Tuesday 10th November 2026

St Giles-on-the-Heath Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No. 7 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. Last term ended with a wonderful Harvest Assembly. Well done to the children for showing such confidence in delivering the assembly.

Last half term, we also had a fantastic quiz evening organised by the FPTA. It was great to see a number of familiar faces as many former staff joined. Thank you to the FPTA for organising this.

Remembrance

We will be holding a cross-Federation Remembrance Assembly via Teams on 11th November to commemorate this important occasion. There are poppies available for the children to buy in school for a donation. If children would like to wear their Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides etc uniform, they are more than welcome to tomorrow. Otherwise, normal uniform should be worn.

Children In Need, Friday 13th November- Challenge Yourself 2026



The Carey Federation Marathon Challenge

This year, the BBC Children in Need appeal is encouraging everyone to "Challenge Yourself 2026" by creating their own challenge inspired by the number 26.

To support this amazing cause, the children and staff from Ashwater, St Giles and Halwill will be joining forces to take on a marathon challenge. Together, our three schools will run a combined total of 26.2 miles, with every child contributing to the distance and playing their part in this fantastic team effort.

On Friday 13th November the children can wear non-uniform but please ensure it is appropriate for running.

We would be very grateful for any donations towards this worthwhile challenge. While running a marathon is certainly a challenge for us, for many children across the UK, having a safe home, enough food to eat and access to the care and support they need can be a challenge every day. Every donation, no matter how small, can help make a real difference to young lives.

To celebrate our efforts and support the appeal, children are invited to come to school in non-uniform on Friday for a voluntary donation.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's challenge ourselves, get running and help make a difference for children who need it most!

Staff News

Good luck to Karen Andrew who will be on maternity leave from next week. Thank you to Karen for inducting Chloe Daw, who will be taking the reigns fully from next week, supported by the Federation admin team.

THE CAREY FEDERATION

Upcoming Events

November 11
Federation Remembrance Assembly (Children only)Cubs/scouts/ brownies may wear their uniform

November 13
Children in Need Day (non-unform suitable for running – donation requested)

November 18
Parent Consultation
FSU – 2:30 – 6:00
Class 1. 2 &3 1:30 – 6:00

November 23
Federation History Day at Halwill School
Y1 & 2

December 4
Non uniform day for donations to Christmas hampers

December 8
FSU Play 1:45 pm
Class 2 Play 2:45 pm
Families welcome to both -in school hall

December 11
Class 1& Class 3 Church Service in St Giles Parish Church 9:15 am- Families welcome

December 12
FPTA Christmas Fayre 10:00am – 1:00pm in school

December 16
Christmas Lunch (non-uniform Christmas jumper / something Christmassy -no donation)

December 18
Term ends

January 4
Start of Spring Term

Changes to Our School Newsletter

We are always looking for ways to ensure our communication with families is clear, timely and effective. With this in mind, we will be trialling a move from our weekly newsletter to a **half-termly newsletter**.

The half-termly newsletter will continue to provide key information, celebrate achievements and share important updates from across the school. In between newsletters, we will make greater use of our other communication platforms such as MCAS and Class Dojo to keep parents informed about day-to-day news, reminders and upcoming events.

We value strong communication with our school community and believe this approach will provide a more efficient and effective way of sharing information, while ensuring important messages reach families in a timely manner.

As this is a trial, we will be seeking feedback from parents in the New Year to find out how well the new approach is working and to gather your views on its effectiveness. Your feedback will help us shape our communication methods moving forward.

Thank you for your continued support.

Pupil Ambassadors
Congratulations to the following children who have been appointed to these roles.

Librarians

Class 2 - Eve, Erin, Margot

Class 3 - Megan, Gracie, Isla

Sustainability Leaders

Class 1 – George, Evie, Bea, Toby

Class 2 – Maisie, Nate, Skye, Harry

Class 3 – Alfie, Willow, Lola, Penny

School Council

Year 2 – Lowen, Hazel

Year 4 – Mia, Margot

Year 5 – Kobe, Evie

Year 6 - Owen, Euan

Digital Leaders

Class 3 – Tilly, Hamish

After School Clubs

Please book in advance via MCAS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Ms Dannan Board games	Mrs Daw Christmas Crafts	LJD Sport Football	Miss Shinn Sketch Club

Wildtribe / Forest Schools

FSU & Class 1 have finished their current stint of Wildtribe.

