



Ashwater Primary School

Newsletter No.12 Spring Term.

11th January 2022

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Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back and we hope 2022 brings them lots of luck and happiness. I hope you were able to have the Christmas you planned. Thank you so much for your support at the end of last term. Thank you also for your generous cards and gifts to the staff and to me. It really wasn't necessary but very much appreciated.

COVID Update

This part of Devon escaped most of the impact of COVID until last term, when unfortunately rates were very high locally and as you know we were hit by this in the last two weeks of term. I am pleased to see an almost full school return and that children have recovered well, though some report feeling tired. Unfortunately, now that COVID is endemic in the population, it is likely that COVID will continue to disrupt things.

We continue with our measures, including, increased cleaning and handwashing, face coverings and maintaining the bubbles and the staggered start and end of the day, along with use of the one-way-system.

We have CO2 monitors and keep classrooms as ventilated as possible and we will be requesting air-purifiers under a new Government scheme.

We are pleased to be able to resume having external staff back in school.

Here is a reminder of the changes we are implementing based on updated Government guidance:

- If your child tests positive with COVID-19, It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. However, if the result is still positive, they must isolate for 10 days.
- If someone your child lives with is positive for COVID-19, your child must do daily rapid LFD tests (1 a day for 7 days). According to Government advice, they are able to attend school but please do inform the school office if someone in your child's home is positive and ensure that the person who brings them to school is COVID negative.
- Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended **from Tuesday 11 January**. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. **LFD test results must be submitted to the NHS**

We also ask that you regularly test your child using an LFD test, whether or not they have symptoms. We have had clarification that you no longer need to wait 90 days before an LFD can be used after being positive for COVID. This rule has now changed due to the emergence of the Omicron variant. **Therefore, even if your child recently had COVID, you can use an LFD to test them.** If you are struggling to obtain LFD tests, please ask the school office and we can provide these.

Welcome to Miss Batstone

We are delighted to welcome Miss Sophie Batstone who will be joining us later this week until the end of the summer term. Miss Batstone is a qualified teacher with a specialism in Early Years. She will work alongside Mrs Cawsey, Miss May and Mrs Barrett in Class 1. This will create an even stronger team to further enable the precise teaching for the varying ages in both the Early Years and Key Stage 1. This is particularly needed with our growth in pupil numbers and increasing popularity.

Apply for your Reception place by 15th January 2022

If your child will be in the September 2022 cohort for Reception, please do contact the office if you would like to visit the school. The application system to apply for a reception place at primary school in September 2022 closes on 15th January. Apply online at the Citizens Portal. **Please remember, as a small school, we have limited places.** If you cannot apply online, please contact the Education helpline on 0345 155 1019 and ask for a paper copy of the form to be sent to you.

Reading Meetings for Parents

Pre-school to Year 2: To help you understand the Read Write Inc. scheme, how it is used in school and how you can help your child at home please join us for a virtual meeting on **Wednesday 19th January at 4:30 pm**. Please note this is a change to the original advertised time as it was intended to be a live meeting. It will now be a meeting for Federation parents **via Zoom**. A link will be posted on Class Dojo.

For children in Year 3 and above **who are not on the Read Write Inc. scheme**, there will be a virtual parent meeting on **Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 4:30 pm**. Again this is a change to the original advertised time. Zoom details will be shared nearer the time.

New PE t-shirts and Hoodies

We are delighted to share with you, a new PE shirt and hoodie, in the school colours, with the Ashwater emblem. These will give the children a sense of pride, particularly when representing the school at events. In addition, the hoodie will provide warmth and, if it rains, children can change out of the wet hoodies after PE and into their school jumpers. At the moment this is not possible and staff have raised this as an issue.



We appreciate that a change to the school uniform part-way through the year isn't ideal, as parents may have already bought the white t-shirt. Therefore, children can continue to wear the white t-shirt until the end of the academic year. However, if you wish to purchase a red t-shirt and hoodie set now, as a good will gesture, it will only cost you one third of the total price because the school and PTFA will pay the other two thirds. Thank you to the PTFA for this.

