

Ashwater Primary School

Newsletter No.3 Autumn Term.

28th September 2021

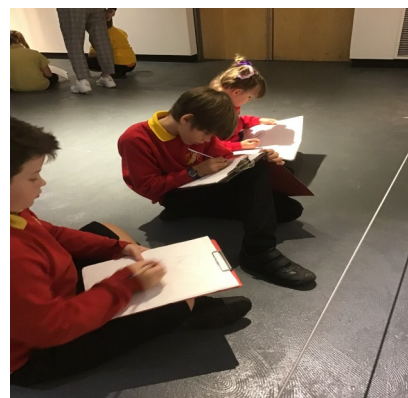
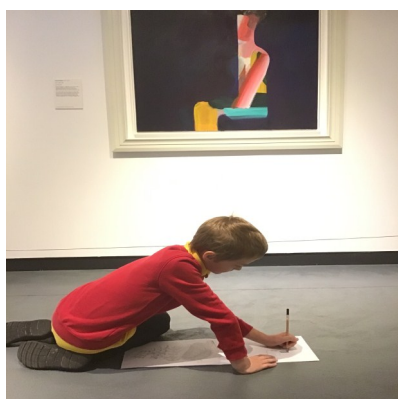
01409 211228

admin@ashwater.devon.sch.uk

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

Class 2 had a fantastic trip, along with Halwill pupils, to the Burton Arts Gallery in Bideford last week. They saw the 'Face Value' exhibition and took part in some excellent workshops and they shared their experiences with confidence in Celebration Assembly. The children's superb behaviour was commented on by members of the public. Well done to all the children!



Yesterday, Class 2 pupils attended the Cross Country at Holsworthy College; this is the first time in a long while since we have been able to attend such events. The children showed a great 'Aim High' attitude and resilience in running against pupils from a number of other schools.

Additional Bank Holiday and Term Dates 2022-23

As the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Jubilee on Friday 3rd June 2022, falls in half-term, Devon County Council have advised us that staff and children can have an additional day of holiday elsewhere in the year. Governors have agreed that this will be on Tuesday 4th January 2022, therefore children and staff will **return to school after Christmas on Wednesday 5th January 2022.**

Governors have agreed the term dates for 2022 -23. They can be found here on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/parents/term-dates/>

Staff News

Sadly Mrs Furse has decided to devote more time to the family business and therefore will be leaving us later in October. Mandy has always said she would not leave Ashwater until she felt it was thriving so I think we should take it as a complement! That said, I will personally be very sad to see Mandy leave. She has been an outstanding support to me as Executive Headteacher in the last 3 years. I have always been able to rely on Mandy and have had the utmost confidence that anything that she has been asked to do will be done thoroughly. Her commitment to the school goes back long before my time as she has been in post for 15 years. Her knowledge of the history of the school and important people to school and village life have been invaluable. Mandy's dedication has meant that she has adapted to working remotely, often checking and responding to emails in her own time to ensure the smooth running of the office. I am sure parents will agree that Mandy's warm and welcoming face of the school, will be missed.

We are advertising for a new Ashwater School Administrator, details of which can be found here: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/about-us/job-vacancies/>

We warmly welcome Miss Millie May, who will be joining us as our new Foundation Stage Practitioner and replaces Lorraine Phillips. We had a very strong field of applicants and Miss May demonstrated her abilities through a rigorous interview process and comes highly recommended from St Joseph's in Launceston, where she has been working in the Early Years. Miss May is also a former pupil of Ashwater School and her grandmother is an important person in Ashwater School history, as she was the school cook. I am delighted that Millie will be joining the team and we look forward to her starting this Friday 1st October.

PTFA Meetings

The PTFA have a planned meeting on 7th October at 7.00 pm. Please see Natasha Crocombe for venue details. There will be an AGM on 18th October at 2:00 pm at the School. Please kindly wear face coverings if you are attending and if possible, please do a Lateral Flow Test on that day.

COVID Positive

Hopefully, you will have already seen my letter sent yesterday. Unfortunately, Belinda Midwinter, the Wild Tribe teacher has tested positive for COVID-19.

Her Lateral Flow Test on the morning of Friday 24th September, when she worked at Ashwater School, was negative.

NHS England have yet to confirm if staff and children who had Wild Tribe at Ashwater are regarded as close contacts but since children below 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults are not required to isolate, the positive COVID case does not affect them. However I do advise you to regularly monitor the health of your child and take a PCR test if they show any COVID symptoms.

