



Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

## Upcoming Events

# Ashwater Primary School

*Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other*

## Newsletter No.11 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

Last Thursday, the KS2 children had a fabulous trip to The Theatre Royal, Plymouth to watch *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. This was a joint trip between Halwill, Ashwater and St Giles-on-the-Heath School.

It was an amazing production, transporting the children into the world of Narnia. The children thoroughly enjoyed it. We are really pleased to be able to offer the children so many opportunities to watch live theatre as it sparks their imagination and gives them experiences which are very expensive to offer as a family. As a school we are able to obtain significantly discounted tickets. We are also grateful to the PTFA who contributed towards the transport costs. Thank you to Miss Frayn, Mrs Skinner, Miss Miners, Mrs Wilson and Mr Alford for supporting on the trip. Well done to the children who showed excellent 'aim high' and 'be respectful' behaviour. We know our children behave well but when we see them in other settings alongside other schools, we really appreciate what wonderful children we have.



In June, we will be taking YR, 1 & 2 to see *The Gruffalo* at The Northcote Theatre.

### Applying for Your Child's Reception Place September 2026

If your child was born between 1/9/21 and 31/8/22, the window to apply for their primary school place is now open. Details are later in the newsletter. The deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026.

### Every Day is Open Day!

We love you to show prospective parents the school in action on a regular day. Please contact the office to book your personalised tour.

### **December 3**

After School Club Tag Rugby YR to Y6

### **December 4**

After School Club Board Games YR to Y6 **LAST BOARD GAMES AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

### **December 5**

Ashwater Christmas Fair 3:30 – 4:30pm

### **December 9**

Church Rehearsal – Drop off at the church 8.50am

### **December 10**

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

### **December 10**

After School Club Tag Rugby YR to Y6 **LAST SPORTS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

### **December 16**

Church Rehearsal – Drop off at the church 8.50am

### **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

### **June 26**

The Gruffalo YR, 1&2.

### **Term Dates 2025 - 2026**

These are on our website:

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



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## Christmas Dates



As we approach the Christmas season, please be reminded of our Christmas dates, which are in the Upcoming Event section. All are welcome to both Christmas **Church Services** on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 9:15am and 5:00pm**. Please can children be dropped off at the church at 8.45am for the morning service, thank you.

On **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> December**. 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.

Rehearsal Dates: **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, please can children be dropped off at the church at 8.50pm. We will walk them back after the rehearsal. Please can children bring their wellies and coats/hats.



## 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
- 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

## Useful Links

### School Contact Details

**Tel:** 01409 211228

**Email:**

[admin@ashwater.devon.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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

**School Lunches – please book by Sunday for the**

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- 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](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](https://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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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