



**AshwaterPrimary School**

**Newsletter No.36**

**Summer Term. 21st July 2022**

**01409 211228**

## ***Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other***

Dear Parents,

I was so pleased to be well enough to return to school for the Open Evening and Summer Concert. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers. I hope you enjoyed looking at the children's work; they really have 'Aimed High' this year. Thank you the PTFA for the delicious cream teas.

Well done to the instrumentalists, who were superb. It was great to see what they have achieved with hard work and resilience. It was wonderful to see them enjoying it too. Also a huge well done to all the children for excellent singing and dancing.

The Year 6 children spoke from the heart about their memories and with such confidence. Thank you to parents for attending and for your support throughout your child's time at Ashwater. We wish the children every success in the future.

### Unsuitable On-line Content

It has come to our attention that there is an online horror game which some of the children in Class 1 are talking about and playing on the playground. It is called Poppy's playtime and is based on a toy which chases you around a toy factory. Its character is known as Huggy Wuggy. It is certainly not a nice cuddly bear, as its name suggests.

This is a game/character that children are being exposed to on platforms such as Tiktok and YouTube and associated material are becoming increasingly popular on YouTube, Roblox, and other platforms used by young children. The character is named 'Huggy Wuggy' from the 2021 horror game 'Poppy's Playtime'. The character sounds like a cuddly bear, but is actually encouraging children to copy behaviours - hugging people randomly, but then carrying out violence and verbal abuse. There are also some images in the game and within videos of this character which can be disturbing.

The police have posted warnings about this. It previously had a rating of age 8 but has been re-classified for children age 12 and above.



When online safety experts searched for "Poppy Playtime" with Google SafeSearch and YouTube Restricted Mode turned on, and the exact same top results came up when turned off. Posts relating to Poppy Playtime can be found across Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok.

For further information please see: <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2021/12/03/poppy-playtime-online-safety-review/>

We have spoken to the children in Class 1 today and reminded the children about online safety.

## Staff News

Sophie Batstone has come to the end of her time with us as an additional teacher to support the children in the Early Years to catch-up following COVID. Miss Batstone has been a caring and vibrant member of the team and we thank her for her hard work. Miss Batstone has secured an Early Years Teacher position at another Devon school for September and we wish her every success.

## Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

If your financial situation has changed, your child may be entitled to Pupil Premium. This brings other benefits in addition to Free School Meals. In the Federation, we offer a free set of uniform per year, free before and after school clubs, day trips are free and residential are heavily subsidised by the Federation. For further information, please see the attached poster for further details.

# **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:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, plus, from 19 April 2022, those with no recourse to public funds (subject to specified income and capital thresholds)
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) at the time of your application. If your income goes above the threshold in the future, but you remain on Universal Credit, your child will remain eligible. If you applied before 1 April 2018 there was no household income threshold for Universal Credit claimants.

Children who receive any of the above benefits in their own right (i.e. they get benefits payments directly, instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.

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](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.

## Uniform

Please use this form to order any uniform and email the office. We do have stock here and we also have some more coming before the term starts.

<https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/ashwater-primary-school/parents/uniform-ordering/>

## Wild Tribe

Class 1 will have Wild Tribe on Fridays when we return after the Summer break. On Wild Tribe 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.

## End of Term

This has been another challenging year, with Covid hitting us in the Autumn term. However, it has been wonderful to have a full year with the children in school and to have been able to offer all the trips, parent assemblies and wider opportunities again.

I would like to thank all the staff, whatever their role in school, for their hard work and commitment. Without which, all that happens for the children would not be possible.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July is the last day of term and children return on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Wishing you and your children, a very good summer break.

Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher.



# Safeguarding at Halwill

## The Safeguarding Team

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

Mrs R Alford

### **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

Mrs A Rothery

Miss J Miners

Mrs R Cawsey—SENDCo

### **Attendance Officer:**

Miss S Revers

### **Safeguarding Governor:**

Mrs G Marshall

I am pleased to tell you that this term we will be participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* online** programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. *Speak out.* It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

In the online assembly, the *Speak out. Stay safe.* messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

We have studied the content of the materials and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme you can find information on the NSPCC website [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout) or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

## **Additional resources**

### **Adapted assembly for home use**

The NSPCC has also developed an adapted version of their assembly for parents/carers to use at home with their children. This can be found here: [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/safety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/safety). With the help of celebrities, the film focuses on how a child can get support if they have any worries or concerns.

