



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

The sun has been making an appearance and it's starting to feel like Summer! Which means only one thing - yet another busy term at Scallywags! There are lots of dates to be aware of so please do make sure to make a note.

2026 / 2027 Term Dates

Autumn Term: **7th September – 17th December**
Spring Term: **4th January – 25th March**
Summer Term: **12th April – 21st July**

TEAM UPDATE

Some of you will have already met Thelma – our new Early Years Practitioner who is joining us this term on Mondays and Tuesdays. Thelma has previously worked at both Halwill and Ashwater schools and is now splitting her time between Scallywags & Exbourne. With a wealth of experience, it's a pleasure to welcome her to the team.

We also say goodbye to Alicia and thank her for her support in the Spring term.

As many of you know at the end of last term we were hit rather hard with staff sickness & injury – thank you so much for bearing with us as we juggled staffing and sessions – we are very pleased to have the full team back now they are all well enough.

ADMIN & GENERAL INFO

Sun Protection - We are optimistic that the sun will be making some regular / permanent appearances soon! Can you please ensure your child has sun cream applied before they arrive at setting – we will apply suncream again after lunch. We will be using **TESCO SOLEIL SENSITIVE SPF50+** in setting, but if you wish for your own to be used, please ask. We also require children to bring in a sun hat – if possible, something that also covers the neck as well rather than just a cap. On the very hottest of days, we will of course have our canopy up over the playground to offer additional shade. Children will be encouraged to drink regularly as they always are, and water bottles will be refilled when empty – please see below for our new “refilled” sticker policy!

SCALLYWAGS DIARY

MAY

4th – BANK HOLIDAY
11th – Stay & Play
25th – 31st HALF TERM

JUNE

1st – Start of Term
8th – Stay & Play
12th – Sports Day
TBC – Photo Day
29th – Stay & Play

JULY

13th – Stay & Play
15th – Graduation Ceremony
TBC – End of term Treat
17th – Last day of Term
17th – End of term Disco

SEPTEMBER

- Start of term

26/27 Admissions - If you're looking to start your little one at Scallywags in the next academic year then please do get in touch so we know you're interested. Pennie is beginning to prepare registration packs for the Autumn term so please do drop her an email.

Whilst it is difficult to anticipate our numbers in the future as you are aware for the past two years we have hit capacity in the Spring term – it is entirely possible that this will be the case again so please make sure to also make Pennie aware of your intentions for any starters in the Spring / Summer terms next year.

Extended Sessions - Our breakfast clubs are now regularly full, so please enquire early if you want to make use of the extra hour earlier in the day. We do currently have spaces this term in the late afternoon sessions, so please let us know if you want to add this on to your child's day. (Please note currently there is no Monday afternoon session as we didn't have enough interest to open it – but we can do so if there is enough demand).

Halwill Primary Merge - You will all have received your letter last term with news that school has been granted the funding towards building an extension to facilitate a move by Scallywags to join with the school, opening up more early years places along with an earlier starting age of 9 months. This is great news and we will keep you updated along the way. As you can imagine it will not be a quick process – not only will there be a lot of administrative work, but there's also substantial building work and still a few more hurdles to overcome before either of those can commence. As we are a charity, all of our families are counted as 'members' and you will all be invited to a special meeting – likely to be later in the year – with more details and the opportunity to vote on the proposal.

Snack Donation – As you know, unlike some settings, we don't charge for the snacks we provide during the breakfast hours, mid-morning and after school hours. We are however grateful for any donations towards the cost of that.

Committee - As we will be losing some committee members at the end of this term as children are moving up to school, we would like to ask our newer parents if it might be something that you'd be interested in doing. If so, please speak to Pennie or Lorna for more details. The committee holds the responsibility for a lot of the behind the scenes running and is essential to Scallywags' existing.

Fundraiser Families - This year we are also looking to form a group of helpers to support with our fundraising events in person – the committee would still do the majority of planning but having helpers on the day of events is invaluable but often tricky to find! Knowing we have a core group to support us would be fantastic. We wouldn't expect you to help at every event – the more volunteers the easier it is for everyone! Please let Lorna know.

Contact Us

Scallywags Pre-School
The Jubilee Suite,
The Parish Hall,
Halwill Junction,
Beaworthy,
Devon, EX21 5XR

Setting: 07552238793
Admin: 07716079424

Scallywagspreschool@outlook.com

Our Team

Lorraine Crocker – Manager,
SENCO, Safeguarding Lead

Jenny Bryant – Deputy Manager,
Deputy Safeguarding

Pennie Channing –
Administrator

Ella Dannan
Tash Lambden
Vicki Bluett
Emma Murphy (Maternity Leave)
Amanda Harrison
Thelma Austin -
Early Years Practitioners

25/26 Committee

Lorna Prickett Treacy
Caroline Rutley-Frayne
Stacey Bellamy
Sarah Gliddon
Milly Clifford
Becky Garrad
Megan Brooking

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Registered Charity Number:
1033643

Ofsted registered number:
106369

WHATS ON THIS TERM??

We're hoping the sun will be making regular appearances this term and we can get outside as much as possible – themes we will be looking at this term include Under the Sea, Pirates, Looking after Pets, Vet Care (with a special visitor) & Recycling

Stay & Play Sessions

Our 'Stay and Play' sessions this term will run on selected Monday afternoons from **1.30 – 3pm**. It's a great opportunity for little ones and their grown-ups to get a taste of what Scallywags is all about! Come and meet the team and let your children enjoy free play. Session costs £2 per child
Current Scallywags are also welcome if it's not their normal day.

