



Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

# Ashwater Primary School

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

## Newsletter No.17 Spring Term

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a lovely half term. It was great to see the children come back to school last week with a positive attitude to learning. I have popped into classes on a number of occasions and always been very impressed with the focus and 'Aim High' work ethic the children demonstrate.

### Burton Art Gallery, Bideford

The children's artwork is now on display 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 until 15 March 2026. Please do go along as it is a wonderful opportunity to see your child's work hanging in an art gallery. As you can see the work looks fantastic. If your child's work isn't on display, it may be on the screen in the gallery. A number of people, including our Inclusion Partner from Devon County council, mentioned to me that she visited the gallery and was very impressed with the children's work.



### Upcoming Events

#### March 4

After School Club – Tennis YR to Y6

#### March 5

After School Club – Board Games YR to Y6

#### March 5

World Book Day

#### March 10

SATs Meeting for Y6 Parents & children  
3:45 pm

#### March 12

Exeter Museum and Synagogue Trip –  
Class 2

#### March 18

Ashwater Parent Consultation 2:30 –  
6:00 pm

#### March 19

National Child Measurement  
Programme YR and Y6

#### 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, Y1 and  
Y2.

#### July 22

Last day of term

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## Consultation to Federate with St Giles-on-the Heath School

Please find a link here <https://www.thecarey federation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/parents/letters/> to the consultation letter which was sent to you on 9<sup>th</sup> February. We value your views in relation to this potential development and would encourage you to post your thoughts via the dedicated email: [consultation@halwill.devon.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@halwill.devon.sch.uk) or via the post box in the school office. Thank you to parents who attended the parent consultation meeting last week.

### MICAS

A huge thank you to everyone for downloading the new MICAS app. I know there have been some teething problems and apologies that last week's menus weren't correct. I know that this can unsettle children if the menu choice is not what they are expecting so I am sorry about this. It was due to an error on our part. However, moving forward, this should be more straightforward.

We are no longer using the School Money app nor the texting service. All messages will be sent via MICAS.

You can also use MICAS to book parents' evening meetings, which many of you have done successfully.

If you are struggling with any aspect of MICAS, please do contact the office and someone will help you.

A huge thank you to Ali Horn, for rolling this out. It was a huge task but a necessary one as MICAS is part of the package we have in our data operating system and by using it, as opposed to School Money, we have a significant cost saving which can be redirected to resources for the children.

## World Book Day – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March



**WORLD BOOK DAY 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**



On **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** the children are invited to celebrate World Book Day.

**The children can come to school on that day dressed as a book character of their choice.**

The whole school will be sharing a book at the start of the day and then each class will be doing some linked activities across the curriculum. At the end of the day, we will hold a sharing assembly to look at what each class has been doing.

Ideas for families can be found on the link below.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>



## 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](https://www.thecarey federation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/parents/term-dates/)

**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

### 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**

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### Storytime with the Ilsham English Hub

Best selling author SF Said, joined us via zoom last Friday to tell the story of how he went from being a young reader to becoming an award winning writer of books such as Varjak Paw, Phoenix and Tyger. The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing how he writes, edits and creates books and had their chance to ask questions at the end.



### Wild Tribe Spring 2<sup>nd</sup> Half 2026

Class 1 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 After School Clubs on our website and remember to book through the new MICAS app <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/about-us/before-after-school-clubs/>

### Exeter Museum and Synagogue – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Class 2 Ashwater and Class 3 Halwill will be visiting Exeter Museum and Exeter Synagogue on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. A letter has gone home today and payment and permissions are on MCAS.

### Parent Consultation – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. 2:30 – 6:00 pm

This is an important opportunity to meet you 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 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

### 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.

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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.

### **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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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](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

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