



Monday 29th September 2025

Ashwater Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No.4 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

The YR-Y6 children thoroughly enjoyed the visit from author John Townsend on Friday. John was very entertaining and informative. Many of his books are animal related and so the children were very engaged. They answered and asked lots of questions enthusiastically. A huge thanks to John Townsend for coming to our school and to the Appledore Book Festival for making this happen. They have provided each child with a copy of one of John's books; we are very grateful for their generosity.



The Y5&Y6 children who attended the Tag Rugby Festival at Winkleigh on Friday had a fantastic time. They played against 5 other schools and aimed high throughout. Well done to all of them.



Upcoming Events

October 1

After School Hockey Club

October 3

Wild Tribe Class 2

October 15

Harvest Festival Assembly 9:15am

October 16

Clive Pig Visit at Halwill for Class 2
Ashwater and Class 3 Halwill.

October 22

Tempest Individual photos 1:30pm

October 24

Last day of term

November 3

Non-Pupil Day

November 4

First day back

November 10

Flu Immunisation Visit

November 12

Parent Consultation 2:00pm – 6:00pm

November 27

KS2 The Lion, the Witch and the
Wardrobe at Theatre Royal Plymouth
12:00pm – 6:30pm (approx.)

November 27

Christmas Craft Fair 1:00pm – 4:00pm

December 5

Ashwater Christmas Fair 3:30 – 4:30pm

December 10

Christmas Lunch

December 17

Ashwater Church Service 9:15am and
5:00pm at St Peters Church

Christmas Dates

We have set our Christmas dates, please see the 'Upcoming Events' list. Please note, where there are two performances or services, this is to enable us to fit in as many parents and extended family as possible so we request that you only attend one of the events. We will be ticketing this nearer the time.

Attendance

Thank you for your support with your child's attendance. I know our families do send children into school when they are well enough to be here. I am also aware that there have been bugs going around and we do ask that children remain off school for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhea. We appreciate that this will affect children's attendance but cannot be helped. Therefore, it is very important that children are in school when they are able to be. Please see an important letter regarding holiday requests later in the newsletter.

Change of Non-Pupil Day 2026 – Royal Cornwall Show, Friday 5th June 2026

This year we had a non-pupil day that wasn't attached to a holiday. Next year we have the same planned in the Summer Term on Monday 22nd June 2026. However, on reflection, we feel that it would benefit our farming families if this non-pupil day was moved to coincide with The Royal Cornwall Show. This would allow families to attend the show on Friday 5th June 2026. We hope that many families will make the most of this opportunity to enjoy an event that is so important to our rural heritage. Please note, as we are providing this opportunity, we will not be able to authorise requests to attend the show on Thursday 4th June.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS – Are you entitled to apply?

Even though your child is entitled to universal infant free school meals in reception, year 1 and year 2, if you are eligible for free school meals it is important that you register as soon as possible as this attracts income for the school and will also allow you to benefit from: -

- **A full set of school uniform**
- **Free attendance at Breakfast and After School Clubs**
- **2/3 reduction in residential fees**

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of 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)

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](#)

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

School Lunches – please book by Sunday for the following week

We are swapping Thursday and Fridays menu around next week so please do book in for Thursdays school dinner if you want fish and chips! The chicken wrap will be on Friday. Thank you.

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- 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)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

To apply please use the following link

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCCSCitizenPortal_live

If you require any assistance, then please do not hesitate to contact the school offices.

Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher



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