



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the second half of term. I hope you all enjoyed the half term break. We had a fantastic end to the term with our Harvest Assembly. It was great to see so many parents attending. I am sure you enjoyed hearing the children sing and share their learning. They were all super!

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation regarding the school closure last week. It was a very difficult decision and not one we took lightly. Devon County Council were very clear that was a potential risk to life and as a result more than 150 schools in Devon closed. Well done to the children who engaged with home-learning and to the staff for quickly adapting to on-line activities.

On Monday, the KS1 children enjoyed a multi skills event at Holsworthy College. The weather wasn't very kind but the children were resilient and did very well.



Apply for Your Child's Primary School Place

Do you or someone you know, have a child born between the 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020? If you do, they are due to start primary school in September 2024. You will be able to apply for their school place from the 15th November 2023. Please be aware that the Local Authority is no longer sending any letters out to families inviting them to apply. You can pre-register your details so that you receive an email and/or a text message when the system goes live for applications on the 15th of November. Please visit the web pages below for further information about the process - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/>

You can register to receive a reminder by completing this form

<https://forms.office.com/e/ksWfDUXZKxhttps://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>

Every day is Open Day!! We don't have an open day for prospective parents because we prefer to offer individual tours to families so you can see us as we are on an ordinary day. Please contact the office if you would like to arrange a visit.

Home-Learning Projects Parent Showcase

Well done to children for aiming high in their projects. Parents are invited to come in to school to look at the projects on Friday 10th November at 3:00 pm. Halwill.

Tempest Photos

Tempest are in tomorrow, Thursday 9th November, to take individual photos. If you would like a family photo, please be at school for 8:30 am.



Parent Consultations - Tuesday 21st November 1.45-6.00pm



This is your opportunity to meet your child's class teacher for a 10 minute appointment to discuss their academic and social progress this term. We are offering these as live sessions in school or if you would prefer on-line. Please book your appointment via the school office from **Monday 13th November**. You can either call, email or drop into the office to make the appointment. If you are unable to make the date offered, please let us know and teachers will arrange to see you at another time.

A short report will also be shared with you. It is not a requirement for schools to provide anything written if there is a face to face parent consultation but we feel that sharing where your child is currently attaining aids the discussion in the meeting.

Remembrance



We will be marking Remembrance on Friday 10th November in a special assembly. Poppies and other items from the Royal British Legion are available for the children to buy.

Children in Need Thursday 16th November

For a donation of £1, children can wear something spotty (non-uniform). Please see Class dojo for more information.



Visit from Sir Geoffrey Cox, MP Friday 17th November

Our local MP will be visiting us as and the children will have the opportunity to ask him questions about politics or issues close to their hearts. It will be a good opportunity to impress on him the strengths and challenges of small rural schools.

Clubs



This half term's clubs can be found on our website

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/>

After School Clubs

From now until February half term, Class 4 will not be allowed to walk home or to the Parish Hall, after clubs because of the low light levels. Please collect children from the

front of the school.

Defibrillator

I am pleased to tell you that the DfE have provided all schools with a defibrillator, which is suitable for children. This is now in place, should we ever need it.



Christmas Dates

Tuesday 5th December 	Non-uniform Day – children to bring in a hamper item or £1 to Friends' Christmas fund. 3:30 – 5:00 pm Children's Christmas Disco Party 5:00 pm Christmas Tree Light Switch-On – parents / carers welcome
Thursday 7th December	2:30 pm Class 1 & 2 Christmas Production – Parents and carers welcome Please note additional date
Friday 8th December	9:30 am Class 1 & 2 Christmas Production – Parents and carers welcome
Monday 11th December	2:20 pm Class 3 Christmas Production 3:00 pm Class 4 Christmas Production
Tuesday 12th December 	5:30 pm Class 3 Christmas Production 6:15 pm Class 4 Christmas Production Parents and carers welcome
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 15th December	9:30 am Church Service in the Baptist Chapel – Parents welcome

Health Visitor Survey

The Health Visitor service is so important for parents with young children. Devon County Council are consulting on this service. Please do respond to this survey as it will help improve this vital service for future generations.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gzehjWjLP0S7S5I_d_1b-6VVKjoPyrNPkNIEJlGaBpUQzQ2OE1BQkQ2SjNOT0FPNUZSWU1GRkswUC4u

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:

Miss S Revers

Safeguarding Governor:

