



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

It's been a busy couple of weeks and I have been very impressed with the way the children embrace every aspect of school life. On Monday, Years 3 to 6 took part in a Cross Country event at Holsworthy College. Congratulations to:

Amelia—2nd place girls Year 5/6

Elisabeth—3rd place girls Year 5/6

Reggie—2nd place boys Year 3/4

Harper—1st place girls Year 3/4

Faith—3rd place girls Year 3/4



Certainly, a super aim high attitude enabled this wonderful result. Well done, I am very proud of you.

I am also incredibly proud of those children who were nervous about running but had a go anyway. This resilience will really help them in future life when they are faced with new and uncertain situations.



As part of the Appledore Book Festival, the author Tanya Landman visited us yesterday. Tanya was truly inspirational and shared her journey to becoming an author. She has written more than 40 children's books and is winner of the prestigious Carnegie Medal. We are very grateful that every child was given one of Tanya's books to keep.



Every Day is Open Day

If you or someone you know is looking for a September 2025 primary school place or to join at another point, please do contact the office and arrange a visit. We would love to show you all the wonderful things we do. We don't have a particular open day as we love you to see the school in action on a regular day. We offer personalised tours that give you the opportunity to ask questions and meet our fantastic staff and children.

Breakfast Club

I would like to thank all parents who use the Breakfast Club for booking by 1:30 pm of the previous day. This is really helping us because the office print the register for the Breakfast Club staff at this time; so it has been really clear who we are expecting each day and enables us to safeguard the children and ensure we have enough provisions.



Medical Conditions



At the start of each academic year, we want to review and check our records of medical conditions. Please complete this form, even if you have already told us about your child's medical condition as well as anything that is new. Please include allergies, asthma and anything else we need to know. <https://forms.gle/SxipVWumwsVjziXw6>

Attendance

We want your child to thrive in The Carey Federation, every day. We build strong and enduring relationships because we believe this is the foundation pupils need to fully engage in our community, to feel a sense of belonging and succeed.

Every child has a right to access education, and everyone is responsible for supporting and promoting excellent school attendance and punctuality. The Carey Federation are committed to providing the highest quality of education to our pupils and we recognise the clear link between attendance and the attainment of our pupils.

Thank you for supporting this. Our attendance is good because you make every effort to send your child to school, unless they are not well enough to be here.

Whilst we understand holidays can be beneficial; this has to be weighed up against the loss of learning. In addition, children can be adversely affected emotionally when they return to school having missed fun activities their peers are discussing, feel confused or unsure when faced with lessons that follow on from those they have missed and find that friendship groups have changed in their absence. For these reasons, we will not authorise holidays unless for compassionate or extenuating circumstances. If unauthorised holidays are taken, Devon County Council is likely to fine you.

We have updated our Attendance Policy, based on the latest DfE guidance, which you can read on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/parents/attendance/>

Here are some key points from it:

Absence for illness must be reported by phone, voicemail, email or in person to the school office by 9:00 am

Absence requests for medical / dental appointments, religious / cultural observances and exceptional circumstances, must be requested by completing an S2 form and submitting it to the office with as much notice as practically possible.

An unauthorised absence is defined as one where we are not satisfied with the reasons given.

Reasons may include:

- Parents keeping children from attending unnecessarily or without reason
- Missing sessions before or during the school day
- Absences which have never been properly explained
- Arrival after the register has closed
- Day trips and holidays in term time that have not been agreed
- Leaving our school without authorisation during the day

Persistent Absence is defined as: 10% or more of sessions missed (based on each pupil's possible sessions). Absences may be authorised or unauthorised.

Persistent lateness is defined as pupils who have five or more late marks recorded in a single half-term.

On the following page is information shared by Devon County Council.

Holiday Requests

Please see the following message which we have been asked to share with you by Devon County Council:

We believe that in order for a pupil to fully benefit from their 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.

In September 2013, an amendment to the Education (Pupil Registration)(England) Regulations 2006 came in to force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. In addition on 19 August 2024, an amendment to the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 came into force and set out a new National Framework for issuing penalty notices. These changes reinforced the Government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted authorised absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

A family holiday is not normally considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised by this school.

I must take this opportunity to remind you, that should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measures could be instigated. This could mean receiving any of the following;

- A Penalty Notice
- A summons to the Magistrate Court which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment for up to 3 months.

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority if a pupil has a number of unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can be acquired when;

- 1) Leave has been requested, but the circumstances are such that the school is unable to authorise the leave and it is taken anyway.
- 2) Leave is not requested and/or the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason (example – a family holiday). Only the Head teacher can authorise an absence. This year there have been occasions when schools have been notified that the pupil is sick, but the school later discovers and reasonably believes that the reason given for the absence is not genuine.
- 3) A child continually arrives late after the registration period has closed.

