



Upcoming Events

Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Ashwater Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No.15 Spring Term

Dear Families,

Last week was a very busy week in Ashwater School. As you know, we are committed to giving children the best possible education. As part of this we commit to ensuring our teachers and teaching assistants continue to develop their skills to give the best to the children. Last Monday, we had a Read, Write Inc. (RWI) Development Day, this involved a trainer from RWI coming in and team teaching with the staff in order to give on the spot coaching. RWI is the phonics programme we use to help children become fluent readers. It was a fantastic day and our staff found it so useful. The children were excellent and responded so well demonstrating their progress in phonics. Well done to all involved.

On Tuesday, 16 teachers from other schools in Devon came in to observe Miss Gee and other staff teaching Maths. Miss Gee is a Mastery Specialist for the Jurassic Maths Hub and as part of this, teachers came to Ashwater to learn from Miss Gee and develop their skills further. They all commented on how fantastic our children were and how much they learned. It's wonderful that such a small school like Ashwater can be a beacon within the County.

Burton Art Gallery, Bideford

The children's artwork will soon be displayed in the Burton Art Gallery as part of their Annual Schools Exhibition. You will be able to view your child's work in the Annual Schools Exhibition which will run from 30 January – 15 March 2026

Start of School Day

A reminder that we have a 'soft-start' from 8:50 am so by 9:00 am all children should be in school and ready for learning to start. Coming in, even a few minutes late, can be very disruptive to the children already in class and those arriving late can feel awkward coming into a quiet classroom. Thank you for your support with this.

Outlines of Support

Sometimes children need a little extra support or intervention. Teachers will be noting any additional support or intervention for those children that need it, on an 'Outline of Support' and will send these home in the next couple of weeks. Please note the 'Outline of Support' is not aimed at children with Special Educational Needs, as these children will have a 'My Plan'. Teachers will invite parents in to look at these together in the next couple of weeks.

If you have concerns that your child may have a Special Educational Need, please raise this with Mrs Cawsey, the Federation SENDCO. You can contact her via the school office to arrange a meeting.

February 4

After School Club YR-Y6 Badminton

February 5

After School Club YR-Y6 Board Games

February 6

Wild Tribe Class 2

February 16

Last day of term

February 23

Non-Pupil day

February 24

First day back

March 5

World Book Day

March 10

SATs Meeting for Y6 Parents & children

3:45 pm

March 18

Ashwater Parent Consultation 2:30 –

6:00 pm

March 26

Bikeability Y5 and Y6

March 27

Bikeability Y5 and Y6

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

Parent Consultation – Wednesday 18th March. 2:30 – 6:00 pm

This is an important opportunity to meet your child's teacher, look at their books and discuss their progress. We will let you know when you can book in your 10 minute slots. Meetings are offered in person or via Teams.

If your child has Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) you will also be invited to a separate meeting to discuss their MyPlan.

Bikeability Y5 and Y6 – Thursday 26th and Friday 27th March

A letter from the school will be sent to parents this week regarding Bikeability. Please see a letter on our website from Bikeability and a link for consent. [Letters – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools Bikeability Link](#)

MCAS – MY CHILD AT SCHOOL

MCAS is the new school app replacing SchoolMoney which we are intending to launch on Monday 9th February across the Federation. To aid this process it would most helpful if you could download the free app ahead of Monday called My Child At School. You will receive an email notification which you need to accept and it is fully integrated with our school systems.

This app will allow you to book and pay for your dinners, trips and uniform. We will also use this for online consents for trips and online consents for all school permissions.

Any balances that are on School Money will be transferred to your MCAS account. We will be sending guidance via an email on Monday and there will be hard copies in the school office if needed. On **Wednesday 11th February** we will be offering a drop in opportunity for anyone who needs assistance with the app.

In the meantime, it would greatly assist us if any arrears could be cleared. You will only be able to book school lunches up to half term through School Money.

Mrs Alison Horn
Finance Officer

Wild Tribe Spring 1st Half 2026

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.thecarey federation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/>

Class pages

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

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



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

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

These are on our website:

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

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



Family Hub Advice &
Guidance Line, 0800
5385458

Mon-Fri 10am—4pm

‘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

Devon
County Council



DiAS
Devon Information
Advice and Support
for Special Educational Needs and Disability





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