

Wednesday 15th July 2026

Ashwater Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No.29 Summer Term

Dear Families,

We have had a very busy couple of weeks! Read on to find out what we have been up to.

Anne Parsons delighted the children with her story telling. Anne is a local children's author.

Year 1&2 had a great morning attending the Multi-skills event at Hatherleigh, along with children from Halwill and St Giles. Thank you to Hatherleigh School who put on a very well organised event.

Sports Day was a huge success! Well done to all the children for aiming high and being resilient. Thank you to the PTFA for providing all the children with an ice cream.



THE CAREY FEDERATION



Upcoming Events

July 15

After School Club – Rounders YR-Y6

July 16

Swimming – YR, Y1 and Y2

After School Club – Board Games
YR-Y6

Open Evening – 3pm – 4pm

Summer Concert & Leavers – 4pm – 5pm

July 22

Last day of term

July 25

Ashwater Horticultural Society Show

September 7

Term starts

September 18

PTFA AGM – 9am at school

Pizza Making at Halwill Primary – Class 2 Friday 3rd July

Class 2 took part in a Design and Technology Day at Halwill School, where the children will be making pizzas as part of their cooking unit this term.



Year 5/6 Activities Week

Wow, what a week! Year 5 & 6 from Ashwater and Halwill had a fantastic and varied week, from surfing at Widemouth Bay, to a city break in Bristol to soak up the culture, a visit from a scientist and camping out in Halwill School field. It was a pleasure to chat to the children while we enjoyed our hot dogs. They really have had a lovely week. It was also a pleasure to see the children from Halwill and Ashwater integrating so well. A huge thanks to all the staff who helped this week happen; Mrs Wilson who organised the trips and undertook risk assessments as well as joining the trips, Miss Miners and Miss Frayn for leading the week and sleeping over and Miss Preece who joined overnight. Thank you to Mrs Skinner who cooked the delicious camp meal.

Surfing in Bude



THE CAREY FEDERATION



Useful Links

School Contact Details

Tel: 01409 211228

Email:

admin@ashwater.devon.sch.uk

Website:

[Halwill Primary School – Halwill and Ashwater Primary Schools](http://www.halwillprimaryschool.co.uk)

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 2026 - 2027

These are on our website:

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

School Lunches – please book by Sunday for the

WE ARE A NO NUTS SCHOOL



Camping at Halwill



End of Year Reports

Reports will be sent home on Friday 17th July. If your child took Year 1 Phonic Screening (or Year 2 retake), Year 4 Multiplication Check or Year 6 SATs tests, these will be included with the report. You may have heard in the news that SATs results have been delayed. We hope to receive them on Thursday and therefore, anticipate being able to include them in the school reports. If children have separated parents, a report will be sent to both parents, if we have their contact details.

Updates for September 2026

I am pleased to tell you that we will be offering Forest Schools, run by Miss McClean-Thorne, who is a teacher with Forest School training from St Giles. This will replace Wild Tribe which was offered via Arena. Forest Schools will run on a Friday morning in a similar half termly rotation.

I would like to thank Belinda Midwinter who taught Wild Tribe over the last 7 years in the Federation, through Arena. The children have thoroughly benefited from outdoor learning and we are committed to continuing this through the introduction of Forest Schools.

Sadly Jess Bailey isn't continuing next year. Thank you Jess for all you have done in enriching our curriculum. We will continue to have PE lessons with Scott Hayler.

I am pleased to tell you, that Ella Dannan has been seconded to the role of Cover Supervisor next year so will be helping with teacher release time across the Federation. Congratulations to Ella.

Mrs Jess Hutchins and Mrs Debbie Daniel will be supporting in Pre-school and Clas 1 next year. Mrs Hutchins and Mrs Daniel both currently work in St Giles Pre-school and Reception.

Hot Weather

We have another hot week! Please ensure all children have a hat, water bottle and apply sunscreen in the morning. Children can also bring in (nut free) sunscreen to reapply themselves.