Class 2 will have Wild Tribe on **Wednesday** afternoons and will need to bring in waterproofs to wear over their school clothes and wellies. Long hair needs to be tied up.

Parent Consultation, Wednesday 18th November

Please book your slot for a 10 minute appointment your child's teacher. They look forward to sharing your child's learning and progress with you.

Timings are as follows:
FSU : 2:30 – 6:00
Class 1, 2 & 3: 1:30 – 6:00

Christmas

We have been working hard to organise wonderful festivities for the children. We appreciate that some events will be different to previous years but we are sure the children and families will really enjoy and benefit from these. Please see the date list for our Christmas events.

Church Service – Class 1&3

This year we are delighted to be holding a church service which families of Class 1 & Class 3 will be able to attend. Class 1 & Class 3 will be presenting our Christmas service together. Class 3 will be delivering readings to tell the nativity story, while Class 1 will be acting out the nativity. **Families of Class 1 and 3 are invited to watch the service at St Giles Parish Church on Friday December 11th at 9:15 am.** We ask that you drop Class 1 & 3 children to the church on this morning. We will walk the children back to school and ask that children bring wellies and waterproof trousers and coats to the church.

The rest of the school children will also have the opportunity to be part of the service on another occasion. In addition, there will be rehearsals at the church. On these days we will ask you to please drop children at the church in the morning. Once these dates are confirmed we will let you know.

Christmas Plays – FSU and Class 2

The FSU and Class 2 will be performing separate Christmas plays. Families are invited to watch these on **Tuesday 8th December in the school hall** as follows:

The FSU Nativity Play will be at 1:45 pm. You are welcome to collect FSU children after the play along with siblings -except Class 2. However, we are also happy for children to remain until 3.00pm.

The Class 2 Play will be held at 2:45 pm.

I look forward to seeing you at these festivities.

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

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

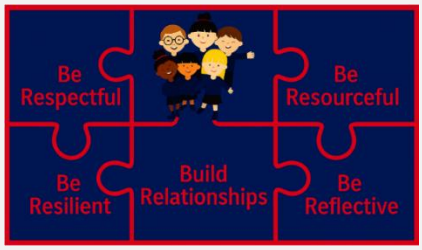
Miss Jayne Miners

Mrs Rosie Cawsey

Term Dates

These are on our website:

Term Dates – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools



The Carey Qualities

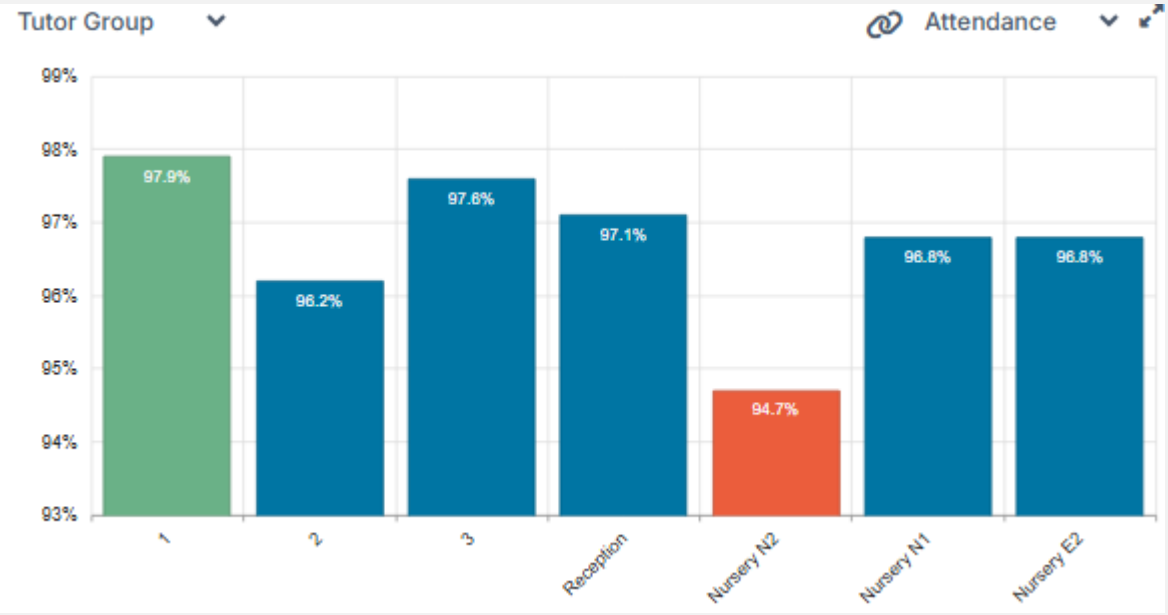
We **Build Relationships** by being **Resilient, Resourceful, Reflective** and **Respectful**

