



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new academic year! It has been wonderful to see the children return to school happily. I have been very impressed with the new Reception children who are learning and playing cheerfully and quickly embracing the school routines.

Newsletter

As a busy parent myself, I understand how important it is to have all the information about school events in an easily accessible way. This is why we try our best to put as much information in the newsletter as possible so parents only have one place to go, to find out what is happening. Please do look at the newsletter for reference. This year we will be sending the newsletter out fortnightly. You will receive a text with a link to the newsletter, which is on our website. You can always go back to the website at any time to read the newsletter. It will also be emailed to parents who have requested to be emailed, and will be shared via our Facebook page.

Class Pages on the Website

Please take a look at your child's Class Page on the website. Their teacher has shared information about the curriculum, learning, routines and timetables.

Ashwater: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/children/class-pages/>

Communication

It's important to us that you can raise questions or share information with us easily and we do our best to respond as promptly as possible. The school office is the main point of communication for any queries or information you need to share with us. Please do call, email or see us in person. The administrators are checking emails and taking calls daily so will pass your questions to the teachers or myself. If the call is unanswered, please leave a voice message, as these are always checked.



Please don't use Class Dojo to communicate important information as it can be missed. Quite rightly, teachers are busy with the children and not checking devices in the school day. Class Dojo communication is primarily for home learning and sharing general class information.

Clubs

Clubs information is now on our website:

[Before & After School Clubs – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools \(thecareyfederation.co.uk\)](http://thecareyfederation.co.uk)

Wednesday	Club: Netball Teacher: Mr Hayler	Class 1 and 2	18th September – 23 rd October 6 weeks 3.30pm – 4.30pm £12
Wednesday	Club: Football Teacher: Mr Hayler	Class 1 and 2	6 th October - 18 th December 7 weeks 3.30pm – 4.30pm £14
Thursday	Club: Maths Teacher: Miss Frayn and Mrs Gee	Class 1 and 2	7 th October - 19 th December 7 weeks 3.30pm – 4.30pm £14

APPLEDORE
BOOK FESTIVAL
SCHOOLS WEEK



Appledore Book Festival

As part of the Appledore Book Festival, author Tanya Landman will be visiting the school on Wednesday 25th September. Tanya Landman has written more than 40 children's books and is winner of the prestigious Carnegie Medal. <https://tanyalandman.com/>



This author is coming to visit our school!

Harvest Festival Assembly – Friday 4th October 9:10am

We warmly welcome parents and carers to join our Harvest Festival Assembly. The children will be sharing their learning about Harvest with you. Please also send in non-perishable foods and toiletries ahead of the assembly. These will be sent to the food bank.



Parent Consultation



This is an important opportunity to meet with your child's teacher so they can share their academic and social progress with you. This term the meetings will be on

Wednesday 20th November: 2:00 – 6:00 pm

We will let you know when you are able to book your ten minute slot, nearer the time. The meetings will take place in school but we can also offer a virtual meeting.

Parent's Evening

Christmas

Yes! We are already thinking about Christmas!

Christmas is an incredibly busy time for children, staff and parents and sometimes, the activities we focus on, can take away from the true meaning of Christmas. Although we are not a church school, Christmas is a Christian festival and it is important that celebrations in school reflect this, regardless of the individual faiths we hold.



We have reflected and thought carefully about how Christmas will be celebrated in the Federation and this is our plan moving forward.

The Church service will have a much greater importance and will be led by Class 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6), There will be far more opportunities for Class 2 to deliver readings and talk to the congregation. Class 1 (Pre-school, Reception, Year 1 & 2) will perform their nativity within the church. Therefore, we will not perform a separate Christmas play.

We will now have two church services, which we warmly welcome parents, carers and the wider Ashwater Community to attend. The dates are as follows:

Wednesday 18th December 9.15 am Ashwater Church Service

Wednesday 18th December 5.00 pm Ashwater Church Service

We appreciate that the 5:00 pm service will be too much for the Pre-school children, so they are not expected to attend this.

Year 6 Parents - Applying for a Secondary School Place

Has your child recently started in Year 6 and due to join secondary school in September 2025? If so please remember that applications must be submitted by the **31st October 2024**.

Applications received after this date will be classed as late and they will be considered after all those who applied on time.

You can apply online by visiting:

https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2fKBEZQk8ku_4djGvFF1o66dNAQtvie1_yNrdPpLMH9Y8BqXb7msI3tso_aem_0ZynRI9C17JgOI7NgZ6huA

We understand Okehampton College and Holsworthy College will have an Open Evening on 25th September. The timing for Holsworthy College will be 3.45 – 6.45pm and the timing for Okehampton College will be 4pm-5.30pm. We will let you know once we receive any further information.