Ashwater Horticultural Society Show

This will be held on Saturday 25th July this year and we have a number of classes for the children of the village to enter.

Please see the information about the show attached at the end of the newsletter.

Dates

Our Open Evening & Summer Concert as well as Year 6 Leavers will be on
Thursday 16th July

3:30 – 4:00pm Open Evening

4:00 – 5:00 Summer Concert & Year 6 Leavers

The PTFA will be serving Tea/Coffee/ and cakes before the concert.

PTFA

Now the warmer weather is appearing, The PTFA will be selling ice-lollies every Friday from Friday 3rd July – Frozen Friday. This will be cash only.

They are also hoping to hold a teddy tombolo at the Summer Fair and are looking for any teddy donations.

New criteria for Free School Meals - two types

Eligible targeted: this covers children in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. These children will attract pupil premium and other disadvantage funding for their schools. Other education entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) and the 'extended rights' element of school travel assistance, will be based on targeted free school meals.

Eligible expanded: this covers children who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400. Children will be entitled to free school meals only.

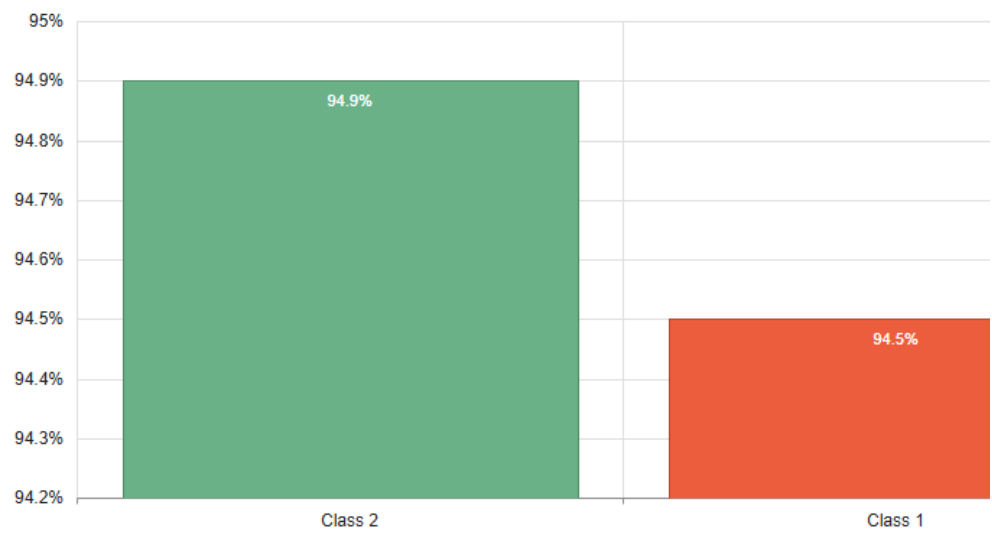
Overall Attendance

Class 1 and Class 2 Attendance - This does not include Pre-School

Attendance 

94.7%

+0.1% Last 7 Days



Attendance Percentage	Days of School Missed
98%	4 days
96%	8 days
94%	12 days
92%	16 days or three weeks
90%	20 days or four weeks
85%	30 days or 6 weeks

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher



Staying safe in hot weather

If you or others feel unwell, get dizzy, weak or have intense thirst, move to a cool place, rehydrate and cool down your body



Going out in the sun?



Stay well in hot weather

by drinking plenty of fluids, staying in the shade when the sun is strongest (11am-3pm) and limiting strenuous physical activity during the hottest part of the day.

THE CAREY FEDERATION



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

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

THE 92nd ANNUAL ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2026
AT
ASHWATER PARISH HALL

Saturday 25th July 2026

8.30am-10.30am

Entries set up in Ashwater Parish Hall

No entries admitted after 10.30am

10.30-1.30 Judging (Hall closed to public and exhibitors)

1.30pm Show open to public

3.00pm Prize giving

4.00pm All exhibits to be collected

CHILDREN'S SECTION – CHILD ENTRIES ARE FREE

1st Prize £2; 2nd Prize £1; 3rd Prize 50p. Plus £5 Prize for most points in categories 84-90 & 91-96.

