



Wednesday 26th November October 2025

Upcoming Events

Ashwater Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No.10 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

Last Saturday, the KS2 children had the opportunity to sing at Exeter Cathedral. The Federation children sang one song on their own. They also sang a number of other songs alongside other schools as well as choristers from Exeter Cathedral School and the Devon County Junior Choir. The children sang beautifully, their voices echoed sonorously around the Cathedral.

The children were there rehearsing in the afternoon and then performed to a packed cathedral in the evening. They all aimed high and behaved brilliantly and sang beautifully. Well done to all of them and to the families who brought them into Exeter on a very busy day. Thank you Mrs Cawsey for organising the programme. Thank you also to all the staff who spent their Saturday helping and supervising: Miss Frayn, Miss Danan, Mrs Boothe and Mrs Wilson. Thanks also to Mrs Hazel and Mr Alford who came to watch the performance. A special well done and thank you to Miss Frayn who conducted the children.

What a wonderful experience; making memories that will last a lifetime!

November 27

KS2 The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at Theatre Royal Plymouth
12:00pm – 6:00pm (approx.)

December 5

Ashwater Christmas Fair 3:30 – 4:30pm

December 10

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper DaY

December 17

Ashwater Church Service 9:15am and 5:00pm at St Peter's Church

December 18

Last Day of Autumn Term

January 5

First Day of Spring Term



A huge thank you to Heidi Edworthy who organised the Ashwater Christmas Craft Fair in the village this weekend. The proceeds were split between the PTFA and the Ashwater Toddler Group. Thank you much to everyone involved in this, it is so appreciated.

KS2 Theatre Trip, Thursday 27th November

Tomorrow the children will be going to see The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe at The Theatre Royal, Plymouth. A reminder that children will need a packed lunch, a nut free snack and water bottle. Pick up will be approximately 6:00 pm but we will update you if this changes.

Christmas Dates

As we approach the Christmas season, please be reminded of our Christmas dates, which are in the Upcoming Event section. All our welcome to both Christmas **Church Services** on **Wednesday 17th December, 9:15am and 5:00pm.**

On **Friday 5th December**, there will be a **Christmas Fair** for the Ashwater School and Pre-school children and their families. Please collect children as normal and bring children back into school. All children need to be accompanied.

Christmas Lunch is Wednesday 10th December. Please book by tomorrow on the School Money app. It will also be **Christmas Jumper Day.** Children can wear non-uniform with a Christmas jumper or something Christmassy for a £1 donation to Save the Children.

Attendance Letters

Thank you for your support with your child's attendance. I know our families do send children into school when they are well enough to be here. We have reviewed attendance for the first half of the Autumn term. If your child's attendance is below 95%, you will receive a letter shortly. We appreciate that parents might be disappointed to receive a letter, however, it is important that we flag to you if your child's attendance is below the expected, so you are aware.

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 and will also allow you to benefit from: -

- **A full set of school uniform**
- **Free attendance at Breakfast and After School Clubs**
- **2/3 reduction in residential fees**



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
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THE CAREY FEDERATION



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

School Lunches – please book by Sunday for the

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- 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.

Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born
between 1 September 2021
and 31 August 2022?



Apply online at:
devon.cc/admissionsonline

or scan the QR code. Applications open from
15 November 2025 to the **15 January 2026**

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing admissions@devon.gov.uk or call our Education Helpline on:

0345 155 1019



You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.



Ashwater School P. T. F. A

Christmas Hamper Raffle

£1.00
Per ticket



The draw will take place at the Christmas Service
on Wednesday 17th December

All proceeds go towards school funds.



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