Uniform

It has been lovely to see the children looking so smart in their uniform and supporting the expectation that long hair is tied up. If you require any more uniform, please contact the school office.



Wild Tribe

Wild Tribe will be on Friday mornings. The plan for the year is as follows:

Aut i Class 2

Aut ii Class 1

Spr i Class 2

Spr ii Class 1

Sum i Class 2

Sum ii Class 1



On Wild Tribe 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.

Federation Trip to Mary Poppins; Theatre Royal Plymouth

Following the success of the trip to see Aladdin, we have organised a whole Federation trip to see the stage show of Disney's Mary Poppins the Musical on Wednesday 26th March 2025. Again, we have managed to secure exceptionally reasonably priced tickets. Further information will follow nearer the time.



Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

Safeguarding at Ashwater

The Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Alford

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Gee

Miss Frayn

Mrs R Cawsey—SENDCo

Attendance Officer:

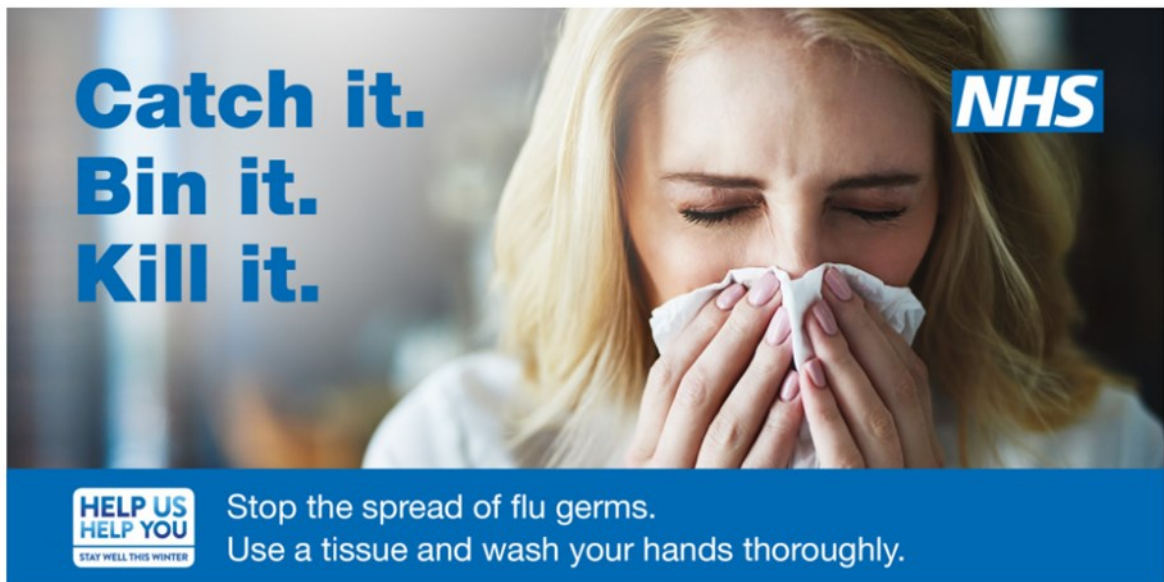
Miss S Revers

Safeguarding Governor:

Mrs A Clark

Safeguarding

Remember if you have any issues regarding Safeguarding that you wish to raise, please email: safeguarding@halwill.devon.sch.uk These will come directly to a safeguarding lead.



**Catch it.
Bin it.
Kill it.**

NHS

**HELP US
HELP YOU**
STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Stop the spread of flu germs.
Use a tissue and wash your hands thoroughly.

The image shows a woman with blonde hair blowing her nose into a white tissue. The background is blurred. The text is overlaid on the image in blue and white.



Dates for your diary:

September

- 23rd KS2 Cross Country
25th Appledore Book Festival visit with Tanya Landman

October

- 4th Harvest Festival 9.10am
25th Class 2 Kents Cavern trip
28th to 1st Nov Half Term

November

- 4th Non-pupil day
20th Parent Consultation - 2pm—6pm

December

- 18th Church Service - 9.15 am and 5pm
19th End of term

January

- 6th Start of term

February

- 14th to 25th Half Term

March

- 26th Mary Poppins

Term dates: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/parents/term-dates/>



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS – NEW WORKING ENTITLEMENTS!

Dear Parents,

The new entitlements for eligible working parents, or those with caring responsibilities, will be extended to children from 9 months from September 2024. It is your responsibility to check if you are entitled, make an application before 31st August, and reconfirm every 3 months.

[Check you're eligible for free childcare if you're working - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

It is important that if you have a child who will be 9 months old, on or before 31st August 2024, that you apply to HMRC (Childcare Service) in good time.