Under 5 Years

- 82. Any drawing or painting
- 83. Model made from any material

5-12 year olds

- 84. Miniature garden scene in a standard seed tray
- 85. Animal made from one or more fruits or vegetables
- 86. An 'Object made from recycled items'
- 87. Painting or drawing up to A4 size
- 88. Decorated biscuits, 3
- 89. Small decorated pizza
- 90. Flowers or herbs arranged in unusual container

12-16 year olds

- 91. Decorated cake
- 92. Original model made from building bricks or constructional toy (eg Lego or Meccano)
- 93. Poster to promote or depict an environmental issue
- 94. An 'Object made from recycled items'
- 95. Arrangement in a jam jar of hedgerow plants
- 96. Small decorated pizza.

ASHWATER HORTICULTURAL SHOW

ENTRY FORM

Exhibitor's name

Address.....

Telephone number..... Date

Email.....

Class No.	Class No.	Class No.	Class No.

PLEASE REMEMBER entry fees are 30p per class or 4 classes for £1.00 entered per person and must be enclosed with each completed entry form. Entries must be made on this form and delivered to the Ashwater Village Shop, Maggie Edmunds at Fir Hill or Paula Howard, 7 The Barton. Entries must be received by 6pm on Wednesday 22nd July 2026. Entries cannot be accepted after this time. (Late entries accepted in exceptional circumstances subject to an extra £1 fee)

Ashwater Show & Tarka YFC

present

The Show Tent

Saturday 15th August 2026
Ashwater Show Ground, The Barton, EX21 5EQ



Entries must be sent to the email: theshowtent@gmail.com
Or dropped to The Village Inn or Village shop

Entries close Friday 31st July 2026 at 5pm

Section 1 – 6 years old and under

1. Farmyard Drawing
2. Decorated Gingerbread Man (judged on decoration only)
3. Make an animal out of a toilet tube roll
4. Finger painting of a Tractor
5. Make a wheeled vehicle out of recycled objects (must contain at least one recycled object)

Section 2 – 7-11 years old

6. Farmyard Drawing
7. Miniature garden scene in a standard seed tray
8. 4 x Butterfly Buns
9. Homemade Bookmark
10. Homemade belt to hold a farmer's trousers up - made from farmyard objects

Section 3 – 12 – 17 years old

11. Farmyard Drawing
12. Homemade Birthday Card
13. Sweet cake made with a vegetable (must name the vegetable)
14. Decorated Welly Boot
15. Arrangement of wildflowers or herbs in an unusual object

Section 4 – YFC Members (aged 10 – 28)

16. Homemade belt to hold a farmer's trousers up - made from farmyard objects
17. Decorated Welly Boot
18. Arrangement of wildflowers or herbs in an unusual object
19. Cheesecake of any flavour
20. Poster supporting "Back British Farming"

Section 5 – Adults (18+ and non-YFC members)

21. Farmyard Drawing
22. Homemade Bookmark
23. 4 x Millionaire Shortbreads
24. Decorative arrangement of homegrown fruit, vegetables, flowers or herbs
25. A floral buttonhole

Section 6 – Open to all

26. 4 x Cheese straws
27. 4 x Brownies of set recipe*
28. Traditional Victoria sponge



Anne Parsons, a children's author, will be visiting our school on Thursday, 2nd July. Anne will be sharing the story of *Archie, Go!* with our classes and will be offering the chance of buying a signed copy of her book with a dedication.

In this book, Archie and Louise catch a thief who has stolen books from Louise's grandparents' bookshop. Subsequently, they find out about the roles Airedale Terriers have played in the past, being police dogs, and messenger dogs in the First World War. They make new friends with Maggie and her guide dog Ivy. Such experiences make Archie question his role in life as a family pet and a jumping champion.

