 – 2:30 – 6:00
Class 2.3&4 1:30 – 6:00

November 23
Federation History Day at Halwill School
Y1 & 2

November 27
Friends' Christmas Wreath Making 6:00pm

December 9
Class 2 Play 1:45 pm
Class 3 Play 2:45 pm
Families welcome to both

December 15
Class 1& Class 4 Church Service in Halwill Baptist Church
2.30 pm - Families welcome

December 16
Christmas Lunch (non-uniform Christmas jumper / something Christmassy -no donation)

December 18
Term ends

January 4
Start of Spring Term

We would be very grateful for any donations towards this worthwhile challenge. While running a marathon is certainly a challenge for us, for many children across the UK, having a safe home, enough food to eat and access to the care and support they need can be a challenge every day. Every donation, no matter how small, can help make a real difference to young lives.

To celebrate our efforts and support the appeal, children are invited to come to school in non-uniform on Friday for a voluntary donation.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's challenge ourselves, get running and help make a difference for children who need it most!

Changes to Our School Newsletter

We are always looking for ways to ensure our communication with families is clear, timely and effective. With this in mind, we will be trialling a move from our weekly newsletter to a **half-termly newsletter**.

The half-termly newsletter will continue to provide key information, celebrate achievements and share important updates from across the school. In between newsletters, we will make greater use of our other communication platforms such as MCAS and Class Dojo to keep parents informed about day-to-day news, reminders and upcoming events.

We value strong communication with our school community and believe this approach will provide a more efficient and effective way of sharing information, while ensuring important messages reach families in a timely manner.

As this is a trial, we will be seeking feedback from parents in the New Year to find out how well the new approach is working and to gather your views on its effectiveness. Your feedback will help us shape our communication methods moving forward.

Thank you for your continued support.

Pupil Ambassadors
Congratulations to the following children who have been appointed to these roles.

Librarians
Joining our current Librarians are:

Class 3 Ada, Elsie, Ivy , Chloe & Bethany

Class 4 Sidney & Bruce

Sustainability Leaders

Class 3 Ada

Class 4 Matilde, Evelyn & Freddie W

School Council

Year 2 Jessica & Hazel

Year 3 Mia & Erin

Year 4 Scarlett & Amelia

Year 5 Dougie & Sidney

Year 6 Ryan & Matilde

Digital Leaders

Class 4 Matilde, Ethan, Evelyn, Bella

House Captains

OWLS

Bella, Freddie W

BELLS

Megan, Dylan

After School Clubs

Please book via MCAS

Monday	Club: Christmas Craft Club Teacher: Mrs Beer Max number: 20	Year R - 6	9th November to 7th December 2026 3.30-4.30pm £19 (5 weeks) £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Thursday	Club: Football Teacher: Sophie Dart Max number: 20	Year R - 2	5th November to 10th December 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80 (6 weeks) £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Thursday	Club: Board Games Teacher: Miss Dannan Max number: 20	Year 3 - 6	5th November to 10th December 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80 (6 weeks) £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students

Wildtribe & PE

Class 1 & 2 have finished their current stint of Wildtribe.

Class 3 will have Wild Tribe on **Tuesday** afternoons and will need to bring in waterproofs to wear over their school clothes and wellies. Long hair needs to be tied up.

Children need to bring in their PE kits to change into for the afternoon lesson and will need to be in their PE kit for them to take part. PE kits can be left in school so children have them when needed.

Parent Consultation, Thursday 19th November

Please book your slot for a 10 minute appointment your child's teacher. They look forward to sharing your child's learning and progress with you.

Timings are as follows:
Class 1 – 2:30 – 6:00
Class 2.3 & 4 1:30 – 6:00

Christmas

Please see the date list for our Christmas events.

Class 1 & Class 4 will be presenting our Christmas service together. Class 4 will be delivering readings to tell the nativity story, while Class 1 will be acting out the nativity. Families of Class 1

and 4 are invited to watch the service at **Halwill Baptist Chapel on Tuesday December 15th at 2:30 pm.** We will take children to the Baptist Chapel and you will be able to collect them from the Baptist Chapel after the service.

