

Wednesday 16th September 2026

Ashwater Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No.1 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer!

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to the new academic year. They have all settled well and those that have moved into a new class have risen to the challenge. Teachers and children have been building relationships and there is a lovely atmosphere in the school.

Class Dojo

For those that have consented to be on Class Dojo, teachers have been sharing updates and reminders with you. It does have a messaging aspect but please avoid using this and continue to contact the office as teachers are not checking Class dojo regularly and your message may be missed.

Class Page on the Website

Teachers have updated the Class Page on the website with a forecast of all you need to know for this term including curriculum areas to be covered and a timetable which includes PE days.

Class 1 Foundation Stage Unit (Pre-School and Reception) and KS1 (YR1 and YR2)

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/children/class-pages/foundation-stage-unit-ks1/>

Class 2 KS2 (YR3, 4, 5, and 6)

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/children/class-pages/junior-class-2/>

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

Autumn 1 – Class 1

Autumn 2 – Class 2

Spring 1 – Class 2

Spring 2 – Class 1

Summer 1 – Class 2

Summer 2 – Class 1

THE CAREY FEDERATION



Upcoming Events

September 24

Holsworthy YR5 and Y6 Open evening

October 1

National Poetry Day

Appledore book Festival visit – John Dougherty

PTFA AGM – 9am at school

October 19

Flu Vaccinations

October 23

Half Term

November 2

Non pupil day

November 3

Term starts

December 18

Term ends

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.

PE

Children will either have:

1 PE lesson with Mr Meagon, (specialist PE Teacher) and 1 with their class teacher **or** Forest School and 2 PE sessions with their class teacher.

To find out when your child's PE lesson is, please see the timetable on the Class Page on the website. Here is a summary:

Class 1 – Tuesday

Class 2 – Tuesday and Friday

Children need to bring in their PE kits to change into for the afternoon lesson and will need to be in their PE kit for them to take part.

Medical Information

In order to have the latest medical information about the children, including allergies, we ask all parents to complete this form. Even if you have already told us about your child's medical condition or if your child doesn't have one, please complete the form

[2026/27 Update of Health Care Needs for your child – Fill in form](#)

After School Clubs

We are running a programme of After School Clubs. All clubs can be booked via your MCAS app.

Monday	Club: Board Games Teacher: Helen Hazell Max number: 20	Year 1 - 6	14 th September to 19 th October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Tuesday	Club: Football Teacher: Keaton Meagan Max number: 20	Year 1 - 6	15 th September to 20 th October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher



Useful Links

School Contact Details

Tel: 01409 211228

Email:

admin@ashwater.devon.sch.uk

Website:

[Halwill 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

Mrs Catherine Gee

Miss Hayley Frayn

Mrs Rosie Cawsey

Safeguarding Governor

Becky Bridgeman

Term Dates 2026 - 2027

These are on our website:

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

School Lunches – please book by Sunday for the

WE ARE A NO NUTS SCHOOL

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.

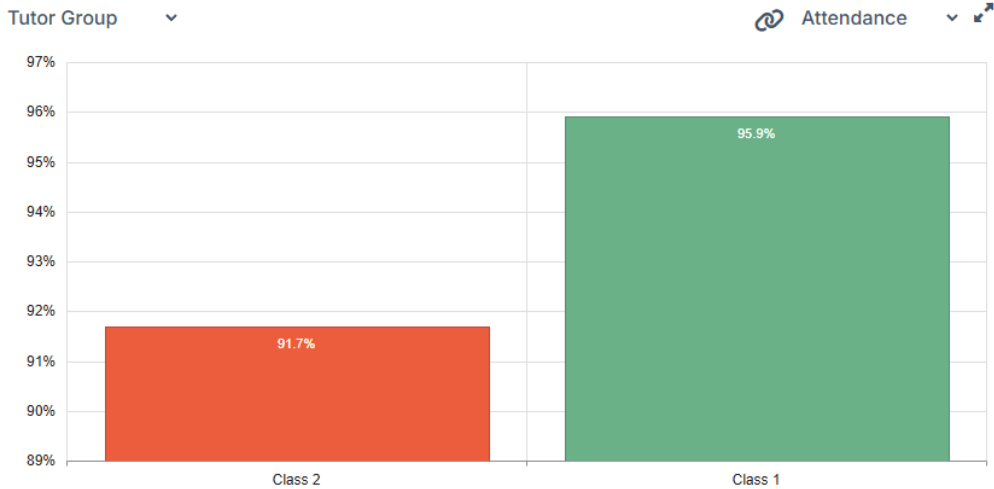
Overall Attendance

Class 1 and Class 2 Attendance - This does not include Pre-School

Attendance

94.9%

-1.3% Last 7 Days



Attendance Percentage	Days of School Missed
98%	4 days
96%	8 days
94%	12 days
92%	16 days or three weeks
90%	20 days or four weeks
85%	30 days or 6 weeks

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



Department
for Education

We are the department for opportunity

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'.



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

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.

