



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,



Happy New Year to all our families! I hope you had a lovely Christmas despite the prevalence of illness that most people seem to have encountered.



Yet again, we had another strange end of term. This time it was snow and ice which caused us to have to be flexible and resilient. Thank you so much for your co-operation and understanding with the changes to the start of the day and relocating the church service to the school. Thank you to Jean and Tom Orchard for ensuring the grounds were well gritted and safe for the children, staff and families to come in to school



I was pleased to see many parents and extended family were able to join us and I am sure you will agree that the children were superb in their shows and the carol service. Many thanks to the teachers and teaching assistants who prepared the children so well.

Exciting News for Ashwater School

I am delighted to tell you that the Cabinet of Devon County Council has approved the proposal to lower the age range at Ashwater Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11 years of age from January 2023.



This means we are now officially a school for children aged 2-11 years and the Pre-school is formally part of Ashwater School. This is excellent news for Ashwater School and the local community as it secures the School's viability for the future.

The legal extension of the school age range is a result of the School and Pre-school being in a good financial position and offering a high-quality education. When I joined as Headteacher in September 2018, the Pre-school was on the brink of closure which would have put the future of Ashwater School in jeopardy. This was the challenge and pressure I took on and I have stayed firm in my commitment to secure Ashwater School for now and the future.

That we have been allowed to make this change is a testament to everyone's hard work making the Pre-school and School strong and viable. I would like to thank all the staff, families and community members for their commitment and support which has enabled us to achieve this for Ashwater children of today and tomorrow.

Home-Learning

We have had some replies to our questionnaire regarding our new Home-Learning Policy that was implemented last term. I appreciate that the end of term was very busy so we have extended the deadline for completing this to tomorrow, **Wednesday 4th January, 3:30 pm**. We really value your feedback as we would like to know how it worked for your family, whether this was a positive experience or not. We will be looking at the feedback in our staff meeting after school tomorrow and your feedback will really help us to know if we need to make adaptations. We will then start home-learning from next week. Please click here to complete the form: <https://forms.gle/sUSB6pwYgaSTwAbXA>

Class Pages on the Website

Teachers are in the process of updating these and we will let you know when these are completed.

New Reception Starters September 2023

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 they are due to start primary school in September! Applications close on 15 January, so visit DCC's website before then <http://soc.devon.cc/5JV3d> If you can't apply online, please call 0345 155 1019

We are a small school which means places are limited so please ensure applications are made in time and that Halwill is put as first choice, to avoid disappointment. If you or someone you know would like a tour of the school, please contact the office and we will be happy to arrange this.



Devon County Council

Is your child due to start school in September?

application deadline 15th January

Wild Tribe

Class 2 will have Wild Tribe on Fridays for the first half of the Spring Term. 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. Long hair should be tied up. During Wild Tribe sessions, children may be given hot chocolate and marshmallows. If you would like to see the ingredient list, please speak to the Office and please let us know if your child **CANNOT** have these.

Clubs

Please see the clubs for this half term and next, on our website:

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/>

Mr Hayler's final club session last term was cancelled due to the weather. This will be credited to your fee this half term.

School Money

We appreciate that we are in financially challenging times and for this reason, the Governors have agreed to keep the cost of After School Clubs to £1 and Morning Health Clubs to £2.75. These are incredibly competitive prices, particularly as they do incur a cost to the school. However, we felt that we want to support our families in these difficult times. Likewise we have maintained the price of school dinners and uniform and not passed on any increased costs to parents.

However, we do need debts on SchoolMoney to be paid promptly as we aren't able to sustain the financial burden of these. I know January is always a tight month but I would like to gently remind you to please pay money owed as soon as possible. In the next few weeks, we will need to write to individual parents if the debts have not been settled. If you need help to pay via the app, you can bring a debit or credit card to the school office and it can be quickly and easily paid. If you are struggling financially, please request a call or meeting with me and we can look at how to support you with this.

Attendance Policy

We had an Autumn Term like no other in terms of children and staff being poorly and I know our parents are very sensible in keeping children at home when they are unwell and sending children to school when they are well enough to be in. This is demonstrated in our excellent overall attendance of 96.25 %. Here is a helpful guide as to whether you should keep your child off or not: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Given that there has been and is likely to be a lot of sickness and we have had periods of lockdown in the last few years, please ensure children are in school when they can be. Holidays during term time will not be authorised unless considered as exceptional circumstances. The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional circumstances' are that they are: 'rare; significant; unavoidable and short'. Full details can be found in our Attendance Policy on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/parents/attendance/>

The Attendance Policy also has information about punctuality:

The school is open from: 8:50 am. The school day starts at 9.00 am. All pupils should be in their classroom at this time. The first (morning) registration session starts at 9.00 am. Pupils will receive a late mark if they are not in their designated classroom by 9.05 am. The register closes at 9.15 am. Pupils will receive a mark of absence if they do not attend before this time. Attendance after the register closes will receive a mark to show that the pupil is on site, (U) but will count as an absent mark.

As far as possible, medical, and dental appointments should be made outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, an S2 Absence Request Form must be completed and sent to us prior to the appointment along with an appointment letter. Pupils must attend before and after the appointment wherever possible. If the appointment requires the pupil to leave during the day, they must be signed out by an adult listed on the pupil's record. Should a pupil arrive late following an appointment, they should be signed in by a parent.

I know that these are just reminders because as I have already noted, our parents are very supportive of the school's policy on attendance. Thank you for your continued co-operation in this important matter.

Vacancy

Sadly Michelle Peyton has decided to move on from her role as Catering Manager. She will be greatly missed by the children and staff. I would like to thank Michelle for her hard work and wish her well for the future.

Devon Norse employ our catering staff so if you or someone you know would be interested in working in our lovely school, please see the information below.



HALWIL COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

JOB VACANCY

KITCHEN MANAGER

Monday to Friday

08.30am – 1.30pm

(25 hours/week, term time only)

£10.15 an hour

£900.60/month

(Paid 12 months a year)

Duties to include:

Food preparation/serving meals to children/Stock Taking and Purchasing/ Weekly Paperwork recording via a tablet/Staff training.

Washing up dishes/General Kitchen duties/Manual Handling.

Full training given & uniform provided

A Southwest Norse DBS check will be carried out for this role

For more details please contact
jane.shreeve@norsegroup.co.uk
(please state 'Halwill KM' in subject)
also posted on Indeed

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Dates for your diary:

January

26th Bag2School

February

13th to 17th Half term

March

31st End of term

April

17th Start of summer term

May

1st Bank holiday

8th Bank holiday

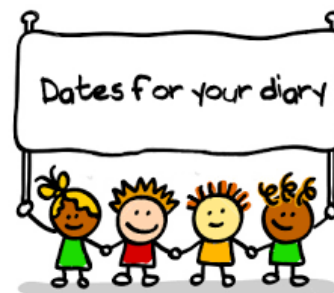
29th May to 2nd June Half term

June

5th Non-pupil day

July

21st Last day of term



Safeguarding at Ashwater

The Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Alford

Attendance Officer:

Miss S Revers

Safeguarding Governor:

Mrs G Marshall

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Cawsey—SENDCo

Miss H Frayn

Was your child born between
1st September 2018 and
31st August 2019?

How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at

www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

from 15th November 2022 to the 15th January 2023

If you cannot access the school
admissions website you can get
more information by calling our
Education Helpline on

0345 155 1019

or email: admissions@devon.gov.uk



Even if you have already given
details to a primary school, you
must apply for a place through the
Admissions Team. This is the only
way to apply; other forms or lists
held by schools will not count.

Devon
County Council 

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