

Friday 3rd October 2026

Ashwater Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No.3 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

We've had a lovely week with poetry day yesterday plus we had a visit from John Dougherty (Appledore book Festival). Our librarians were very welcoming and showed John around the library which he loved. He entertained the children with his book and playing the guitar!

Pupil Attendance

This week we met with our school's Devon County Council Inclusion Partner with a focus on our school overall attendance as well as looking at patterns of absence from individual children. The good news is overall attendance is good at Ashwater, as you will see later in the newsletter. Thank you for supporting your child to attend school when they are well enough to be here. Sometimes, as parents, we aren't sure whether our child is well enough into school. This video gives useful clarity and guidance. Remember that we can administer Calpol or other medicines, providing you complete a Medicines Form.

https://youtu.be/i5KxgqkPTw?is=4iR_aPhRxhM5TKie

A common question which we asked our Inclusion Partner, was remaining off school after sickness. She has advised that if a child is not sick due to a stomach bug e.g., they bring up phlegm in a coughing fit, then we do not need to enforce the 48 hour rule. I appreciate it can be a confusing situation so please speak to the office if you are unsure and we will do our best to guide you.

Please also remember that we are unable to authorise holiday absence requests, please see the letter at the end of the newsletter. Thank you for your continued support.

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival is an extremely important festival for us as it celebrates our agricultural community and what our farming families contribute to our society. We warmly welcome parents and carers to attend our **Harvest Festival Assembly on Thursday 22nd October at 2:30 pm**. We will be collecting for the Food Bank so please donate non-perishable foods and hygiene products in the last week before half-term.

After the Harvest Assembly, we will be having open class sessions for each class, where you will be able to come into the classroom, have a look at your child's books and the work they have done so far and say hello to their class teacher..

The Open Class will be from **3:00 – 3:30 pm on Thursday 22nd October**.

THE CAREY FEDERATION



Upcoming Events

October 19

Flu Vaccinations

October 21

Tempest Photos -Individual

October 22

Harvest Assembly 2:30 pm
Open Calss 3:00 pm

October 23

Half Term

November 2

Non pupil day

November 3

Term starts

December 18

Term ends

Pupil Ambassadors

Pupil Ambassadors play an important role in helping to make our school a positive, welcoming and successful place for everyone. They act as role models, demonstrating our school values through their actions, attitudes and behaviour. Ambassadors have the opportunity to develop their confidence, communication and leadership skills while representing the views of their peers and supporting key areas of school life. By taking on these responsibilities, pupils help to strengthen our school community and make a real difference to the experiences of others.

Teachers will be talking to the children about the available roles and we wanted to share this with parents so you can support your child in applying for a role, if they wish to. Of course, not everyone who applies for a role will be successful and we support the children with being resilient and praise them for aiming high and putting themselves forward.

We have the following roles available:

Librarians for our School Library

We are looking for pupils in Year 4 to 6 who would like to be pupil librarians at school.

The pupils we are looking for:

- like talking about books with other people and finding out what they like to read;
- enjoy reading all sorts of books;
- would enjoy tidying and organising and know how to look after books;
- are able to work on their own or as part of a team.

The job will involve:

- helping school adults with sorting and tidying the books;
- thinking of ideas that inspire other people in the school to want to read;
- helping to run book clubs and assemblies promoting a love of reading;
- Being responsible for choosing new books for the library.

If you are interested, please write a letter to Miss Frayn explaining why you would be good at this job by Monday 5th October. There will be an interview with Miss Frayn. We look forward to having you on the library team!

Digital Leaders

We are looking for pupils in Year 4 to 6 who would like to be Digital Leaders at school.

Digital Leaders help our school use technology safely and successfully. They support with technology in lessons, including helping other classes when needed. They carry out questionnaires to find out which games children are playing now, so our internet safety talks stay relevant. They also deliver assemblies on internet safety to pupils across the school.

Digital Leaders must be responsible, confident and helpful. They should communicate clearly, work well in a team and listen carefully to others. They may also take part in meetings with the wider Federation and other DISP schools, sharing ideas and good practice.

If you are interested, please write a letter to your teacher, explaining why you would be good at this job by Monday 5th October. There will be an interview for this role. We look forward to working together to promote a safer on-line world.

School Councillor

We are looking for pupils in Year 2 to 6 who would like to be School Councillors

As a School Councillor, you will represent the views and ideas of pupils across the school and help make positive improvements for everyone, for example how we make our school more sustainable. You will attend School Council meetings, listen to the opinions of your classmates and share their suggestions with school leaders. Working as part of a team, you will help plan events, discuss important school matters and contribute to decisions that support our school community. This role is ideal for pupils who are responsible, confident communicators (or want to develop their communication), good listeners and keen to make a difference in school. There may be opportunities to meet with the wider Federation or DISP schools.

If you are interested, please write a short speech, explaining why you would be good at this job and why your classmates should vote for you by Monday 5th October. There will be hustings, which means you will deliver your speech to your classmates and they will then vote for who will represent them. Good luck! By taking part, you are helping us practice the British Value of Democracy.

House System

We will be talking to the children about introducing House system which will involve having two Houses. Introducing a house system is a fantastic way to strengthen the sense of community within our school. By bringing children together in mixed-age teams, pupils develop teamwork, leadership, and a sense of belonging while building friendships across year groups. Through earning house points and taking part in a variety of competitions and events, children are encouraged to work towards our school motto and Carey Qualities. A house system also provides opportunities to celebrate a wide range of achievements, helping every child feel valued and proud to contribute to their house and the wider school community.

Children will be invited to suggest names for the Houses and we hope to have this in place by half term. There will then be further leadership opportunities for Year 6 children to put themselves forward for House Captains once the Houses are in place.

