

Wednesday 15th December 2025



Ashwater Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No.12 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

What a fantastic start to Advent we have had! A huge thank you to the PTFA for putting on a wonderful Christmas Fair. It was lovely to see so many families attending.

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

Monday 5th First Day of Spring Term

January 7

After School Club YR-Y6 Badminton

January 9

Wild Tribe Class 2

June 26

The Gruffalo, Theatre Trip YR, 1 & 2.

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

These are on our website:

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



The children thoroughly enjoyed Christmas lunch last week and looked very festive in their Christmas jumpers.



Church Service Arrangements

Rehearsal: Unfortunately, due to the wind and rain weather warnings last week, we were unable to go to the church to rehearse. A huge thanks to Christine March who came to school instead. We really appreciate Christine's resilience and flexibility. Tomorrow, **Tuesday 16th December**, we will be rehearsing at the church so **please can children be dropped off at the church at 8.50am**. We will walk them back after the rehearsal. Please can children bring their wellies, waterproofs and coats/hats.

Church Services: All our families and all of the Ashwater community are welcome to both Christmas services on **Wednesday 17th December, 9:15am and 5:00pm**. Please can children be dropped off at the church at 8.45am for the morning service and 4:40 pm for the evening service. We look forward to seeing you there!

Interim Leadership Support for St Giles-on-the Heath School

As you may recall, during the Spring and Summer of 2025, we provided leadership for St Giles School. This term, Angela Fleming has been leading St Giles on an interim basis. Mrs Fleming will continue to lead St Giles in the new year, however, due to personal commitments Mrs Fleming will be reducing her days at St Giles, therefore, we will share temporary leadership support for St Giles, alongside Mrs Fleming for the Spring Term.

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 15th 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.

Wild Tribe Spring 1st Half 2026

Next half term, Class 2 will have Wild Tribe on Friday mornings. On Wild Tribe days, children need wellies and waterproof trousers & coats to wear over their uniform. Long hair needs to be tied up.

Clubs

Please see clubs information which is on our website <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/>

School Dinner Money

Please kindly settle any money owed on School Money by the end of term. Thank you.

Holidays

A reminder that Thursday 18th December is the last day of term and the children return on Monday 5th January. I look forward to seeing many of you at the church services. May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and new year.

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

Safeguarding Governor

Becky Bridgeman

School Lunches – please book by Sunday for the

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
- 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



**Join the pupils & parents of
Ashwater School
for the**

Christmas Church Service

Wednesday 17th December 2025

at 09.15 & 17.00

All welcome

**The Church of
St Peter Ad Vincula**

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.

'Connecting Moments'- Digital SEND Support for Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)?

Join us for Connecting Moments – a friendly online space designed just for you.

What's it all about?

- Connect with other families in a small, welcoming group
- Share experiences and ideas
- Build a peer support network

Please join us on the **12th December at 10am, for a 1 hour session**– email-childsc.familyhub-mailbox@devon.gov.uk to book a space, places are limited and the session will be run via Teams.

If you would like support from the Devon family hub, please scan this QR code and complete our request for support form





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