

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026

# St Giles-on-the-Heath Primary School

*Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other*

Newsletter No. 26 Summer Term

Dear Families,

I can't believe that we are already approaching half term! It's been a busy and productive few weeks.

## Year 6 SATs

Last week, Year 6 took their SATS tests. I am so proud of all of them. They showed great resilience and aimed high; they were a real credit to you and to the school. Well done to Year 5 who were excellent classmates, who took care to Year 6 during this challenging week.

## Class 1 Viking Day

Class 1 had a super Viking Day last week. Thank you so much for your help with costumes; the children looked fantastic. What I was most impressed with, was the historical knowledge the children had about the Vikings and how they enthusiastically told me many of the facts they had learned. Thank you to Miss Shinn and Mrs Taylor for teaching the children so well. Their special day brought the learning alive.



THE CAREY FEDERATION



## Upcoming Events

### May 25

Half Term

### June 1

Back to school

### June 1

Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

Class Residential Meeting 3:30pm

### June 2

Yr 6 Leavers photos

YR 1 phonic screening meeting 3:30

pm

### June 8

Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

### June 15

Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

### June 16

Sports Day - Timings TBC

### 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

Transition Meeting for New YR Parents

2:30pm

### July 6

Transition Meeting for New Reception

Parents - 2:30pm

### July 8

St Giles Summer Concert 2:15pm and

Open Afternoon 3:00 -4:00pm

### July 10

Summer Fayre

### July 13

Swimming Lessons Yr3, Yr4, Yr5

### July 17

Discovery day

### July 22

Last day of Summer term

## **Bench Planters**

You may have noticed that we now have beautiful bench planters in our playground. A huge thank you to Mrs Neale who worked hard to win a grant for these. You can read more about this later in the newsletter. We will be talking to the School Council about how we can use these benches, for example as Friendship or Buddy Benches.

## **Summer Dates**

We have now set a number of summer dates, which you can see in the 'Upcoming Events' section. In the first week after half term, there will be a meeting regarding the **Class 3 residential on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 3:30 pm**, this will be in Class 3, please come via the fire exit.

We also have a **meeting regarding the Phonics Screening tests** which are for Year 1 pupils on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 3.30 pm**. Please join via the fire exit to Class 1.

## **Year 1 Phonics Screening & Year 4 Multiplication Statutory Assessments**

Year 1 will have Phonics Screening statutory assessments during the week of 8th June and as mentioned there will be a meeting about this. Year 1 children have been working hard in their Read Write Inc sessions to prepare.

Year 4 children have Multiplication statutory tests in the weeks of 1st June and 8th June. These are online tests, where children have to quickly answer a times table fact. Year 4 have been practising times tables in school and should continue to practise these at home.

Results of both tests will be shared in the end of year report.

## **FPTA Bingo**

A massive thank you to the FPTA for their continued hard work in raising money for the school. The Bingo last week was really well organised, thank you to all who supported this event.

## **Author Visit**

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July we have a local author Anne Parsons coming in to do some story telling with the children in years 1, 2, 3 and 4. She has recently published her 3<sup>rd</sup> book called Archie, Go! You can see more details about this at the end of the newsletter.

## **St Giles Horticultural show**

On Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> August St Giles on the heath has a horticultural show. They have kindly supplied us with sunflower seeds so the children can all get involved in the sunflower growing competition. Today they will be planting these at school in pots. Once they have started to grow they will be bringing them home to continue to take care of them. If you would like to then enter your child into the sunflower competition just take your sunflower along on the day. There will be a prize for the tallest sunflower! It would be great to see as many children as possible entering this fun competition.

## **Useful Links**

### **School Contact**

#### **Details**

**Tel:** 01566 772191

**Email:** [admin@st-giles-heath-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-giles-heath-primary.devon.sch.uk)

**Website:** [St Giles On The Heath Primary School – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools](http://StGilesOnTheHeathPrimarySchool-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](mailto: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](#)**

## **Federation Leadership**

After a very rigorous process, we have appointed to the two Deputy Head posts.