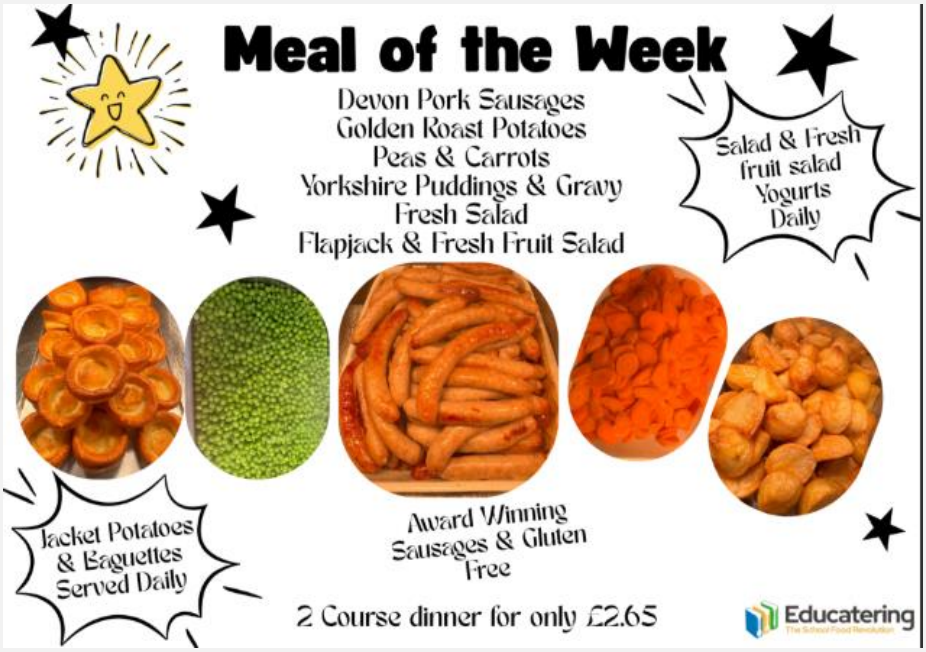
Each week children are awarded certificates in our Celebration Assembly for making a significant effort to develop one of our Carey Qualities. The following children were awarded certificates. Well done to them all.

