Monday 11th May 2026

St Giles-on-the-Heath Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 25 Summer Term

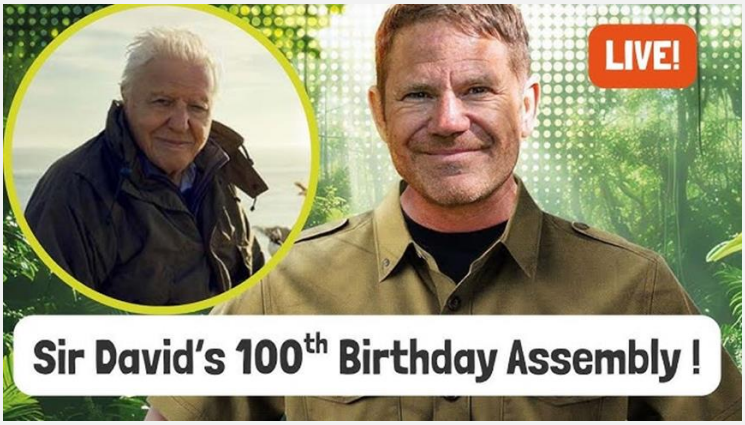
Dear Families,

Very good luck to Year 6 children who are taking their SATs this week. They have had a positive start today, staying calm and aiming high. Well done to them all.

On Friday, we celebrated David Attenborough's 100th birthday by joining a special live assembly, along with over 1 million children across the country and the world! Special Guest: Naturalist and explorer Steve Backshall joined the session to discuss wildlife and conservation.

The assembly focused on Sir David's century of work and his ongoing legacy for the planet as well as life and career, his study of zoology, his double knighthood, and his famous dislike of rats!

The session explored the beauty of the natural world and the critical need to protect it. Discussions focused on how "one voice" can inspire global change and encouraged responsibility for the environment.



Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

Upcoming Events

May 11
SATS Week

May 11 & 12
Sunset Club – Board Games

May 13 & 14
Sunset Club – Creative Club

May 14
Class 1 Viking Day

May 15
FPTA Bingo

May 18
Holsworthy College talk

May 25
Half Term

June 1
Back to school

June 1
Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

June 2
Yr 6 Leavers photos

June 8
Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

June 15
Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

June 16
Sports Day - Timings to be confirmed

June 17
Class 3 residential to Bideford

June 22
Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

June 29
Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

June 30
Reserve Sports Day

July 6
Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

July 13
Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

July 22
Last day of Summer term

Success Outside of School

Last weekend, Harry, Evelyn along with Hamish from St Giles' Scho had a wonderfully busy and exciting weekend as they won their class in the Tigers Rugby Challenge. It was a very tough competit and Harry, Evelyn and Hamish were amazing, aiming high and showing great resilience. Well done to them.

Seatbelts:

Please can we ensure that children are not taking off their seatbelts until the car is stopped and they are allowed to get out.

Sunny weather:

As we have been having a few sunny days, please can we make sure children come to school with suncream on ready for the day. They also need to bring a small water bottle and a sunhat every day.

Class Pages:

Please follow the link to view our Class pages on the website with lots of information about what the children will be up to. Class Pages – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools

School Lunches:

There has been a change to the menu for Census Day on Thursday 21st May. The options on this day will now be:

Bacon, Sausage, Hash Brown & Beans

Veggie Sausage, Hash Brown & Beans

Jacket Potatoes

Baguettes

If you have already selected a meal for this day, please could we ask you to reselect. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Useful Links

School Contact Details

Tel: 01566 772191

Email: admin@st-giles-heath-primary.devon.sch.uk

Website: St Giles On The Heath 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

Mrs Nicola Taylor

Mrs Jeanette Neale

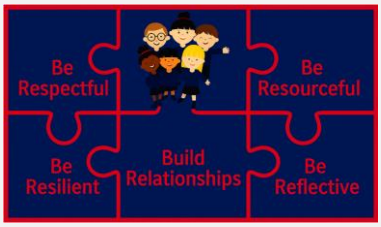
Miss Jayne Miners

Mrs Rosie Cawsey

Term Dates

These are on our website:

Term Dates – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools



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**
George – Reception Skye - Class 2	Alice – FSU Tommy G – Class 1 Elsie-Rose – Class 1 Martha – Class 2	Rosie W – Class 3	Alfie – Reception Elsie-Rose – Class 1	Jake – Class 3

Class 1

On Thursday 14th May Class one will be having a Viking day!

Your child is welcome to come into school dressed as a Viking for the day. Please do not feel you need to buy anything or make anything elaborate – simple costumes are perfect. It is all about having fun and being immersed in the day. Some easy costume ideas include:

- A plain long-sleeved top and trousers with a belt (a piece of string or fabric works well)
- A grey, brown or neutral-coloured outfit
- A piece of fabric or tea towel worn as a cape

Please note: horned helmets are a myth and were not worn by Vikings, so we kindly ask that these are not included. We are looking forward to a fun and engaging day of Viking activities.

Refreshments available. BYOB.
St Giles on the Heath Primary School FPTA presents...
£10 for 8 games. £2 cash flyer. CASH ONLY.
Amazing prizes from local businesses
Tables of 6-8.
Family Fun
BINGO
Friday 15th May
Lifton Community Centre.
Opens 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm.
To book call Kayleigh on 07854275955
or email stgiles.fpta@outlook.com.

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.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

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.

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.