Rosie Cawsey is the Executive Deputy Headteacher (Inclusion, Attendance & Behaviour)

Jayne Miners is the Executive Deputy Headteacher (Achievement, Curriculum & Teaching)

Congratulations to them both! I am sure they will strengthen the leadership across all 3 schools as we continue to aim high in all we do for the children.

We now have our Federation governors in place. I am pleased to tell you that John Lawlor has been elected as the Chair of Governors. Becky Bridgman is the Vice Chair.

A full list of governors can be seen below:

Mr John Lawlor (Chair)

Mrs Becky Bridgman (Vice Chair/Co-opted)

Mrs Sue Russell (Co-opted)

Mrs Rosie Pearson-Woods (Co-opted)

Mrs Kathy Williams (Local Authority)

Miss Hayley Frayn (Co-opted)

Mrs Sandra Grocock (Co-opted)

Mrs Rebecca Osborne (Co-opted)

Dr Revd. Paul Fitzpatrick (Co-opted)

Mrs Sue O'Reilly (Co-opted)

Mrs Elisha Brown (Elected parent)

Miss Ella Dannan (Elected staff)

## **Swimming**

Just a reminder that swimming commences for years 3, 4 and 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup> day back Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. The children will be leaving school at 9am prompt that day.

I hope the children have a well deserved half term break when it comes. We look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Mrs Ruh Alford  
Executive Headteacher

## **FPTA Bingo roundup!**

Well done to all our winners at Friday night's FPTA bingo, especially those winning our top prizes which were some amazing vouchers including paddleboarding, a train ride, Trethorne, farm produce, hair and beauty, swimming and a meal for two!

It was a family fun session and all the children did so well keeping up with the numbers!

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations and especially to our volunteers who worked tirelessly to put on the event and secure prize donations.

An extra special thank you goes to our brilliant bingo caller, Mrs Taylor!!

We raised a fab £400 and had so much fun on the night!

## **Frozen Fridays**

From Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June every Friday until the Summer Holidays the FPTA will be holding Frozen Fridays!! They will have a range of ice lollies for £1.00 each and these will be available from 3pm at pick up.

We ask parents to bring the money in with them in the afternoon, so children don't have money with them at school. For any children going on the bus or the walking bus, we will send out a pre payment form which can be filled in and handed back to the office with the money enclosed.

## **National Education Nature Park**

During the last few months the children have been working on the National Education Nature Park Initiative.

This is a national government run scheme, where by schools develop their grounds to increase biodiversity.

Nationally school grounds account for an area Twice the size of Birmingham and by increasing the opportunities for Nature on sites children can actively help our environment.



This school was identified by the Government as eligible for inclusion in a Grant funded project. The children worked together with staff from the RHS and school

staff to complete surveying of the school grounds and then submitted an application for this funding. The areas that were applied for were converting grey non permeable areas into planting and increasing biodiversity in already green areas. Our project was called Flourish @ St Giles.

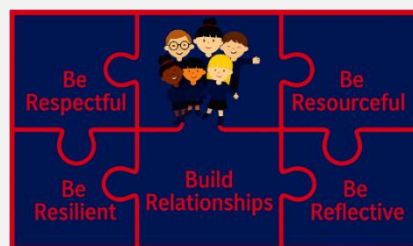
Having been successful in gaining £5000 worth of funding we have begun our project. The first phase is to transform the hard landscaped area into a more biodiverse area. This has been done through the acquisition of our lovely new planter benches. These are planted with hardy plants and were chosen with help from the team at RHS Rosemoor because of their hardiness and the range of scents and foliage. They will provide a pleasant place for all members of our school community to enjoy and I know have already had a really positive impact.

Other aspects of the application include: trimming of the trees in the Apple tree garden, the provision of watering facility so that during the summer break we can maintain the planting, technology to record the biodiversity on the site through photographs. The next phase will be the use of the compost to create new raised beds for further planting and we are expecting delivery of wildflower plug plants, which are going to be planted in the Apple tree garden. This will be sympathetically trimmed so that the wildflowers can grow and pupils can enjoy this area as an outdoor learning environment.

