



Halwill Primary School  
Newsletter No.16  
Spring Term. 8th March 2021  
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## *Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other*

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see the children return today. They have settled in very well; it has been a pleasure to see lots of smiling and excited faces. For a reminder of the procedures, PE days and clubs etc. please see the information sheet sent last week: <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/halwillps/UploadedDocument/d1775694abe74266a3383a47cc4eeffb/information-for-full-opening-8th-march-2021-halwill.pdf>

### Drop-off arrangements

While the arrangements at the front of the school worked well this morning and the children came in beautifully, I understand it was quite chaotic in the Parish Hall Car Park, with several cars coming in and out at the same time. This of course is not part of school grounds so we aren't able to police this area and in any case all staff need to be at the school to welcome the children and comfort those who are anxious. However, we are concerned that an accident could occur in the car park and in addition social distancing is a challenge if there are too many people present so we have informed our Community Police Officer of the situation.

**I urge you to please stick to the staggered time slot for your child's class.** Here is a reminder of the staggered drop-off and pick-up times, which we have put in place following Government guidelines. From tomorrow morning, a bell will sound at each time interval and a member of staff will hold up a sign to show which year group (plus siblings) can go in. Children will be asked to wait on the spots until it is their time slot so there will be no point in arriving early. I will explain this to the children today. **Please note the gate opens at 8:40 am**, please try not to arrive before this time as it leads to crowding at the gate.

	Start of Day	End of Day
Class 4 + younger siblings	8:45 am	3:30 pm
Class 3 + younger siblings	8:50 am	3:25 pm
Class 2 + younger siblings	8:55 am	3:20 pm
Class 1	9:00 am	3:15 pm

Thank you for your support with this. We are delighted to have the children back but as a nation we are still in lockdown so must do all we can to keep our school safe and ensure it remains fully open.

## Reading Week and World Book Day Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

It was fantastic to see so many children dress up for World Book Day, whether at home or in school. The children clearly enjoyed hearing from author and books editor, Sameer Rahim. I was very impressed with how well the children listened and the excellent, reflective questions they asked. Sameer also enjoyed the experience and has said, 'It was my absolute pleasure: the children were smart, cheeky and asked some unexpected questions. Thoroughly enjoyed it!'

The afternoon with a live dance lesson with Miss Squire was also excellent and great way for all children at home and at school, to keep connected. I was also pleased with how reflective and respectful the children have been towards the theme of diversity. Well done to all of them.

## Celebration Assembly

There won't be a Celebration Assembly this week as children need time to settle back into class. From next week, it will continue on Thursday mornings but unfortunately, parents won't be able to join until it is safe to have visitors back in school. We will resume giving out certificates and publishing award winner names in the newsletter.

## Communication

Teachers will continue to use Class Dojo for homework but won't be checking it daily now that the children are back in school so if you need to send them a message and you want to be sure they will see it promptly, please email [admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk).

## Remote Learning

Well done to children, parents and staff for all their efforts with this. We hope there will not be another school closure but inevitably, there will be occasions when children are self-isolating or we may have a bubble closure. In these cases, Remote Learning will resume but won't be in the same format as for the full lockdown. Please see our Remote Learning Policy for details: <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/halwillps/UploadedDocument/56109e9827ca4787b7b18c883d44fd4c/remote-learning-policy-sept-2020.pdf>

In the next few weeks, we will share a survey to gauge your views on how you felt the Remote Learning in Lockdown 3.0 was delivered.

## Comic Relief Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March

The theme this year is 'Funny is Power'. Children may come to school in mufti (non-uniform) or dress as a superhero for a donation of £1 to Comic Relief.

## SATs

The DfE have confirmed that there will be no national SATs tests for Year 6 or Year 2. However, Devon County Council (DCC) is proposing an alternative to SATs. I have put myself forward to be part of the DCC consultation group so I can share the school's views on this. If you have any thoughts, please do email the office before Thursday 11th March, and I will put your views to the consultation group. Once Devon County Council have made a final decision, I will inform you.

Wishing you all a very good week.

Mrs Ruh Alford  
Executive Headteacher

Are you able to support  
Sallywags pre-school with  
their Bag2School collection?

**Bag2School**

*Bring bags  
of clothes and  
household linen  
to Parish Hall  
on 24/3*

*Thank you  
for helping us  
raise money!*

**Bag2School**



TM

 @bag2schooluk

[www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com)

 follow us on Facebook

Our next **Bag2School** collection  
has been arranged for

*Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March*

at ..... *9* ..... am / ~~pm~~

Any questions - please ask your school collection organiser	<i>Lorraine</i> 07552238793
	<i>Gillian</i> 07759972577

**www.bag2school.com**

*Dates for your diary:*

March

19th *Comic Relief day*

April

1st *Last day of Spring term*

2nd to 16th *Easter Holidays*

19th *Start of Summer term*

30th *Tempest individual and class photos*

May

3rd *Bank holiday*

31st May to 4th June *Half term*

June

7th *Non-pupil day*

8th *Term starts*



**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 (details below).

SIMS Parent

If you have not signed on to SIMS Parent, please do take a look. It is your way of ensuring we hold your most up to date contact information as well as your parental consent for day to day things in school



If you have not received your email invitation or are having issues, please email the office.

**If your child has:**  
a runny nose, is sneezing or feeling unwell  
**But they don't have:**

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough, or
- a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

These are not normally symptoms of coronavirus

**Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial 111 or see your GP**

**If your child has:**

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough, or
- a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

This could be a sign of coronavirus

**Book a test**



Please remember to order your School lunches via schoolmoney by Friday of each week. This helps us cater correctly. Thank you