This school will be notifying the Local Authority in all of the circumstances listed above.

Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. In addition to natural parents and any person with parental responsibility, any person considered to have day to day care and control of a young person is deemed to be a parent in matters relating to education and school nonattendance (s576 Education Act 1996).

From 19th August 2024, following changes to secondary legislation, the amount charged in a penalty notice was increased.

The first penalty notice issued will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

The second penalty notice issued will be charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated.

We understand the disappointment that the refusal of a leave request may cause and we apologise, but as you can appreciate this policy represents the schools responsibility and commitment towards providing your child's education and supporting their future life opportunities. We hope you will support us by ensuring that your son/daughter obtains the maximum benefit from their time at school by attending punctually for the 190 days each year that the law requires (unless prevented from doing so by an unavoidable circumstances).

Craft Fair in Village Hall, Sunday 20th October, 1:30 – 4:00

A huge thank you to Heidi Edworthy, who is putting on a craft fair and donating all proceeds to the school's PTFA. Please do go along and support; the PTFA will be putting on refreshments.

Ashwater PTFA Meeting – Wednesday 6th November

Please do come along; we are always looking for new parents to join! We really value the Friends work in helping with fundraising. As they say, 'many hands make light work'!

Harvest Festival Assembly – Friday 4th October 9:10am

We warmly welcome parents and carers to join our Harvest Festival Assembly. The children will be sharing their learning about Harvest with you. Please also send in non-perishable foods and toiletries ahead of the assembly. These will be sent to the food bank.



Outline of Support

Some parents will receive a document called an 'Outline of Support'. This is nothing to worry about but is just a way of us letting you know that your child is getting some extra support or intervention in school. The majority of children will, at some time, in their school lives need a little extra help and it's our job to proactively spot when this is needed so children can catch-up appropriately. The 'Outline of Support' is a way of documenting this and informing you. An 'Outline of Support' is not given to children with Special Educational Needs as these children will receive a 'My Plan' and parents are invited in to agree and review these.

Parent Consultation

This is an important opportunity to meet with your child's teacher so they can share their academic and social progress with you. **Please note there has been a change of date.** This term the meetings will be on

Wednesday 27th November: 2:00 – 6:00 pm

We will let you know when you are able to book your ten minute slot, nearer the time. The meetings will take place in school but we can also offer a virtual meeting.



Parent's Evening

Christmas

Yes! We are already thinking about Christmas!

Christmas is an incredibly busy time for children, staff and parents and sometimes, the activities we focus on, can take away from the true meaning of Christmas. Although we are not a church school, Christmas is a Christian festival and it is important that celebrations in school reflect this, regardless of the individual faiths we hold.



We have reflected and thought carefully about how Christmas will be celebrated in the Federation and this is our plan moving forward.

The Church service will have a much greater importance and will be led by Class 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6), There will be far more opportunities for Class 2 to deliver readings and talk to the congregation. Class 1 (Pre-school, Reception, Year 1 & 2) will perform their nativity within the church. Therefore, we will not perform a separate Christmas play.

We will now have two church services, which we warmly welcome parents, carers and the wider Ashwater Community to attend. The dates are as follows:

Wednesday 18th December 9.15 am Ashwater Church Service

Wednesday 18th December 5.00 pm Ashwater Church Service

We appreciate that the 5:00 pm service will be too much for the Pre-school children, so they are not expected to attend this.

Ashwater Christmas Fair, Friday 6th December 3:30 – 4:30pm

This year, the PTFA will be holding an after school Christmas Fair for the Ashwater school and pre-school children and families.

Year 6 Parents - Applying for a Secondary School Place

Has your child recently started in Year 6 and due to join secondary school in September 2025? If so please remember that applications must be submitted by the **31st October 2024**.

Applications received after this date will be classed as late and they will be considered after all those who applied on time.

You can apply online by visiting:

https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2fKBEZQk8ku_4djGvFF1o66dNAQtvie1_yNrdPpLMH9Y8BqXb7msl3tso_aem_OZynRI9C17JgOI7NgZ6huA



Safeguarding at Ashwater

The Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Alford

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs Gee

Miss Frayn

Mrs R Cawsey—SENDCo

Attendance Officer:

Miss S Revers

Safeguarding Governor:

Mrs A Clark

Safeguarding

Remember if you have any issues regarding Safeguarding that you wish to raise, please email:

safeguarding@halwill.devon.sch.uk These will come directly to a safeguarding lead.

This week we have been reminding children about farm safety.

FARMING IS NOT CHILD'S PLAY

People often believe that farm children understand farm risks, but most children who are hurt in farm incidents are family members.