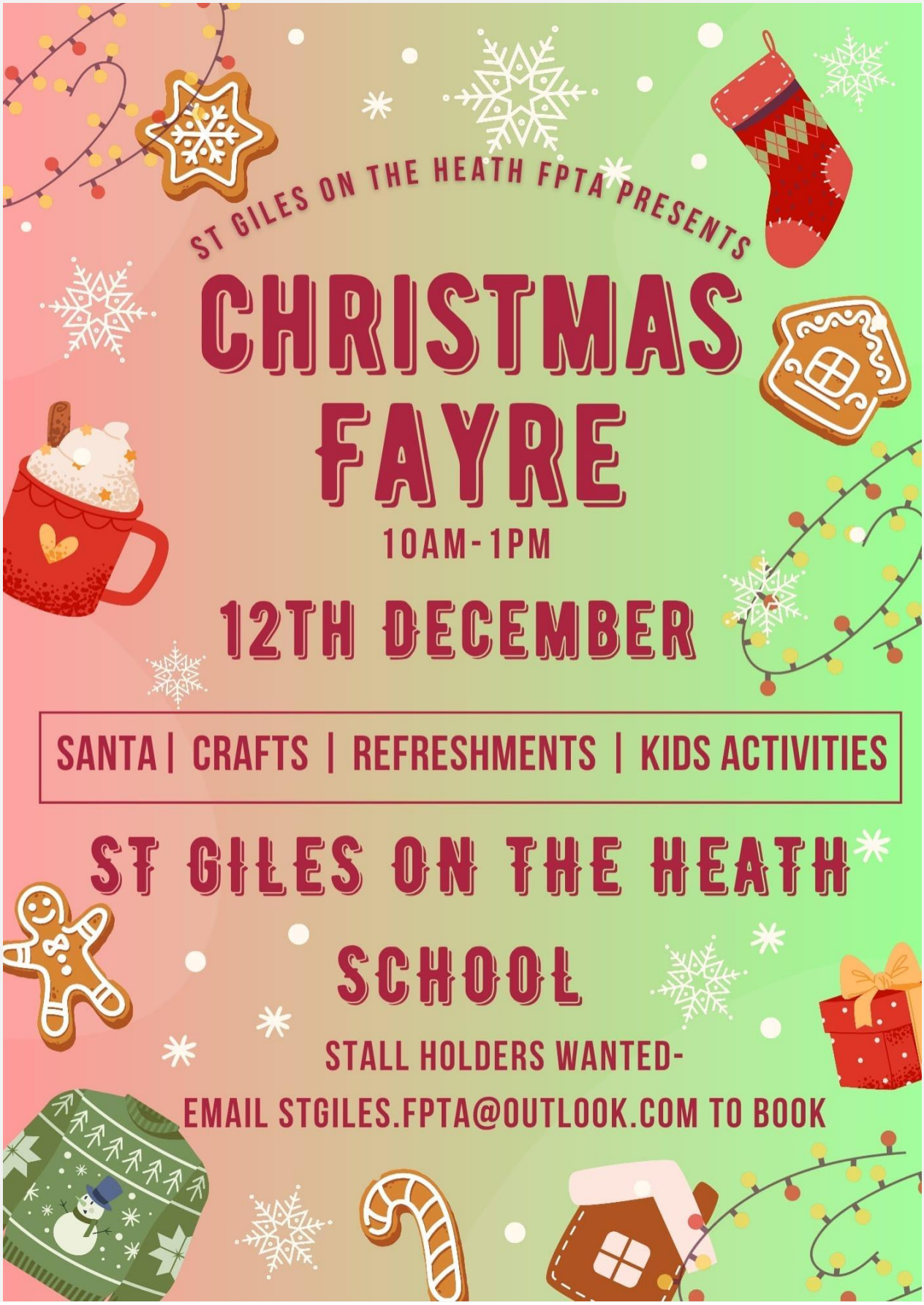
For building **Relationship**	For being **Resilient**	For being **Resourceful**	For being **Reflective**	For being **Respectful**
Deacon – FSU Eli – Class 1 Penny – Class 3	George – Class 1 Hunter – Class 2 Lola – Class 3	Alice – FSU Gracie – Class 3	Ruby – Class 1	

Attendance

Whole school attendance for the last half term 97.1%






ST GILES ON THE HEATH FPTA PRESENTS
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
10AM-1PM
12TH DECEMBER
SANTA | CRAFTS | REFRESHMENTS | KIDS ACTIVITIES
ST GILES ON THE HEATH SCHOOL
STALL HOLDERS WANTED-
EMAIL STGILES.FPTA@OUTLOOK.COM TO BOOK

THE CAREY FEDERATION

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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