



Ashwater Primary School

Newsletter No.18 Spring Term.

2nd March 2022

01409 211228

Dear Parents,

What a strange end we had to last half term, having to close for Storm Eunice. Thank you for your support with this and a huge well done to the children who moved seamlessly back to remote learning for the day. Having looked at the children's Class Dojo work, I was very impressed with how hard the children worked. Well done and thank you to the teachers who adapted rapidly, preparing paper copies of work and organising live lessons. I am also very grateful to the admin team for their support in making arrangements to close the schools; there was a lot of work to do but it was done quickly and efficiently. There has been some damage to the back of the main building and we will have to have this rectified but the school is safe. Thank you to Andy Moakes, who, as ever, has ensured the school is safe for children and staff.

Thank you to Mrs Rothery, Federation English Lead and KS2 teachers for the Reading Meeting before half term. I hope you found it useful. The powerpoint has been shared on Class Dojo.

Good luck to Mason and Logan who have been selected to attend a Gifted and Talented sports event next Monday.

I am delighted to welcome Michelle Peyton as the new Federation cook. Michelle is also a Halwill parent and has experience of cooking in a nursery setting so is very aware of meeting the needs of individual children. She has made a great start and children have thoroughly enjoyed the food so far.

The children in Class 1 had a super Pancake Day and were busy making pancakes in the morning.



COVID Changes

On Sunday, you will have received my letter about Covid changes: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Letter-COVID-Changes-27.02.22.pdf>

In essence, PHE advice is to still isolate if a person tests positive, although this is no longer a legal requirement. It is being viewed like the PHE advice to stay at home for 48 hours after a sickness episode.

Face coverings will be optional in the Federation, with some exceptions (see letter for details).

Advice for staff to test twice weekly with LFD tests has ended but in the Federation we will continue to test weekly.

World Book Day Thursday 3rd March

This Thursday is World Book Day and children can dress up as a book character or something linked to the theme 'You are a reader'. If children wish to wear face paints, these must be applied at home.

Mrs Rothery, Federation English Lead has organised for our English learning for most of this week to be based around the book 'Leaf' by Sandra Dieckmann. For parents' information, you can see a reading of the story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H44d4MyQOI>

"One day a large white creature floats to shore and tries to find shelter and safety in an old cave. The animals of the Wild Wood fear him at first and name him Leaf because they observe him gathering leaves and because they want him to leave. They are divided by what they regard as Leaf's strange behaviour but gradually come to understand that this bewildered polar bear (for that is what he is although this is not stated until the story nears its close) just wants to get home. A picture book which draws on themes about the environment, prejudice against those who seem different and learning to communicate, illustrated in a manner which combines the naturalistic and the fantastic."



Ukraine

I am sure you are all well aware of the ongoing situation in Ukraine. Whilst we are geographically far away from the events, some in our schools and communities may be directly affected and may have families or roots in the region. The news and social media feeds are filled with the latest information, and some of it is very upsetting and worrying; and may not even be verified. Even if your child has not heard about this, other children may have, so as much as we would like to shield our children from what is happening, it is important to allow children a safe space to discuss issues sensitively to avoid worrying playground talk. Key Stage 2 children will be talked to about what is happening in a sensitive, age-appropriate way that does not dwell on the horrors but more positively on what we can do to feel hopeful and actively help.

By coincidence, the book 'Leaf' described above, is a gentle way of looking at the plight of refugees, and how we can be welcoming and supportive. It will be a useful tool to help the children, particularly the younger children where links can be made with people trying to find safety without delving into the details of the situation with the younger children.

There are some background reading resources in the Safeguarding section of the newsletter to help you think about how parents can support children with what they are seeing or feeling.

In order to feel and do something positive, we will have a **'Yellow and Blue' non-uniform day on Friday 11th March in aid of the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal**. Please send in a £1 donation for this. Children will also be planting sunflowers, which have become the symbol of hope in Ukraine. They will be able to take them home to nurture and see how tall they grow.

PTFA Meeting

The next PTFA meeting will be held on Monday 7th March at 9:00 am in school. All are welcome to come along.

Support Balloons

Please can children bring their 'Support Balloons' in for Friday's assembly

Ashwater Office

I am pleased to tell you that Ailie Wilson will be in the office every morning. On Monday to Wednesday she will be in from 8:30 – 11:30 and on Thursday and Friday she will be in from 8:30 – 10:30. This means you will have a point of contact in the office every morning.

Clubs

Tuesday	Club: Tag Rugby Teacher: Warren	KS1 & KS2	Starts on 1st March – 12 th April Runs for 7 weeks £1 per session
Wednesday	Club: Football Teacher: Scott Hayler	KS1 & KS2	Starts on 2 nd Mar – 13 th April Runs for 7 weeks £1 per session

Please see permission forms on our website or request a paper copy.

Apologies that this wasn't sent out before half term, we were interrupted by Storm Eunice.

Wild Tribe

Wild Tribe Class 2 will be doing Wild Tribe this Friday. Apologies, we had thought last week was the final week. Class 1 (and Pre-School) will be doing Wild Tribe on Friday Mornings after half term. Please can children bring in waterproofs to wear over school clothes and wellington boots. If they don't have waterproofs then some other long clothing to cover arms and legs (not jeans) should be sent in. Long hair will need to be tied up. Class 2 will do Dance and Music on Friday mornings.

During Wild Tribe sessions, later in the term, children may be given hot chocolate and marshmallows. Please see the ingredients later in the newsletter and please let us know if your child CANNOT have these.

Year 6 SATs Meeting for Parents Tuesday 8th March at 5:00 pm

SATs are due to take place this year after two years without them due to the pandemic. We will be holding a virtual meeting to help you understand the process, what we do in school to support the children and what you can do at home. Zoom details will be shared on Class Dojo nearer the time.

Secondary School Admissions

You should have received information about your child's school place yesterday via email from DCC.

Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

Safeguarding

Here is some information on how parents can support children with what they are seeing or feeling, in regards to the Ukraine situation:

Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine

(Childnet): <https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>

We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week/Children's

Commissioner): <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-should-not-hide-from-children-what-is-happening-in-ukraine/>

Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help

them avoid misinformation (Department for Education) <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

Safeguarding at Ashwater

The Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Alford

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Cawsey

Miss H Frayne

Attendance Officer:

Miss S Revers

Safeguarding Governor:

Mrs G Marshall

Want to talk to your child about on-line safety? Click here for more information: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>



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



Contacting Ashwater School

The school office (01409 211228) is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 8.30—11.30 and Thursday and Friday mornings 8.30—10.30. 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.

Dates for your diary:

February

16th Reading for KS2 virtual meeting for parents 4.30pm

March

10th & 11th Bikeability Years 5 & 6

11th Non uniform day—'Yellow and Blue' in aid of the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

24th Tempest Photography

April

8th End of Spring Term

25th Start of Summer Term

May

2nd Bank Holiday

30th May—3rd June Half Term

July

22nd End of Summer term

September

1st Inset Day

2nd Inset Day

November

23rd Tempest Photography

