



Tuesday 14th October 2025

Ashwater Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No.6 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

Last week, the Class 2 children had a visit from an employee of the Houses of Parliament who visits schools in the Southwest. He spoke about the two Houses of Commons and Lords. He explained that both Houses had the same three jobs; debating important issues, checking that the government are doing their job, making new laws. He spoke about our school being in the constituency of 'Torridge and Tavistock', approximately 100,000 people and the skills you might need to be an MP. We were really impressed with the children – so many hands up to answer this question. He requested about 8 answers, mostly the children spoke about being respectful, knowing the community, understanding people's feelings, seeking fairness, not discriminating, speaking clearly etc. Well done to the children and a great opportunity to learn about democracy, one of our British Values.

On Monday, Clive Pig, 'International Story-Fella' brought Ancient Egypt alive for the Class 2, when they joined the full day work shop at Halwill School.



Harvest Assembly, Wednesday 15th October, 9:15 am

We look forward to welcoming parents and wider family to our Harvest Assembly. We will be collecting non-perishable foods and toiletries for donation to the food bank. Please kindly send these in ahead of the assembly.

Y5/6 DISP Football Tournament- Hosted by Halwill Primary School- Wednesday 22nd October, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

As mentioned previously, we are working with a group of maintained schools called Devon Independent Schools Partnership. Through this, children attended a Tag Rugby Festival at Winkleigh School a couple of weeks ago. Soon it will be the Carey Federation's opportunity to host Halwill School. We will shortly select the teams, and a letter will be sent home if your child is involved.

Upcoming Events

October 15

After School Hockey Club

October 16

Stephen Shield Cross Country,
Torrington – selected pupils only

October 17

Wild Tribe Class 2

October 21

Individual photos 1:30pm

October 22

Carey Federation Football Festival at
Halwill 1:00 – 3:00 pm – selected pupils
only

October 24

Last day of term

November 3

Non-Pupil Day

November 10

Flu Immunisation Visit

November 12

Parent Consultation 2:00pm – 6:00pm

November 14

PTFA AGM 2:45pm

November 22

KS2 children singing at Exeter Cathedral

November 23

Ashwater Village Christmas Craft Fair
1:00pm – 4:00pm

November 27

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

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 Peter's Church

Clubs Price Increase

We really want to increase our After School Club provision, but it is proving challenging because the cost involved in paying staff to run the clubs outweigh what we are charging. Therefore, we are having to increase the cost of After School Clubs to £3 per session from after October Half Term. This is still below what other schools are charging. We are sorry to have to make this change but ultimately it will mean we can offer more clubs on different days.

Parent Governor Vacancy

A huge thank you to Rachael O'Donnell who has been a Parent Governor and been an excellent support to the school and Federation, particularly in her role as Finance Governor. Rachael has stepped down from the Governors due to her other commitments.

We therefore have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Information will be sent out about this shortly.

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.

The Christmas Craft Fair is being held in the Village Hall on the 27th November. Heidi Edworthy is running this in aid of Ashwater PTFA. A huge thanks to her for this.

On Friday 5th December, there will be a Christmas Fair for the Ashwater School and Pre-school children and their families.

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.



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

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)
- 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



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

3rd October 2025

Holsworthy Community College is part
of the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
family

Dear parents and carers,

It was fantastic to meet so many future students, parents, carers and families at our recent Open Evening. We hope that you enjoyed exploring the school site and meeting many of our current staff and students. If you need to revisit the presentation or digital copy of the prospectus, these can be accessed via the link below:

[Transition | Holsworthy Community College](#)

The next stage of our transition offer is through a series of open morning events. These are designed to allow students in the current year 5 and 6 with their parents/ carers, to visit the school during its normal working hours. This will give you the opportunity to tour the school and see the typical teaching and learning that takes place across all our curriculum subjects. This is undoubtedly the best way to experience a typical day at Holsworthy Community College.

We expect these open mornings to be popular so booking a slot is essential. To reserve your place, please contact our reception team via admin@hccdevon.org or 01409 253430.

Open mornings take place on the following dates and times; we envisage that they will last an hour.

- Friday 10th October at 8.40am and 9.40am
- Monday 13th October at 8.40am
- Tuesday 14th October at 8.40am
- Thursday 16th October at 11.10am
- Friday 17th October at 8.40am
- Monday 20th October at 8.40am and 11.10am

If you have any questions or queries about the College or any aspect of the move from primary school to secondary education, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Mr P Ruse
Vice Principal



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