

Monday 27th July 2026

St Giles-on-the-Heath Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 33 Summer Term

THE CAREY FEDERATION



Upcoming Events

Dear Families,

Here we are at the end of the academic year for 25/26, with the children having had so many opportunities inside and outside of school, as well as having worked so hard this year making great progress.

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

Our year 6's are leaving to start their new journey to secondary school in September, we would like to wish them all lots of luck for their next step in education. It was a pleasure to watch their outstanding Leavers' Assembly on the last day of term. Their courage and confidence shone out during their reading of memories and through their singing. The year 6's are clearly ready for the next step and I have no doubt that they will continue to Aim High, Be Resilient and Take of Each Other as they move on to the next phase. A huge well done and thank you also to the year 5's who supported the year 6's so brilliantly through the assembly.

Staff Leavers' Assembly

We also had a special assembly for our staff leavers where we said goodbye and good luck to all our staff moving on to their next adventure. Mrs Kathy Williams, one of our governors, attended and gave a speech with wonderful thoughts for our staff leavers and our year 6's.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you and farewell to all the staff who are leaving us. We are grateful for their hard work, dedication and contribution to our school community, and we wish them every success and happiness in the future.

A very special goodbye goes to Mrs Tan Attewell, or Mrs A. as she is affectionately known. Mrs A has taught at St Giles for 25 years!! Throughout her time with us, she has touched the lives of countless pupils, families and colleagues with her kindness, commitment and passion for education. Mrs A will be greatly missed, and we thank her for everything she has done for our school. We wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

Discovery Day

Our recent Science Discovery Day was a fantastic celebration of curiosity, creativity and learning. The children took the lead by planning and carrying out their own scientific investigations, asking thoughtful questions and exploring their ideas through a range of exciting experiments.

September 7

First Day of Autumn Term

September 17

FPTA AGM – 3:30pm in school

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](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

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](#)

In the afternoon, parents were invited into school to view the children's work and see their investigations in action. The children spoke confidently about their findings, demonstrating impressive oracy skills as well as excellent scientific knowledge and understanding. It was wonderful to see them explaining their methods, sharing results and answering questions with such enthusiasm.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Taylor for organising this inspiring event and helping to create such a memorable day for everyone involved. We would also like to thank all the parents and family members who came along to support the children. Your encouragement and interest helped make the day a great success

Mini Medics

We were delighted to offer our children the opportunity to take part in a Mini Medics First Aid Course, helping them to learn valuable life-saving skills in a fun and engaging way. Throughout the course, the children developed their understanding of basic first aid, learning how to respond in an emergency, seek help appropriately and care for others safely.

The children showed great enthusiasm and maturity during the sessions, demonstrating excellent listening skills and a real commitment to learning these important skills. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they practised what they had learned.

A huge thank you to our FPTA for generously funding this opportunity. Their continued support enables us to provide enriching experiences such as this, which help to develop children's confidence, responsibility and resilience. We are very grateful for their ongoing commitment to our school community.



Forest School

We are excited to be introducing Forest School as part of our enriching curriculum next year. This is a new initiative for St Giles, though something we have been doing in the other Federation schools for several years. Led by Miss McLean-Thorne, and supported by our teaching assistants, these outdoor learning sessions will provide children with valuable opportunities to explore, investigate and learn in a natural environment. Through a range of hands-on activities, children will develop their confidence, independence, problem-solving skills and resilience, while also fostering a deeper appreciation of the world around them. We are looking forward to seeing the many benefits that Forest School will bring and are grateful to Miss McLean-Thorne for leading this exciting new initiative.

Forest School will take place on a Wednesday afternoon as follows:

Autumn 1 – FSU & Class 1
Autumn 2 – Class 2
Spring 1 – Class 3
Spring 2 – FSU & Class 1
Summer 1 – Class 2
Summer 2 – Class 3

On Forest School days, please can children bring in waterproofs to wear over school clothes and wellington boots. If they don't have waterproofs, then some other long clothing to cover arms and legs (not jeans) should be sent in. Long hair should be tied up. Unfortunately, if children don't have the correct clothing they will be unable to participate as it is a requirement of the risk assessment.