From now until the Easter holidays, the price for **a set, including both a t-shirt and hoodie** will be: **£5.40**. You will be able to purchase one set per child. Please note, if your child is eligible for the Pupil Premium, you will be able to order a set for free.

After Easter, the price will revert to £10.95 for the hoodie and £5.25 for the t-shirt and each item will then be able to be bought separately.

On Monday to Wednesday next week (weather permitting) Mrs Wilson will have samples displayed so you can see the quality and help decide which sizes you would like.

To order a set of PE hoodie and t-shirt, please click the link here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzws3H9Q8uooTJnHvGhg7XjG2aAdm0qTJPILQRae6GVe_s-Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

£5.25 will then be added to SchoolMoney. Once you have paid this, you will receive the set.

We are mindful of costs to parents, so we have sourced a uniform provider who offers good quality and value for money. When your child grows out of school or PE uniform, we encourage you to donate it to 'second hand uniform' and we will make it available, free of charge, to any parent who would like it.

Class Pages on the Website

Teachers are in the process of updating these with Spring Term information on the website. A copy of the key information will be shared on Class Dojo by the end of the week.

Flu Immunisation Thursday 20th January 2022

Please see information about this on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/2021-22-flu-nasal-spray-parent-links/>

Healthy Snacks

To encourage a long-term healthy lifestyle, the development of healthy eating habits is encouraged and we recognise and thank parents for their support with this. We strongly encourage children to bring in a drinks bottles filled with water rather than juice.

All Pre-school – Year 2 children are provided with a free milk and fruit or vegetable break-time snack through the 'Free Fruit for School' scheme. These come in a great variety and the children thoroughly enjoy them.

In Class 2, if children would like to bring in a break time snack we encourage fruit or vegetable snacks and if your child would benefit from a carbohydrate snack, please ensure this has a low sugar and low salt content.

Shin Pads

Class 2 will have Hockey on Wednesdays as part of their PE curriculum. It is recommended that they bring in shin pads if they have them. These can be bought cheaply for example at this site for £3. https://www.sportsdirect.com/searchresults?descriptionfilter=Kids%20Shin%20Pads#dcp=1&dppp=120&OrderBy=price_asc

Wild Tribe

Class 2 will do Wild Tribe on Friday mornings. They will require waterproofs and wellies to wear over their uniform or if they don't have waterproofs, children should bring in long sleeve tops and trousers (not jeans) and a waterproof coat. Long hair must be tied up.

After School Clubs

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

It is recommended that children bring in shin pads for the Football Club, if they have them.

Please note that if your child's club was cancelled last term because of COVID, the office will reduce the fee for any clubs booked this half term, once you have completed the club registration form. Please note, this is a manual process so if you don't see the reduction you expect on SchoolMoney, please kindly let Mrs Wilson know.

Music Tuition

Lessons will recommence with Ruth Hayes and Alix Rogozinsky this week. The tutors should contact you directly to confirm this. Please contact the office if you are interested in your child having lessons.

Thank You to Holsworthy Rotary Club

We thank the Rotary Club as they have agreed to sponsor the next three environmental books in the Wild Tribe Heroes series for the primary schools in the Holsworthy catchment area. These books are designed to help teach the next generation in Devon about climate change. These will certainly be a useful and inspiring teaching resource for the children. They will be shared with the children in assembly.

Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

Tuesday	Club: Netball Teacher: Su Edwards	11th Jan—15th Feb (6 weeks) £6
Wednesday	Club: Football Teacher Scott Hayler	12th Jan—16th Feb (6 weeks) £6

Dates for your diary:

January

*19th Read Write Inc Federation **Virtual** meeting for parents 4.30-5.30pm*

20th Flu Immunisations

February

*16th Parents Reading **Virtual** Meeting KS2 4.30—5.30pm*

Contacting Ashwater School

The school office (01409 211228) is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you urgently need to contact a member of staff when the office is closed please either call the Classroom direct line or contact Halwill school on 01409 221476.

Please remember to order your School lunches via schoolmoney by Friday of each week. This helps us cater correctly. Thank you.