This terms sessions – **May 11th, June 8th, June 29th & July 13th**

Transition Days

You will hopefully have received details of your child's transition days into their primary school. For those of you who will be moving onto Halwill Primary, your transition days are on Wednesday afternoons and if your child is in Scallywags that day we will walk them down to school after lunch.

Sports Day – Friday 12th June

Ready, Steady GO! All our Parents are invited to watch - exact time TBC. We hope the weather will be kind to us again! If it is not your child's normal session time, please do bring them along so they can join us, but you must remain on site.

Photo Day – **DATE TBC**

Harley-Jo Photography is back this year for both individual, sibling and group shots. A letter will be coming home about this, and the booking sheet will be available by the sign in sheet in setting.

School Leavers / Graduation – Wednesday 15th July

At the end of this term we say goodbye to **13** of our children who are moving up to school – We hope they enjoy their transitions sessions.

For our graduation ceremony this year, we are inviting Parents of school leavers to join us at **4PM** as we reflect on and celebrate their time with us. We will also be gifting all children a PE bag in their correct primary schools' colours so please avoid ordering these as part of uniform orders.

Please note there is no late session running that day and the day will end at 3.15 for all children.

End of Term Party – DATE TBC

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Catherine Chandler

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Reports & Parent Consultations

We will be busy writing your child's progress report in the next few weeks, and these will come out to you later in the term – we will provide you with 2 copies and we ask that one is signed and returned to us by the date given. You will then be invited to book a parent consultation if you wish to speak with your child's key person – please remember though we always have an open door policy and if ever you feel you would like to speak to your child's keyperson or Lorraine or Pennie with any concerns or queries – at any time please do ask.

Annual Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete our parent questionnaire. Although we had fewer responses than we had hoped the results provide a vital tool for us, as your comments inform our decisions on various elements of Scallywags and it is always beneficial to know what our families need and want! We are currently going through your feedback and looking at where we can make changes. We have had multiple questions regarding Tapestry and we will be shortly providing a 'Tapestry fact sheet' which will make it clear what we use it for, how we use it, what to expect and what our families can do as well! We have also had questions regarding drinking – we regularly refill water bottles and appreciate that this can appear as if the child has had nothing to drink that day – as such we will be introducing a sticker system where a sticker will be added to your child's bottle when we refill it. Please feel free to remove these at the end of the day.

Toothbrushing Questionnaire

You all received an email last week about our toothbrushing programme – the company that facilitate this is looking for feedback from ALL parents – so please do make sure to complete this – if you have any problems please speak to Pennie.

FUNDRAISING

As always, your support with our fundraising is gratefully received! We had fabulous weather for the Easter Egg Hunt and raised just under £200! As previously mentioned, it is getting harder to get support for fundraising events which means our finances take a hit. Neither the fees we charge, nor the funding rates we can claim from government are enough to cover our expenses – we would rather not pass the extra costs onto our families, therefore fundraising is essential.

We completely understand the financial pressures affecting us all in recent years, but support does not only have to come in the form of money – we are always really grateful for any help to run events – whether its selling cakes, helping at the discos and making teas and coffees! We also always appreciate any help with advertising the events – putting up posters or sharing the event across social media – it all really helps.

How you can help us fundraise for free!

Don't forget you can support us every time you shop online with [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk).

Simply set up an account – choose us as your cause and then visit hundreds of your favourite websites, via the easy fundraising app and we will get an extra cashback donation with no extra cost to you!

As of 2025 you can now add in-store donations! If you regularly shop in stores and pay with Apple or Google pay, then please download the easy fundraising app where you can link cards and we will also get a donation every time you pay in person too!

It's a simple way to support us without it costing you anything!

Scan the below code to view our support page & sign up;



Challenge £20.26 - May Half term / Early June

The children will soon be bringing home a Challenge £20.26 activity sheet. The idea is that they can make themselves a fundraising collection pot and tackle some of the suggested activities in return for some fundraising sponsorship with the aim of each raising £20.26. This is completely optional, but we always love to see the kids get involved when we have run this activity previously. This year's theme is all about getting outside / getting active with suggested activities fitting under one or both of those themes – please feel free to add your own ideas in as well! Monies raised can be returned by mid-June and will go directly to supporting the preschool.

End of term Disco – Friday 18th June

Our popular end of term disco returns – with DJ Pete! Entrance cost is £1 and as usual we will have a tuck shop, glow sticks and temporary tattoos for sale

As per usual the evening will be split into two sessions:

- **5.30pm – 6.30pm- Early Years & Key stage 1 (Toddlers, Scallywags, Class 1 & 2)**

Parents must accompany their children at this session.

- **7pm – 8.30pm - Key stage 2 & 3 (Class 3 & 4)**

Parents must drop their children at the door and provide a contact telephone number before leaving.

Please note that the children will not be allowed to bring mobile phones to the disco, and for safety children in the lower age group will not be allowed to stay during the second session.

As with previous years, we will be needing some extra volunteers for the second session so that we can guarantee entry to all children and keep in line with legal ratios. If you would be able to help, please let us know.

Easyfundraising.co.uk

Please remember you can continue to support us over the Summer by shopping at your favourite retailers through easy fundraising online! Simply sign up for an account and select us as your cause – then when you shop at thousands of your favourite retailers online, we get some extra pennies in our pot without costing you extra!

Thank you

Lorna, Staff & Committee.

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