Specialist PE teacher

I am delighted to tell you that, in addition to our regular teacher-led PE sessions, children will also benefit from specialist PE lessons delivered by Mr Scott Hayler through LJD Coaching. Mr Hayler has been teaching PE across the other Federation schools for several years and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to his lessons.

PE lessons with Mr Hayler will take place on Wednesday afternoons for children who are not involved in Forest School that week. We are delighted to be able to offer this additional sporting opportunity to support children's physical development, skills and enjoyment of PE.

You may be aware that the DfE have cut sports funding to schools so we have worked really hard to be able to introduce Forest Schools and specialist PE teaching. We will have to keep this under review, depending on funding, however, we will do our very best to maintain the provision.

Club Organisation and Pricing

Together with the Governors, we have reviewed the organisation and pricing of our extra-curricular clubs, including Sunrise Club and After School Clubs.

We are aware that, prior to St Giles joining the Federation, the cost of clubs increased to £4.00 per session. Following a review with Governors, we are pleased to announce that the price of all clubs will be reduced to £3.80 per session for all pupils, with a heavily subsidised rate of £1.00 per session for children eligible for Pupil Premium. We remain committed to providing a wide range of enriching opportunities that are accessible to as many children as possible. However, while we are pleased to make this reduction at the present time, we cannot guarantee that this lower price can be maintained indefinitely, as costs and club viability may change in the future.

The government is rolling out free breakfast clubs and their intention is that all schools will eventually receive these. They have not yet been rolled out to St Giles; if and when we are included in this scheme, we will of course share this with you.

With regards to Sunset Club, after careful consideration, we have decided to discontinue Sunset Club in its current format (i.e. childcare only) and return to a programme of **activity-based after-school clubs**. We believe this approach will provide children with a wider range of engaging opportunities and experiences

beyond the school day. Our intention is to continue offering clubs on four days each week (Monday to Thursday); however, this will be dependent on pupil uptake and the availability of staff to lead the sessions and the days offered will be under review. Full details of the clubs on offer will be shared with families when we return in September, and the new programme will begin from the **second week of term**. During the **first week of term**, Sunset Club will operate on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, while Wednesday will be a sports club led by Mr Hayler. We look forward to sharing further information and welcoming children to our exciting new programme of after-school activities.

New criteria for Free School Meals - two types

Eligible targeted: this covers children in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. These children will attract pupil premium and other disadvantage funding for their schools. Other education entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will be based on targeted free school meals.

Eligible expanded: this covers children who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400. Children will be entitled to free school meals only.

School lunches will be £2.65 for those paying for meals.

Looking Ahead to Academic Year 2026/27

As we come to the end of another successful school year, we would like to reassure families who may have concerns about the staffing changes taking place in September. We understand that changes can sometimes create uncertainty, but we are confident that our team is a good balance of staff who know the St Giles' family well and new staff who bring a wealth of talent, new ideas and enthusiasm. The team is well placed to provide continuity, support and high-quality learning experiences for all children.

We were delighted that the recent meeting with our FSU parents was so well received and thank those families who attended and shared their positive feedback and hopes for next year. In the new academic year, we intend to hold parent information meetings for all classes, providing an opportunity for class teachers to talk through the curriculum, routines and expectations for the year ahead. Senior leaders will also be available to explain class organisation and the support arrangements in place, including the deployment of teaching assistants. We hope these sessions will help families feel informed, confident and excited about the year ahead.

For parents of children in Class 1, we would also like to clarify that Miss Shinn is the substantive class teacher, however, the class will be taught by Mrs Cawsey on Wednesday mornings, with children enjoying Forest School sessions with Miss McClean-Thorne on Wednesday afternoons for the first half-term.

