



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

Apologies that we were unable to send out a newsletter last week due to having Ofsted here at Ashwater. I'd like to acknowledge the childrens aim high attitude on the day. Thank you for your understanding and patience. The outcome of the Ofsted inspection will be published in the New Year and shared with you then.

Children's Health

We have had a case of Strep A at Ashwater School and we are very pleased that the child is now well. We've also case of Scarlet Fever at Halwill. Please see the 'Safeguarding' section of the newsletter for signs and symptoms. If you are at all concerned please see your GP or call 111 out of hours. Both schools are regularly deep cleaned and good hand hygiene is promoted with the children, please continue this at home. Please let us know if your child is diagnosed with one of the above diseases.

Christmas Extravaganza

A huge thank you to the PTFA for putting on a super Christmas Extravaganza for the children and the community, there was a fabulous turnout and the school was transformed into a Winter wonderland! They raised an amazing £428.05. Thank you also to the PTFA for the lovely Christmas tree and to parents who joined the light switch-on, the children sang beautifully and it certainly gave us the Christmassy feeling!



Christmas Production 8th December

We look forward to seeing you all tomorrow for the Christmas production. Please note that there will be an additional performance of the Christmas Production at 2.30pm as well as 5.30pm. If you haven't already, please book for each member of the family via this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeckAb546iV1NICbv61i308uYXYoGCgupLlodAWJAEa0H4PCg/viewform?usp=sf_link



The Christmas Post Box is up and children can bring in cards and post them to other children or staff. Cards can be brought in right up to the last day of term. Please ensure the **child's name and class** is written on the envelope. In the last two years we have asked children not to lick down the envelopes and we would ask the same again, due to the number of bugs circulating. Please can children either tuck in the envelope flap or seal with a sticker, tape or glue. Thank you.

Children can wear **Christmas jumpers or something Christmassy on Wednesday 14th December**. Donations of £1 are welcome and these will go to Save the Children. Please don't buy anything especially, second hand jumpers are encouraged or even some tinsel! This will be a non-uniform day.

Home-Learning

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the display of home-learning projects. I am sure you were impressed by the range of projects and the learning demonstrated. Well done to all the children for their hard work and to parents for your support with these. Children should have received feedback from teachers by now. Thank you to the Year 6 guides who did an excellent job of welcoming parents. The children showed great resilience in overcoming their nerves in what can be a daunting task but one that will give the children confidence in the future.

We would value your feedback on our new Home-Learning Policy that was implemented this term. Please complete this form by Monday 12th December: <https://forms.gle/sUSB6pwYgaSTwAbXA>

Amazon Smile

The PTFA have set up 'Amazon Smile' so any time you shop with Amazon Smile it goes to the PTFA, please follow the link for instructions, our charity name is Ashwater P.T.F.A: smile.amazon.co.uk



Christmas Dates



8th December	Ashwater Christmas Production	2.30-3.30pm 5.30-6.30pm
10th December	PTFA Christmas Craft Fayre—Ashwater Parish Hall	1.30-4pm
14th December	Christmas Lunch	Lunchtime
15th December	Ashwater Church Service	2-3pm



Household Support Fund

Please see a notice from the Early Help Team of Devon County Council

We are pleased to announce that we have access to further funding to support families on low incomes to support with food and utility costs. This is through the Household Support Fund.

Families on low incomes can get help with food and utility costs via the new round of the **Household Support Fund**, which Early Help are administering locally. The scheme runs until **31st March 2023**. Funds are limited, so when the allocation is used up we will close for applications.

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Through this fund, Early Help is able to provide a grant per family to support with:

- Food
- Supporting for energy and water bills for household purposes
- Essential white goods such as a fridge, freezer or cooker
- Consideration for petrol for essential journeys



The family needs to meet the following criteria:

- You are a family (at least 2 people where at least 1 person is either pre-birth or up to 18 years old)
- You are experiencing financial hardship
- You need financial help to pay utility bills or buy food and essential items linked to food, warmth, and utilities for your family
- Not have received financial assistance from another source for the same reason

Please note:

- Payment will be sent directly to families through BACS (it is essential we have the families bank details)
- There will be no food vouchers available in this scheme
- Only one application for an award per household within this round (HSF3) of the scheme, that will run from 16 November 2022 to 31st March 2023. Repeat applications are unlikely to be successful.
- If a family have previously received hardship funding from Early help applications to HSF1 and 2 they will be considered. However, families who have not previously received funding will be prioritised

Please contact Mrs Alford via the school office if you would like to apply for this fund.

Ashwater (Community) Primary School: Proposal to change the age range

Devon County Council is formally consulting on lowering the age range of Ashwater Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11 years of age from January 2023.

The Full Proposal is available to view on-line via: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/> - please select the 'Education and Schools' category.

The web page also details how responses can be sent to Devon County Council, as the decision-maker.

The deadline date for representations to be made is Thursday 15th December 2022. If you do not have access to the web, please call the School Organisation Team on 01392 382057.