Mrs A Clark

Keeping Safe on Dark Roads

- Use dedicated pedestrian crossings at all times to cross the road, if available.
- Remind children to put all electronic devices away and be vigilant before crossing. (Remember Stop, Look, Listen.)
- Try to encourage your children NOT to use headphones. This is because it will stop them having a full sense of their surroundings. The more that your children have their wits about them; the less likely children are to be taken by surprise. If they insist on using their headphones suggest they use the ear bud types and only use one side.
- Be careful when walking up driveways. There could be cars pulling in or reversing out.
- Try to walk on a footpath or pavement at all times. If there are none then keep in single file to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic.
- Even if it takes a bit longer, you should encourage children to stay on well-lit roads and paths rather than through dark parks or deserted alleyways. They should also make sure they walk on the side of the road with cars heading towards them and ensure they are visible. It is worth checking out our reflective textile shapes that can be applied to bags or clothing to help children be seen in low light.
- Carry a small torch that you can easily clip on to your key chain or using your smartphone's torch app.

Dates for your diary:

November

- 9th Tempest Photos—individuals and families (Families at 8.30am)
10th Parents viewing of Home Learning projects. 3.00pm.
16th Children in Need—non-uniform/something spotty. £1 donation.
20th Yr 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Festival at HCC
21st Parents consultation 1.45-6pm. (Bookings open from Mon 13th Nov)



December

- 5th Non-uniform day (Hamper item or £1 donation to Friends)
5th Children's Christmas Party 3.30-5.00pm
5th Christmas Tree Lights switch on, 5.00pm
7th Class 1 & 2 Christmas Production, 2.30pm
8th Class 1 & 2 Christmas Production, 9.15am
11th Class 3 Christmas Production, 2.20pm
11th Class 4 Christmas Production, 3.00pm
12th Class 3 Christmas Production, 5.30pm
12th Class 4 Christmas Production, 6.15pm
13th Christmas Lunch
15th Church Service at Baptist Chapel, 10am.
15th End of term



January

- 2nd Non-pupil day
3rd Start of term

February

- 12th to 16th Half term

March

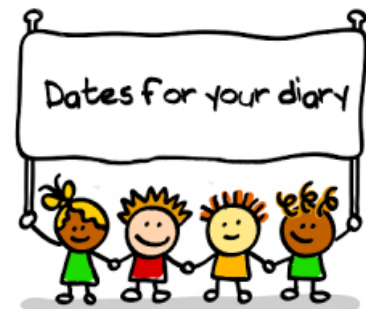
- 11th KS1 Performing Arts Festival Y1 and 2 at HCC

June

- 24th Yr 5 & 6 Cricket Festival at HCC

July

- 8th Beach Festival Y3 and 4 at Bude



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

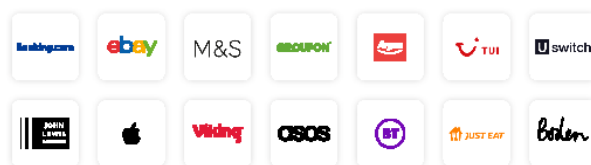
Friends of Halwill Primary School

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

Have you moved house? Changed your mobile number?

No longer have a landline?



Please ensure you keep us informed of all changes to your contact details. This can easily be done by using the SIMS parent app or email the office. Thank you





A gingerbread man character with a smiling face, rosy cheeks, and a black top hat with a red band. He is wearing a red scarf and holding a red and white striped candy cane in his right hand. A small red candy is floating above him.

A red beanie with a green pom-pom and a green ribbed cuff. The beanie features a pattern of white zig-zags and crosses.



**MERRY
XMAS**





Halwill Christmas Gift Fair

10th November
6.30pm ~ 9.00pm



Halwill Parish Hall, Halwill Junction, EX21 5XR
Gifts and Crafts, Raffle and Refreshments



Handmade Crafts & Gifts,
The Body Shop / Avon / Scentys
Local farmers, Homewares,
Jewellery, Confectionary and More!



Registered Charity Number: 1033643

The
Landmark
Trust



Open Days

Winsford Cottage Hospital

Halwill Junction, Devon

Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 November 2023

10am – 4pm

Free entry, advance booking preferred



Scan to book tickets



www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/

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.

As of 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. 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 the school.

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.*

Schools need to notify 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. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 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, but as you can appreciate this policy represents the school's responsibility and commitment towards providing your child's education and supporting their future life opportunities.

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.

Struggling to top up your prepayment meter?

You might be able to claim fuel vouchers

If you have prepayment meters and can't afford to top them up, we can help. We may be able to give you fuel vouchers, and our specialist energy team can help you find ways to save money on your household bills

Call 01237 879233, email fuelvouchers@ruraldevoncab.org.uk or scan the QR code to request a call back



**citizens
advice**

**Torridge, North,
Mid & West Devon**



Registered charity number: 1068496