



## Upcoming Events

### January 14

After School Club YR-Y6 Badminton

### January 15

After School Club YR-Y6 Board Games

### January 16

Wild Tribe Class 2

### February 16

Last day of term

### February 23

**Non-Pupil day**

### February 24

First day back

### April 2

Last day of term

### April 20

First day back after Easter

### May 4

Bank Holiday

### May 22

Last day of term

### June 1

First day back

### June 5

**Non-Pupil day**

### June 26

The Gruffalo, Theatre Trip YR, 1&2.

### July 22

Last day of term

### Term Dates 2025 - 2026

These are on our website:

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

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026

# Ashwater Primary School

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

## Newsletter No.13 Spring Term

Dear Families,

Happy new year to you all and welcome back to what I hope will be a calmer week, weather wise! Though we do spare a thought for our colleagues and families in some parts of Cornwall, where school buildings have been damaged by Storm Goretti.

Thank you so much for your support last week. As you know, we only ever close as a last resort and we always aim high to communicate with you as efficiently as possible. I am really sorry for any inconvenience caused. I am so pleased to have been able to have the children in on Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday, Ashwater School joined Halwill as the heating wasn't working at Ashwater. Both Halwill and Ashwater children thoroughly enjoyed their day together. It was lovely to see them building relationships; an important skill as they progress through to college and beyond. Thank you families for being flexible and resilient and taking your children to and from Halwill.

The end of term brought us a very special Christmas Church Service. Class 2 delivered their reading with confident, clear voices and Class 1 also spoke well and acted out the nativity, beautifully. The singing was excellent. Thank you to everyone who attended. It was lovely to have members of the local community joining. Many have connections with Ashwater School over generations. A special thank you to all those involved in the Church for their help and support.

Thank you to the PTFA for organising the raffle draw, which raised an enormous **£817**. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket.



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## 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 closing soon. The deadline is **January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026**. Please apply here: [https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

**Don't forget that you need to apply, even if your child is already in our pre-school.**

### 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.

### 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.

### Wild Tribe Spring 1<sup>st</sup> 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/>

### MED Theatre

Tomorrow, Ben Kelley and Reuben Small, (Class 2) will be attending the first in a series of drama workshops delivered by the Med Theatre at Hatherleigh Primary School. The Federation is part of the Devon Independent Schools Partnership (DISP) which is a collaboration of maintained primary schools. As part of this, theatre and drama workshops with the MED Theatre Group, have been organized. These are aimed at pupils who have particular talent in drama. Well done to Ben and Reuben for being selected and I hope they enjoy the sessions.

### Class pages

Please see your child's Class Page on our website for information about this term's learning:

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/children/class-pages/>

### Safety Around Dogs

Please see a useful advice sheet from the Child Accident Prevention Trust later in the newsletter.

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## THE CAREY FEDERATION



## 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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## Census Day

It is Census Day on Thursday so we are changing Fish Friday to Fish Thursday this week! Thursday and Friday will be a swap in our whole menu (including the veggie option and pudding) so fish and chips on Thursday and fish pie on Friday so just pick the main or veggie and we will amend this end. If as many children could please book in for school dinners on Thursday Yr R/1/2 as it really helps with our schools funding that would be appreciated.

### **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](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

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# Safety around dogs

**The bond between your child and dog can bring fun and happiness to family life. We don't expect our own dog to bite, but any dog can bite if they feel they have no other option.**


**Children are most likely to be bitten at home, by a familiar dog. Luckily most bites are preventable and close supervision is key.**

 **A calm, happy dog** is less likely to react unsafely to children's natural exuberance.

- Give your dog a safe space of their own where they can go if they need time out. Have a rule to leave them alone when they're there.
- Keep them occupied – physical exercise and mental activity help keep your dog happy.
- Teach your child to be calm and kind with your dog. Avoid shouting, teasing or restrictive cuddles.


 **Close supervision** is the most important thing to keep children safe.

- Watch, listen and remain close when your child and dog are together.
- If either your dog or child seems unhappy, positively and calmly separate them. You can throw your dog a treat or toy, or lead your child away.
- **Understand your dog's body language** so you can spot signs they feel uncomfortable or stressed.
- When you know you'll be distracted during busier times, use safety gates to keep children and dogs separate. Or, take your child or dog with you.


 **Trigger times** – teach your child to leave your dog alone when they are:

- Sleeping – no-one likes to be woken up suddenly.
- Eating or having a treat – they might think you're going to take their food.
- Have a toy or something else they really like – they might not want to share!



 **Your growing child** – as your child changes, the risks can change too.

- Teach the rules to your child from an early age and keep explaining them as your child understands more.
- As your child becomes more mobile, review changes needed, like adding safety gates.
- Think ahead about your changing family life and new risks that can emerge. Read our fact sheet on bringing baby home.

 **Still worried?**

- If you're worried by the way your dog is with your child, talk to your vet. They'll check your dog's health and can refer you to a qualified animal behaviourist.
- Visit the **Animal Behaviour and Training Council** website to find a qualified behaviourist near you.

 child accident prevention trust

 Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs



This work was supported by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)

 [www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)  [@ChildAccidentPreventionTrust](https://www.facebook.com/ChildAccidentPreventionTrust)  [@capt\\_charity](https://www.instagram.com/capt_charity)

## **‘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](mailto: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