Everyone has been very enthusiastic in the project and we are looking forward to watching as it 'blooms' in the coming months.

### The Carey Qualities

We **Build 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 <b>Relationships</b>	For being <b>Resilient</b>	For being <b>Resourceful</b>	For being <b>Reflective</b>	For being <b>Respectful</b>
Hunter – Class 1	Harry – Class 2  Tyler – Class 2	Elouise L – Class 2	Lowen – Class 1  Paige – FSU  Henri – Reception  Alfie E – Class 3	Megan – Class 3

# Speech and Language Therapy

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## EASY ACCESS DROP IN

We are starting new easy access drop ins for pre school children.

Would you like any advice and support for your child's speech, language and communication skills? Visit one of our easy access drop ins with your child to see a Speech and Language Therapist. Get advice, support and strategies from the team.

Drop in sessions are now being held in different locations across Torbay, South Devon and North Devon. Exeter, East and Mid Devon.

If you would like to attend a drop in, please scan the QR code below to find a location and time that works for you.



## Why are washing pods so dangerous?



The liquid detergent in washing pods and capsules is up to five times more concentrated than powder and can cause life-changing chemical burns to eyes, skin and throats.

Little ones may mistake brightly coloured laundry pods for sweets and bite into them. Or they may think they are a toy and squeeze them so hard they burst.

Some injuries are so severe that children need skin grafts or long-term tube feeding.

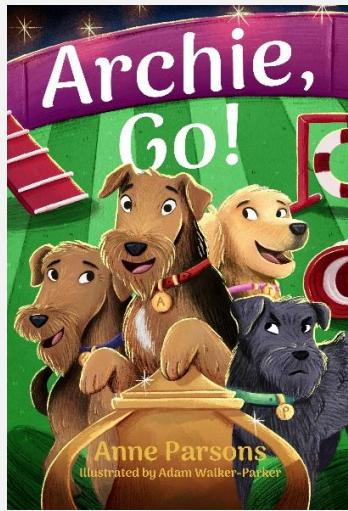
And if the alkaline chemicals get into the eyes it can burn and lead to long-term eyesight problems.

So, keep washing pods and capsules out of reach of children at all times.

Learn more: <https://capt.org.uk/washing-pods-and-capsules/>

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★ #ChildSafetyWeek 2026 is coming soon - Monday 1st to Sunday 7th June - Follow us for top tips to [keep your family safe](#) ★



**Anne Parsons, a children's author, will be visiting our school on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Anne will be sharing the story of *Archie, Go!* with our classes and will be offering the chance of buying a signed copy of her book with a dedication.**

In this book, Archie and Louise catch a thief who has stolen books from Louise's grandparents' bookshop. Subsequently, they find out about the roles Airedale Terriers have played in the past, being police dogs, and messenger dogs in the First World War. They make new friends with Maggie and her guide dog Ivy. Such experiences make Archie question his role in life as a family pet and a jumping champion.

Meanwhile, Archie is training hard for his competitions. Rory, Louise's brother, becomes involved with team agility classes, but just when preparations are going well, disaster strikes, and another training centre must be found urgently. The new location is already known to Archie and holds bad memories for him. Archie realises that he must overcome his fears and move on if he wishes to achieve his dream.

The opposition becomes more challenging as the national finals get nearer. When the competition day arrives, old rivals meet up, and a new team appears. Can his team beat them? Then Archie goes head-to-head with the new team leader in the individual jumping competition.

Life is never easy. All Archie can do is try his best and hope that will be good enough. Surely, fame is just a jump away!

**Price - £5.00 (normal RRP £7.99)**

**If you would like to order at this special price, please contact the school office.**



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**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](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.

### **Newsletters**

To view any historical newsletters, you can follow the link to the website where they are all kept for you to look back on.

[Newsletters – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools](#)