Librarians Wanted for our School Library



We are looking for pupils in Year 4 to 6 who would like to be pupil librarians at school.

The pupils we are looking for:

- like talking about books with other people and finding out what they like to read;
- enjoy reading all sorts of books;
- would enjoy tidying and organising and know how to look after books;
- are able to work on their own or as part of a team.

The job will involve:

- helping Mrs Rothery with sorting and tidying the books;
- thinking of ideas that inspire other people in the school to want to read;
- helping to run book clubs and assemblies promoting a love of reading;
- Being responsible for choosing new books for the library.



If you are interested, please write a letter to Mrs Rothery explaining why you would be good at this job by Monday 5th October. There will be an interview with Mrs Rothery and current librarians. We look forward to having you on the library team!

Class Page on the Website

Teachers have updated the Class Page on the website with a forecast of all you need to know for this term including curriculum areas to be covered and a timetable which includes PE days.

Class 1 Foundation Stage Unit (Pre-School and Reception) and KS1 (YR1 and YR2)

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/children/class-pages/foundation-stage-unit-ks1/>

Class 2 KS2 (YR3, 4, 5, and 6)

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/children/class-pages/junior-class-2/>

Forest School will take place on a Wednesday afternoon as follows:

Autumn 1 – Class 1

Autumn 2 – Class 2

Spring 1 – Class 2

Spring 2 – Class 1

Summer 1 – Class 2

Summer 2 – Class 1

On Forest School days, 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 should be tied up. Unfortunately, if children don't have the correct clothing they will be unable to participate as it is a requirement of the risk assessment.

PE

Children will either have:

1 PE lesson with Mr Meagon, (specialist PE Teacher) and 1 with their class teacher **or**

Forest School and 2 PE sessions with their class teacher.

To find out when your child's PE lesson is, please see the timetable on the Class Page on the website. Here is a summary:

Class 1 – Tuesday

Class 2 – Tuesday and Friday

Children need to bring in their PE kits to change into for the afternoon lesson and will need to be in their PE kit for them to take part.

Medical Information

In order to have the latest medical information about the children, including allergies, we ask all parents to complete this form. Even if you have already told us about your child's medical condition or if your child doesn't have one, please complete the form

[2026/27 Update of Health Care Needs for your child – Fill in form](#)

After School Clubs

We are running a programme of After School Clubs. All clubs can be booked via your MCAS app.

Monday	Club: Board Games Teacher: Helen Hazell Max number: 20	Year 1 - 6	14 th September to 19 th October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students
Tuesday	Club: Football Teacher: Keaton Meagan Max number: 20	Year 1 - 6	15 th September to 20 th October 2026 3.30-4.30pm £22.80/£6 (6 weeks) £3.80 per session/ £1.00 for Pupil Premium Eligible Students

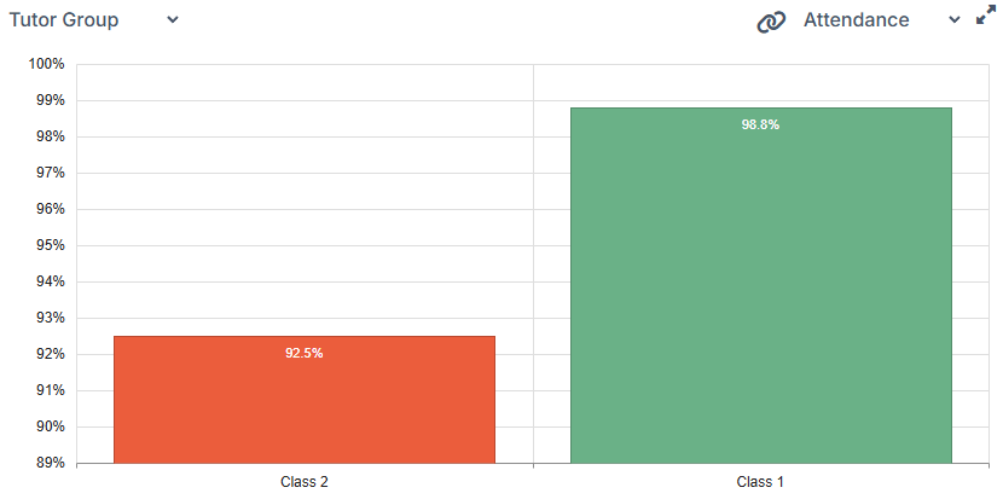
Overall Attendance

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

Attendance 

95.1%

+0.0% 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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= i5KxggkPTw>

THE CAREY FEDERATION



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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



Department
for Education

We are the department for opportunity

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'.



Dear parent / guardian,

We are delighted to share with you a new NHS funded service designed to support young people aged 7-12 who are experiencing worries or anxieties; **Lumi Nova**. With the end of the school year approaching, we wanted to remind you to take advantage of our offer as your child/ren transition into the summer and new academic year.

What is Lumi Nova?

Lumi Nova is an intergalactic adventure game to support young people to fight fears and manage worries. Whilst exploring planets, customising characters and earning treasure your child breaks their fears and worries down into manageable steps, learning life-long skills and building resilience.

Watch this short animated video to learn more: [Lumi Nova Introduction Video](#)

Who can use Lumi Nova?

Lumi Nova was created for 7 - 12 year olds (school years 3 - 7) who are having difficulties with fears, worries, or anxiety related to social situations, separation or phobias.

Lumi Nova can help your child to face their worries by breaking them down into small manageable challenges and can support your child with:

- Returning to school or starting a new school
- Making new friends and going to social events
- Speaking in front of a group
- And lots more!

How do you access Lumi Nova?

Accessing Lumi Nova is quick and easy. Use the link below to register and you will receive a text message to guide you through getting started or scan the QR code.

luminova.app/devon

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.