Our best wishes go to Mrs Midwinter and we hope for a speedy recovery. She will be isolating for 10 days and her Wild Tribe sessions will be covered by a member of Arena staff.

Harvest and Christmas Dates

Rev. Skinner will be joining us for our **Harvest Assembly on Thursday 7th October at 9:15 am**. Now that we are allowed to, we would like to invite parents to this and it will also enable us to see how feasible inviting parents to Celebration Assembly will be. There is no need to pre-book but please do wear a face covering. Please do not come to school if you or someone you have been in contact with has symptoms of or has tested positive for COVID-19.

Please donate non-perishable food items and toiletries for our Harvest collection. These will be given to the food bank.

Our **Christmas Church Service will be on Friday December 17th at 9:30 am** at The Parish Church of St Peter ad Vincula, Ashwater. Again, we hope parents will be able to attend this, provided the COVID situation allows. Christmas lunch for the children will be Wednesday 15th December. We have not yet set the other Christmas dates.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

The draft policy, accompanying documentation and parent consultation questionnaire are now on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/curriculum/relationships-and-sex-education/> Please respond to the questionnaire by Friday 1st October.

Class Pages

Class Pages have now been updated on our website, please do take a look: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/children/class-pages/>

Natasha's Law

As you may well be aware, on the 1st October 2021 a new law with regard to packaged food labelling comes into force in the UK. This law is called Natasha's Law. This follows an allergen incident, where a young girl sadly died after eating a food product containing sesame which was not labelled. The law coming into force now means that any packaged item for consumer consumption must now be labelled to provide the consumer a list of the contents of the item, with particular attention paid to allergens on the current 14 allergen matrix which should be marked in bold. This law affects all packaged foods and, therefore, affects anything homemade that would be donated to a fundraiser or similar event. Any homemade items would need to have a list of ingredients provided in order to comply with the law.

Due to Natasha's Law the catering team have now put in place a robust labelling of ingredients. Any item in a package will now have to carry a label.

All ingredients used for cookery activities will need to be shared with parents before the activity.

Any items sent in for birthdays should be pre-packaged with full ingredients. Please do not send in home-made items.

Booking Lunch Via SchoolMoney App

A big thank you as most parents booked via the app, in advance this week. Please do continue to book by **Friday for the following week as this really helps us to run smoothly in the mornings and means learning time can be optimised**. Don't forget to 'check-out' even if your child is on Universal Free School Meals (YR – Y2) or is eligible for Pupil Premium.

After School Clubs

If your child does start a club, **we ask that they commit to the full half-term** because it makes organising the club and knowing which children are supposed to be on-site very challenging if children drop-out part way through. We do need to pay our providers and as this is already heavily subsidised by the school, we will still charge if your child does not attend the sessions.

Thank you for your support with this.

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher

The Carey Qualities



Each Friday children are awarded certificates in our Celebration Assembly for making a significant effort to develop one of our Carey Qualities. Last week the following children were awarded certificates. Well done to them all.

| For building Relationships | For being Resilient | For being Resourceful | For being Reflective | For being Respectful |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alfie Jack | | | George Harper Reuben | |

Dear Parents/Carers

We are receiving feedback that a lot of parents are requesting their NHS number and having to wait to receive a letter back. Please do not wait for a letter, if you have the NHS number then please do add it to the electronic consent but if you are experiencing problems with this, we have ensured that this is not a mandatory field therefore please continue with the consent without the NHS number.

For the schools that are yet to receive their electronic consent links we are sending these out in a phased way and you will receive them in due course.

Many thanks.

Immunisation Team

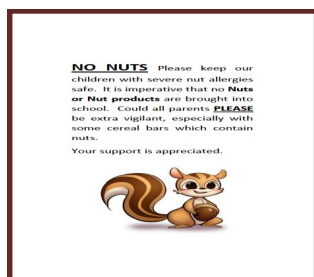
School Age Immunisations Team

Virgin Care Services Limited Telephone: 0300 247 0082

e: VCL.immunisations@nhs.net w: www.virgincare.co.uk

Please note that we have not received our electronic consent link yet.

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



Dates for your diary:

October

7th Harvest Assembly 9.15am
25th to 29th HALF TERM

November

1st Non-pupil day
2nd Non-pupil day
22nd Flu Immunisations

December

15th Christmas Lunch
17th Christmas Church Service 9.30am
17th End of Term

Contacting Ashwater School

The school office (01409 211228) is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. 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.