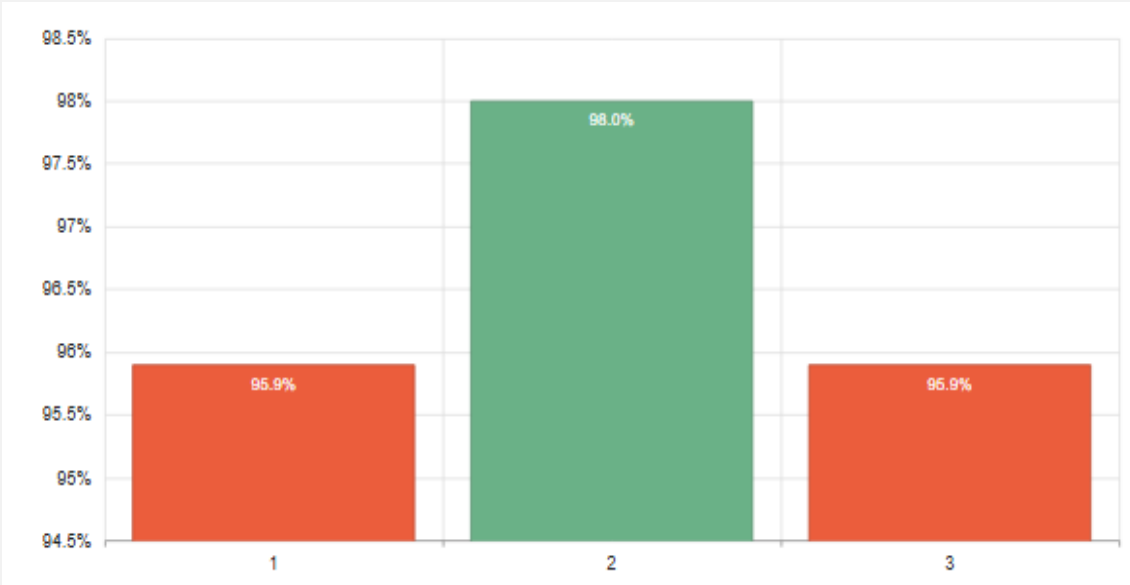
We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September and continuing to work together to ensure the very best outcomes for all our children.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support this year and I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday; we look forward to welcoming everyone back when we return on Monday 7th September.

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

Attendance

Whole school attendance for the last 7 days is 96.6%



Free for
children of
all ages

The Cornwall Reading Challenge

Extraordinary Explorers

Summer Events

at

Launceston Library



Clay

Workshop

Friday 24th July

Make your own garden
10.30- 12noon

Free drop in session- Ages 5+



Launceston Steam Train

Tues 28th July

Trains depart at
10.15 and 11 AM

Library card price £6.50 pp
Under 3s go free



Craft



Binoculars

& compasses

Weds 29th July

10.30- 12noon

Free drop in session
Ages 5+



Face

painting

with Jodie May

Tuesday 4th August

10- 12 noon

Free Drop in session for all ages
Extra charges apply for hair braiding

Bracelets & Beads



Weds 5th August

10.30- 12 noon

Free drop in session- Ages 5+

Noah's Ark

craft



session

Tues 18th August

2.30-3.30PM

Free Drop in session for all ages

Rhyme & Scarf juggling Sessions

with Kerry

at the Town Hall

Tuesday 25th August

11-11.45- 0-5yrs - Rhymes

11.45-12.30- 5yrs +

Ribbons & Scarves



Creative Writing & Zine session

with Poet Emily Harrison

In conjunction with The
Causley Trust

Weds 19th August

10.30- 11.30

Free drop in session- Ages 5+

Craft



Hot Air

Balloons

Friday 4th September

10.30- 12noon

Free drop in session- Ages 5+

LEGO

-Ongoing throughout the Summer



Launceston Library and Information Service



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](https://luminova.app/devon)

FLAGS

(Black/White Flag)
This area is for water-sports like windsurfing and surfing, kayaks & paddleboards.

(Red/Yellow Flag)
This is a lifeguarded area. This is the safest area to swim or bodyboard.

(Red Flag)
This means danger. NEVER go into the sea where this flag is flying.

(Orange Flag)
Indicates offshore or strong wind conditions. Never use inflatables when it's flying.

BE SAFE HAVE FUN!

If you are in and around the water
ALWAYS REMEMBER TO:

- 1 STOP AND THINK**
- 2 STAY TOGETHER**
- 3 FLOAT**
- 4 CALL 999 OR 112**

**FIND MORE FUN
AND SAFETY TIPS AT
RNLI.org**

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea.
RNLI is a registered charity in the United Kingdom and Ireland. RNLI is a registered charity in the Republic of Ireland.

Lifeboats



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.



Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

We need you to help spread the word. So please share details of the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme through your newsletters, school apps, and other communications to parents and carers, so that the families in your school community know about the experiences they can enjoy this summer for less.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'.

Speech and Language Therapy

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.