Dates for your diary:

December

8th	Ashwater Christmas Production 2.30-3.30pm & 5.30 -6.30pm
10th	PTFA Christmas Craft Fayre-Ashwater Parish Hall 1.30-4pm
14th	Christmas Lunch
15th	Ashwater Church Service 2pm

January

2nd	Bank holiday
3rd	First day of Spring term
26th	Bag2School

February

13th to 17th	Half term
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March

31st	End of term
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April

17th	Start of summer term
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May

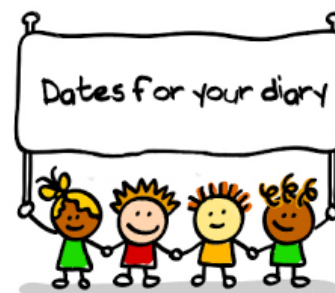
1st	Bank holiday
8th	Bank holiday
29th May to 2nd June	Half term

June

5th	Non-pupil day
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July

21st	Last day of term
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Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers.

Families in Devon on low incomes, whose children receive free school meals, will get support this winter to help them buy food during the school holidays.

Once again, we're providing holiday food vouchers for children and young people who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals.

If you have children at school and your financial circumstances have changed, your children may be eligible for free school meals.

You can find out by applying online through our [Devon Citizen's Portal](#).

The deadline for applications, in order to receive free school meal holiday vouchers for the Christmas school holiday, is **Friday 16 December**, so please apply as soon as possible.

Before the end of this term, we'll be sending eligible families free school meal holiday vouchers to cover both the Christmas and February 2023 half-term holidays at the same time. That's to give families more flexibility to prioritise and budget their winter food expenditure themselves.

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 14th December. Please order through SchoolMoney asap.



Safeguarding at Ashwater

The Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Alford

Attendance Officer:

Miss S Revers

Safeguarding Governor:

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs G Marshall

Mrs R Cawsey—SENDCo

Miss H Frayn

Six children in the UK have died after contracting strep A infection and health officials are warning parents and school staff to look out for its signs and symptoms.

While most people who get it will not become extremely sick, the highly contagious bacteria that cause the infection can, in some cases, cause serious illnesses, health complications and death.

What is strep A?

Strep A bacteria can cause many different infections. The bacterium is commonly found in the throat and on the skin, and lots of people have it without even knowing and do not come to any harm.

However, they can spread it to others who might become ill. People can catch it through close contact and from coughs and sneezes. Outbreaks can sometimes happen in places such as schools.

Most health issues caused by strep A are mild, but can range from minor illnesses to serious and deadly diseases. They include the skin infection impetigo, **scarlet fever** and strep throat.

What are the symptoms?

Strep throat is different from a regular sore throat and the pain can come on very quickly. Symptoms include pain when swallowing, fever and red and swollen tonsils – sometimes with white patches or streaks of pus.

The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature, a sore throat and swollen neck glands.

A rash appears 12 to 48 hours later that starts on the chest and stomach, then spreads. A white coating also appears on the tongue that peels, leaving the tongue red, swollen and covered in little bumps, which is often called “strawberry tongue”.

Impetigo is a skin infection which starts with red sores or blisters that then burst, leaving crusty, golden patches.

Very rarely, strep A can cause severe illness when the bacteria get into parts of the body that are usually free from bacteria. This is called invasive group A streptococcal disease.

Microbiologists believe that reduced mixing among children over the last two years may have caused a drop in population-wide immunity that may result in the UK experiencing an increase in transmission, particularly among school-age children.

Source – The Guardian

Group A Strep (GAS)

GAS is a common bacteria which causes a range of infections including scarlet fever. These infections are usually mild.

Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

It can also cause a rare, more serious infection called Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS). This occurs when GAS bacteria gets into parts of the body where it causes serious disease, like the lungs or bloodstream.

Group A Strep (GAS)

Cases of Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS) are rare. Some current cases are presenting with sepsis-like symptoms.

Be aware of important sepsis symptoms:

- ▶ Blue, pale or blotchy skin, lips or tongue - on darker skin, check for blueness on the lips, tongue or gums, under the nails or around the eyes
- ▶ rash that doesn't fade when you roll a glass over it
- ▶ difficulty breathing
- ▶ weak, high-pitched cry - not like their normal cry
- ▶ not responding like normal, not interested in feeding or normal activities
- ▶ being sleepier than normal or difficult to wake.

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Christmas

★★★ Craft ★★ Payre ★★★



Saturday
10th December
13.30 - 16.00

★ Ashwater Parish Hall ★

Refreshments Served
With all proceeds going to ashwater school play equipment fund



Bag2School



www.bag2school.com



Our next **Bag2School** collection
has been arranged for

Thursday 26th January 2023, Ashwater School

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at 9 am am / pm

Any questions - please ask your
school collection organiser

Tash Crocombe

tash1989@hotmail.co.uk

07800606359

www.bag2school.com