To complement the assembly, there are some resources that can be used to enable further discussion whilst doing activities with your children. These are hosted on the NSPCC website [www.nspcc.org.uk/activities](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/activities).

### **Online safety hub**

You may also like to visit the NSPCC [Online Safety Hub](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety) where you will find advice and information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing nudes, parental controls and more.

You will also find online safety information for families of children with additional needs and disabilities. We have worked with Ambitious about Autism and parents and carers who have children with additional needs and disabilities to create activities to help talk about online safety which you can find at [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-families-children-with-send](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-families-children-with-send).

## **Childline Under 12's Website**

Childline also have a website with age appropriate advice for primary school children on topics such as bullying. It also has games and other interactive tools. Your child can visit it at [www.childline.org.uk/kids](http://www.childline.org.uk/kids).

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website [www.nspcc.org.uk/parents](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents).



## Talking PANTS with your children

Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep your child safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides a simple but valuable rule that can help keep your child safe. You can find out more and download the free resources at [www.nspcc.org.uk/pants](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants).

Penguin and Ladybird have partnered with the NSPCC to create a brand new Pantosaurus book aimed at children ages 4 - 8. **You can find copies of the new book on sale, either in Matalan's selected stores and online, selected SPAR stores or at <https://shop.nspcc.org.uk/>.** All profits from the sale of this book will support the NSPCC.

## Support the NSPCC

You may be interested in the NSPCC's new selection of BUDDY goodies available from the NSPCC shop at <https://shop.nspcc.org.uk/collections/buddy> which make perfect gifts for children - and all profits go to help keep children safe.

# SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY DAYS

BOOK A PLACE NOW - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED - LIMITED SPACES - FUN THEMED DAYS

## Summer Holiday Performing Arts Activity Days:

Location: **Hatherleigh Primary School, EX20 3JB**

Times: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Run by *Jessica Squire Dance* for **ALL primary school aged children**

- Themed performing arts days filled with dance, drama, arts & crafts.
- Expect dance routines, dance & drama games, art & craft activities.
- **PLUS:** mini show to parents/carers @ 2:45pm each day.



**Dates & themes:** feel free to wear outfits (inc fancy dress) that fit the theme too!

Thursday 18/8: **DISNEY DAY!** A day filled with your top Disney characters and songs!

Friday 19/8: **DINOSAUR DAY!** Roarrrrr! It's time to dance like dinosaurs!

Monday 22/8: **PIXAR PARTY!** From movies like Cars, Planes, and all your Pixar favourites!

Friday 26/8: **SUMMER FUN!** Fun activities, games & dances perfect for celebrating summer!

**BOOKING DEADLINE 22.7.22\*** YOU **MUST** PRE-BOOK A SPACE - days fill quickly so BOOK NOW!

\* You may be able to book past the deadline but Jessica is getting married in July and will then be on honeymoon so doesn't want to be taking bookings.

**COST:** £25 if you book one date or **discount:** £20 per day if you book more than one day/child

**ADVANCED BOOKING ESSENTIAL:** Book your child's place NOW! Contact Jessica Squire

Email: [jessicasquire.perform@gmail.com](mailto:jessicasquire.perform@gmail.com) or text/call 07746892660 for more information

## The Carey Qualities

### **Relationships by being Resilient, Resourceful, Reflective and Respectful**

Each Thursday 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 <b>Relationships</b>	For being <b>Resilient</b>	For being <b>Resourceful</b>	For being <b>Reflective</b>	For being <b>Respectful</b>
	Bradley		Mason	Jack

### *Dates for your diary:*

July  
22nd  
September  
1st  
2nd  
5th

*End of summer term*

*Inset day*

*Inset day*

*Pupils return to school*



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



# SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

## A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From the continuing impact of COVID-19 to the war in Ukraine, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

Emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

### KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation as more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what is happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

### EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make us feel angry, scared. Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

### MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

### CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process; adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying calm on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

### SET LIMITS

Managing screens and content can be difficult at the best of times, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try and at least limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

### TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once. Instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

### ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

### FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and feeling becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

### BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our internet may be a shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and explain that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

### IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It's essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

**National  
Online  
Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

<https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com> <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/keeping-you-children-safe-from-upsetting-content/> <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/keeping-you-children-safe-from-upsetting-content/>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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