- A farmyard is not a playground so establish rules about what young people can and can't do on the farm.
- Keep children away from farm machinery and moving vehicles.
- Children under 13 years old must not drive or operate tractors or other farm machinery or
- Children under 13 years old must not ride as passengers on tractors, ATVs or other farm machinery.
- Ensure drivers have a clear view of corners and install mirrors to increase visibility if necessary
- Make sure slurry pits and tanks are securely fenced and inaccessible to prevent children from getting near the area



Dates for your diary:

October

- 4th Harvest Festival 9.10am
20th Ashwater Craft Fair Village Hall - 1.30pm - 4pm
23rd Tempest Individual Photos
25th Class 2 Kents Cavern trip
28th to 1st Nov Half Term

November

- 4th Non-pupil day
12th Flu Immunisations
13th Vision Screening YR
27th Parent Consultation - 2pm - 6pm

December

- 6th Ashwater Christmas Fair - 3.30pm-4.30pm
18th Church Service - 9.15 am and 5pm
19th End of term

January

- 6th Start of term

February

- 14th to 25th Half Term

March

- 26th Mary Poppins

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



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS – NEW WORKING ENTITLEMENTS!

Dear Parents,

The new entitlements for eligible working parents, or those with caring responsibilities, will be extended to children from 9 months from September 2024. It is your responsibility to check if you are entitled, make an application before 31st August, and reconfirm every 3 months.

[Check you're eligible for free childcare if you're working - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

It is important that if you have a child who will be 9 months old, on or before 31st August 2024, that you apply to HMRC (Childcare Service) in good time.

Please set-up or visit your [Gateway Account](#) immediately to apply.

Please note that you may not be able to apply for the working entitlement funding immediately if you have a Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) account. We have been advised that you will be able to apply when you receive your TFC reconfirmation reminder or HMRC will issue a temporary code.

If you have recently reconfirmed your TFC and not made an application, please ensure that you are due to reconfirm again before the 31st of August deadline.

It is important that you allow time for any queries with new applications or reconfirmations to avoid delays. Any codes issued by HMRC in September 2024 **will not be funded** in Autumn 2024 (1st September – 31st December). A code with an 'eligible from' date of 1st September 2024 will not be funded until Spring 2025 and only then if you reconfirm by 31st December 2024.

The dates of your code are important, and you must reconfirm every 3 months to confirm eligibility and continue to access your funded childcare!

If you have a previous application for an older sibling, please check the eligibility dates of any new codes for a younger child as the reconfirmation dates can be aligned to the older child which could mean you need to reconfirm before the normal 3-month reconfirmation period.

If you have a code for an older child that needs to be reconfirmed, this should also be completed **now**, and if you are unsure, it is your responsibility to log into your [Gateway Account](#) and check. If you are newly eligible or are given a new code at reconfirmation, you need to take your 11-digit code to your provider who will complete a verification check and then confirm your funded space.

When eligibility ends, children who have accessed the working entitlements can continue to access their entitlement in the next funding period when in the Grace Period. However, children, who are newly eligible in September and using the working entitlements for the first time, or start at a new setting, cannot start to use the funding if their eligibility has ended. The Grace Period does not apply to children that have not used the working entitlements with the provider in the previous funding period.

If the Grace period does not apply, or your Grace period ends, the working entitlement will also end. If you continue to use childcare, you will be charged.

If you are registering for a new Gateway account with HMRC, you will be asked if you would like to register for Tax Free Childcare. If you are in receipt of Tax Credits these may be stopped, and it can take several weeks to reapply and for Tax Credits to be reinstated.

If you have problems accessing the system or completing your check, please call the HMRC Helpdesk on 0300 1234 097 (your provider and Devon County Council cannot assist with new applications or reconfirmations for the Working Entitlements).

Devon Early Years are running some online sessions for parents in July to give an overview on what funding is available, how you apply for different funding streams and how your child can access funded time. Please save the links below to join a session that suits you:

Kind regards,

Devon Early Years Funding

Childcare
Choices

All the government
childcare offers in one place

childcarechoices.gov.uk



 HM Government

COULD YOUR CHILD BE ENTITLED TO A SUBSIDY TOWARDS THE COST OF RESIDENTIAL OR DAY TRIPS, SPORTING EVENTS, SCHOOL UNIFORM, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, BREAKFAST CLUB, AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AS WELL AS FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN KS2?

If you are in receipt of any of the following, your child could be entitled to a subsidy towards the cost of the above:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).

Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

Please apply even if your child is in Foundation, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives a meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme. As well as financially benefiting as described above, your child may receive additional learning support where appropriate because of the additional funding that school receives from Government for known free school meals pupils.

How to apply

Through the Citizen Portal (https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live) which is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision.

Parents and carers can also ring the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu  **mmunisation**

Helping to protect children, every winter