Earlier in the day, the rest of the school children will have the opportunity to be part of the service

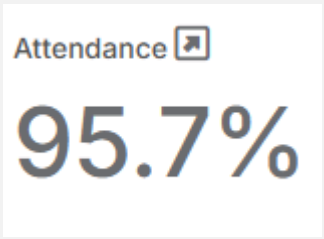
Class 2 and Class 3 will be performing separate Christmas plays. Families are invited to watch these on **Wednesday 9th December** as follows:

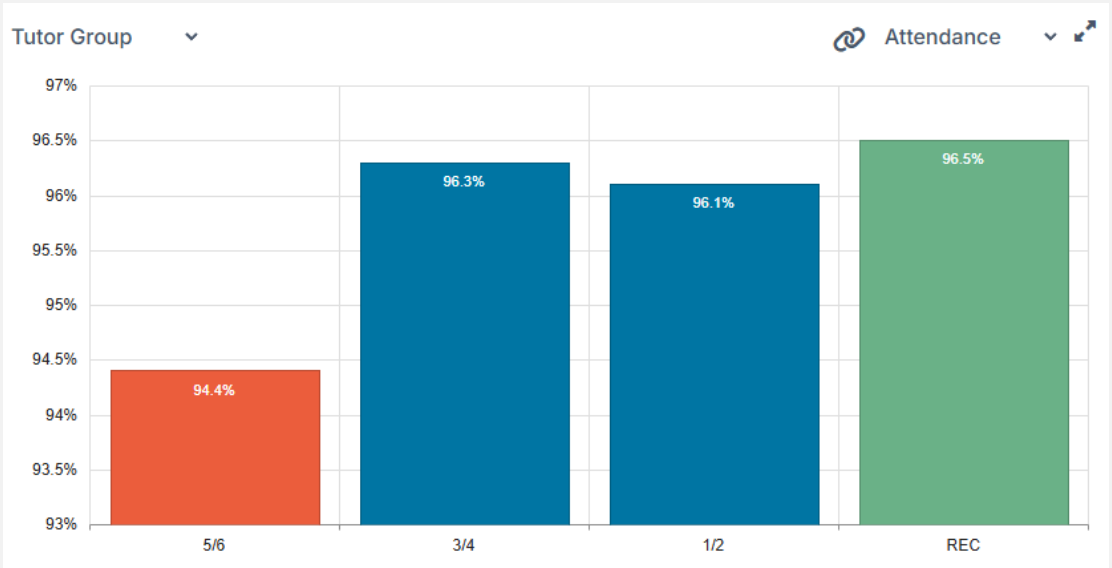
Class 2 Play 1:45 pm (you are welcome to collect Class 2 children after the play along with siblings -except Class 3. However, we are also happy for children to remain until 3.30.

Class 3 Play 2:45 pm

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

Attendance
First half of Autumn Term





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

Is your child well enough for school? Please see the link below.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_i5KxggkPTw

THE CAREY FEDERATION

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

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.

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


HAVE YOUR SAY!
WHAT SHOULD YOUR PARISH COUNCIL BE DOING?
A Stronger Halwill Together
Halwill Parish Council would like to learn your views on what the priorities should be for the Parish Council spend.
Your Village Your Views Our Future
SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
10AM TO 1PM
SCHOOL ROOM, VILLAGE HALL
Everyone's opinion counts!
HALWILL
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ATTENDED TO QUICKLY?
Village benches
Carpark repairs
General maintenance
etc.
WHAT MEDIUM TERM PROJECTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE COUNCIL FUNDING?
Communal garden
Dog exercise area
Limit overnight parking in the hall carpark
etc.
DO COME ALONG and state your views and preferences.
View the public display
Share your ideas
Help set the priorities
Make a difference in your community
PEOPLE
PLACES
COMMUNITY
FUTURE
Working together for a better Halwill
Halwill Parish Council
A STRONGER COMMUNITY FOR TOMORROW


Halwill
Winter Gift
Fayre 2026
Saturday 21st November
Halwill Parish Hall
10am—2pm
SCALLYWAGS PRE-SCHOOL
HALWILL
Shop a beautiful selection of products, gifts and crafts from local businesses.
Food, Cakes & Refreshments
Children's Seasonal Activities
Raffle and MORE!!
Stall enquiries by email to
chair.scallywags@outlook.com
Tables: Single £10, Double £16
Plus a donation to the raffle


Wreath Making
EVENING
Friday 27th November at 6pm
At Halwill Primary School
£30
per person
Bring your own secateurs
All materials provided.
Please bring extra bits for desired colour theme.
Mince pies, biscuits, mulled wine, tea and coffee included
Limited spaces please book via
friendsofhalwillschool@outlook.com
Supported by
Trigon Farm
Friends of Halwill School
Charity number: 1116245