Meanwhile, Archie is training hard for his competitions. Rory, Louise's brother, becomes involved with team agility classes, but just when preparations are going well, disaster strikes, and another training centre must be found urgently. The new location is already known to Archie and holds bad memories for him. Archie realises that he must overcome his fears and move on if he wishes to achieve his dream.

The opposition becomes more challenging as the national finals get nearer. When the competition day arrives, old rivals meet up, and a new team appears. Can his team beat them? Then Archie goes head-to-head with the new team leader in the individual jumping competition.

Life is never easy. All Archie can do is try his best and hope that will be good enough. Surely, fame is just a jump away!

Price - £5.00 (normal RRP £7.99)

If you would like to order at this special price, please contact the school office.





LJD COACHING LIMITED HOLSWORTHY HAF PROGRAMME 2026

4 WEEKS OF FUN THIS AUGUST!

 **MONDAY TO THURSDAY**
3RD AUGUST – 27TH AUGUST 2026

 **TIME:**
9:00AM TO 2:00PM

 **LOCATION:**
HOLSWORTHY PRIMARY SCHOOL

 **COST:** for non HAF qualifying children
£30 A DAY



BENEFITS

-  **FREE SCHOOL MEAL PUPILS CAN ATTEND FOR FREE!**
-  **A LIGHT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**
with hot and cold options provided.
-  **STAY ACTIVE, MAKE FRIENDS, HAVE FUN!**

LOTS OF FUN TO BE HAD!

-  **MULTI-SPORTS**
-  **ARTS & CRAFTS**
-  **MUSIC**



USE THE QR CODE TO BOOK!

SPACES ARE LIMITED!
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT!

FUN, FRIENDS AND MEMORIES ALL SUMMER LONG!





SUMMER 2026 HAF PROGRAMMES

FUN, ACTIVE & INCLUSIVE HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES
FOR CHILDREN ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY!

HOLSWORTHY

 **LOCATION:**
Holsworthy Primary School

 **DATES:**
Mon to Thur
3rd Aug - 27th Aug

 **TIME:**
9:00am to 2:00pm

 **COST:**

- £30 per day for non HAF qualifying children.
- Free for benefits related Free School Meals children.

SCAN HERE TO BOOK



STRATTON

 **LOCATION:**
Stratton Primary School

 **DATES:**
Mon to Thur
3rd Aug - 27th Aug

 **TIME:**
9:00am to 2:00pm

 **COST:**

- £30 per day for non HAF qualifying children.
- Free for benefits related Free School Meals children.
- £10 per day for local residents and school attendees.

SCAN HERE TO BOOK



PADSTOW

 **LOCATION:**
Padstow community hub and muga

 **DATES:**
Fridays
24th and 31st July.
7th, 14th, 21st and 28th August.

 **TIME:**
9:00am to 2:00pm

 **COST:**

- £30 per day for non HAF qualifying children.
- Free for benefits related Free School Meals children.
- £12.50 per day for local residents and school attendees.

SCAN HERE TO BOOK



ACTIVE DAYS. NEW FRIENDS. UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES.

BOOK NOW – SPACES ARE LIMITED!

For more information contact LJD Coaching  



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



Speech and Language Therapy

EASY ACCESS DROP IN

We are starting new easy access drop ins for pre school children.

Would you like any advice and support for your child's speech, language and communication skills? Visit one of our easy access drop ins with your child to see a Speech and Language Therapist. Get advice, support and strategies from the team.

Drop in sessions are now being held in different locations across Torbay, South Devon and North Devon. Exeter, East and Mid Devon.

If you would like to attend a drop in, please scan the QR code below to find a location and time that works for you.



Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

We need you to help spread the word. So please share details of the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme through your newsletters, school apps, and other communications to parents and carers, so that the families in your school community know about the experiences they can enjoy this summer for less.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON BRIDGET PHILLIPSON MP Secretary of State for Education