Please set-up or visit your [Gateway Account](#) immediately to apply.

Please note that you may not be able to apply for the working entitlement funding immediately if you have a Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) account. We have been advised that you will be able to apply when you receive your TFC reconfirmation reminder or HMRC will issue a temporary code.

If you have recently reconfirmed your TFC and not made an application, please ensure that you are due to reconfirm again before the 31st of August deadline.

It is important that you allow time for any queries with new applications or reconfirmations to avoid delays. Any codes issued by HMRC in September 2024 **will not be funded** in Autumn 2024 (1st September – 31st December). A code with an 'eligible from' date of 1st September 2024 will not be funded until Spring 2025 and only then if you reconfirm by 31st December 2024.

The dates of your code are important, and you must reconfirm every 3 months to confirm eligibility and continue to access your funded childcare!

If you have a previous application for an older sibling, please check the eligibility dates of any new codes for a younger child as the reconfirmation dates can be aligned to the older child which could mean you need to reconfirm before the normal 3-month reconfirmation period.

If you have a code for an older child that needs to be reconfirmed, this should also be completed **now**, and if you are unsure, it is your responsibility to log into your [Gateway Account](#) and check. If you are newly eligible or are given a new code at reconfirmation, you need to take your 11-digit code to your provider who will complete a verification check and then confirm your funded space.

When eligibility ends, children who have accessed the working entitlements can continue to access their entitlement in the next funding period when in the Grace Period. However, children, who are newly eligible in September and using the working entitlements for the first time, or start at a new setting, cannot start to use the funding if their eligibility has ended. The Grace Period does not apply to children that have not used the working entitlements with the provider in the previous funding period.

If the Grace period does not apply, or your Grace period ends, the working entitlement will also end. If you continue to use childcare, you will be charged.

If you are registering for a new Gateway account with HMRC, you will be asked if you would like to register for Tax Free Childcare. If you are in receipt of Tax Credits these may be stopped, and it can take several weeks to reapply and for Tax Credits to be reinstated.

If you have problems accessing the system or completing your check, please call the HMRC Helpdesk on 0300 1234 097 (your provider and Devon County Council cannot assist with new applications or reconfirmations for the Working Entitlements).

Devon Early Years are running some online sessions for parents in July to give an overview on what funding is available, how you apply for different funding streams and how your child can access funded time. Please save the links below to join a session that suits you:

[Wednesday 3rd July 10.00 am -11.00 am](#)

[Monday 8th July 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm](#)

[Thursday 11th July 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm](#)

You may be able to access further help with childcare costs. Please visit the [Childcare Choices Website](#).

Kind regards,

Devon Early Years Funding

Childcare
Choices

All the government
childcare offers in one place

childcarechoices.gov.uk



 HM Government

Holiday Requests

Please see the following message which we have been asked to share with you by Devon County Council:

We believe that in order for a pupil to fully benefit from their education, good attendance is crucial.

As of September 2013, an amendment to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 came in to force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. These changes reinforced the Government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted authorised absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

A family holiday is not normally considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised by the school.

Should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measures could be instigated. This could mean receiving any of the following;

- *A Penalty Notice*
- *A summons to the Magistrate Court which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment for up to 3 months.*

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority if a pupil has a number of unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can be acquired when;

- 1) Leave has been requested, but the circumstances are such that the school is unable to authorise the leave and it is taken anyway.*
- 2) Leave is not requested and/or the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason (example – a family holiday). Only the Head teacher can authorise an absence. This year there have been occasions when schools have been notified that the pupil is sick, but the school later discovers and reasonably believes that the reason given for the absence is not genuine.*
- 3) A child continually arrives late after the registration period has closed.*

Schools need to notify the Local Authority in all of the circumstances listed above.

Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated.

We understand the disappointment that the refusal of a leave request may cause, but as you can appreciate this policy represents the school's responsibility and commitment towards providing your child's education and supporting their future life opportunities.

COULD YOUR CHILD BE ENTITLED TO A SUBSIDY TOWARDS THE COST OF RESIDENTIAL OR DAY TRIPS, SPORTING EVENTS, SCHOOL UNIFORM, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, BREAKFAST CLUB, AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AS WELL AS FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN KS2?

If you are in receipt of any of the following, your child could be entitled to a subsidy towards the cost of the above:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).

Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

Please apply even if your child is in Foundation, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives a meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme. As well as financially benefiting as described above, your child may receive additional learning support where appropriate because of the additional funding that school receives from Government for known free school meals pupils.

How to apply

Through the Citizen Portal (https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live) which is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision.

Parents and carers can also ring the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.