



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

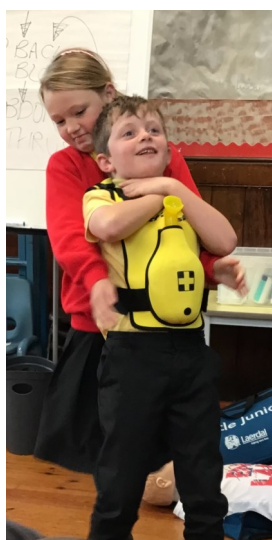
Welcome back to the second half of term. I hope you all enjoyed the half term break. We had a fantastic end to the term with our Harvest Assembly. It was great to see so many parents attending. I am sure you enjoyed hearing the children sing and share their learning. They were all super!

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation regarding the school closure last week. It was a very difficult decision and not one we took lightly. Devon County Council were very clear that was a potential risk to life and as a result more than 150 schools in Devon closed. Well done to the children who engaged with home-learning and to the staff for quickly adapting to on-line activities.

On Monday, the KS1 children enjoyed a multi skills event at Holsworthy College. The weather wasn't very kind but the children were resilient and did very well.



Mini Medics



Class 2 had a fantastic Mini Medics session today with Joe Rice where they learnt First Aid, such an important life skill. Thank you to the PTFA for paying for this, it really was a worthwhile experience for children.



Apply for Your Child's Primary School Place

Do you or someone you know, have a child born between the 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020? If you do, they are due to start primary school in September 2024. You will be able to apply for their school place from the 15th November 2023. Please be aware that the Local Authority is no longer sending any letters out to families inviting them to apply. You can pre-register your details so that you receive an email and/or a text message when the system goes live for applications on the 15th of November. Please visit the web pages below for further information about the process - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/>

You can register to receive a reminder by completing this form

<https://forms.office.com/e/ksWfDUXZKxhttps://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>

Every day is Open Day!! We don't have an open day for prospective parents because we prefer to offer individual tours to families so you can see us as we are on an ordinary day. Please contact the office if you would like to arrange a visit.

Home-Learning Projects Parent Showcase

Well done to children for aiming high in their projects. Parents are invited to come in to school to look at the projects on Friday 10th November at 9:10 am Ashwater.

Tempest Photos Wednesday 22nd November

Tempest are now coming on Wednesday 22nd November take individual photos. If you would like a family photo, please be at school for 8:30am. If your child does not attend Pre-School that day but you would like photos, please bring them in in their uniform for 9.15am.



Parent Consultation Wednesday 29th November 1.30pm—6pm

This is your opportunity to meet your child's class teacher for a 10 minute appointment to discuss their academic and social progress this term. We are offering these as live sessions in school or if you would prefer on-line. Please book your appointment via the school office from Tuesday 14th November. You can either call, email or drop into the office to make the appointment. If you are unable to make the date offered, please let us know and teachers will arrange to see you at another time.

A short report will also be shared with you. It is not a requirement for schools to provide anything written if there is a face to face parent consultation but we feel that sharing where your child is currently attaining aids the discussion in the meeting.



Remembrance

We will be marking Remembrance on Friday 10th November in a special assembly. Poppies and other items from the Royal British Legion are available for the children to buy.

Children in Need Thursday 16th November

For a donation of £1, children can wear something spotty and spectacular (non uniform).

Visit from Sir Geoffrey Cox, MP Friday 17th November

Our local MP will be visiting us as and the children will have the opportunity to ask him questions about politics or issues close to their hearts. It will be a good opportunity to impress on him the strengths and challenges of small rural schools.





Christmas Dates



Saturday 2 nd December	12:30 – 2:30 pm Ashwater Christmas Extravaganza
Wednesday 6 th December	Christmas Production 9:15 am
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Production 5:00 pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 th December	9:15 am Church Service

Defibrillator

I am pleased to tell you that the DfE have provided all schools with a defibrillator, which is suitable for children. This is now in place, should we ever need it.

Health Visitor Survey

The Health Visitor service is so important for parents with young children. Devon County Council are consulting on this service. Please do respond to this survey as it will help improve this vital service for future generations.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gzehjWjLP0S7S5I_d_1b-6VVDKjoPyrNPkNIEJlIGaBpUQzQ2OE1BQkQ2SjNOT0FPNUZSWU1GRkswUC4u

Safeguarding at Ashwater

The Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Alford

Attendance Officer:

Miss S Revers

Safeguarding Governor:

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs R Cawsey

Mrs A Clark

Miss H Frayn

Safeguarding

Keeping Safe on Dark Roads

Use dedicated pedestrian crossings at all times to cross the road, if available.

Remind children to put all electronic devices away be vigilant before crossing. (Remember Stop, Look, Listen.)

Try to encourage your children NOT to use headphones. This is because it will stop them having a full sense of their surroundings. The more that your children have their wits about them; the less likely children are to be taken by surprise. If they insist on using their headphones suggest they use the ear bud types and only use one side.

Be careful when walking up driveways. There could be cars pulling in or reversing out.

Try to walk on a footpath or pavement at all times. If there are none then keep in single file to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic.

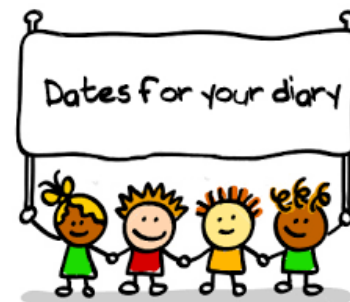
Even if it takes a bit longer, you should encourage children to stay on well-lit roads and paths rather than through dark parks or deserted alleyways. They should also make sure they walk on the side of the road with cars heading towards them and ensure they are visible. It is worth checking out our reflective textile shapes that can be applied to bags or clothing to help children be seen in low light.

Carry a small torch that you can easily clip on to your key chain or using your smartphone's torch app.

Dates for your diary:

November

10th	Parents viewing of Home Learning projects 9am
16th	Children In Need - Non Uniform Spotty and Spectacular
17th	Sir Geoffrey Cox visit
20th	Yr 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Festival at HCC
22nd	Tempest Photos—individuals and families
29th	Parent Consultations 1.30pm—6.00pm



December

6th	Christmas Production 9.15am
7th	Christmas Production 5.00pm
13th	Christmas Lunch
14th	Christmas Church Service 9.15am
15th	End of term



January

2nd	Non-pupil day
3rd	Start of term

February

12th to 16th	Half term
--------------	-----------

March

11th	KS1 Performing Arts Festival Y1 and 2 at HCC
------	--

June

24th	Yr 5 & 6 Cricket Festival at HCC
------	----------------------------------

July

8th	Beach Festival Y3 and 4 at Bude
-----	---------------------------------

Term dates: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/halwill-primary-school/parents/term-dates/>



A gingerbread man character with a smiling face, rosy cheeks, and a black top hat with a red band. He is wearing a red scarf and holding a red and white striped candy cane in his right hand. A small red candy is floating above him.

A red beanie with a green pom-pom on top and a green ribbed cuff at the bottom. The beanie features a white zigzag pattern and small white dots.

**MERRY
XMAS**



The
Landmark
Trust



Open Days

Winsford Cottage Hospital

Halwill Junction, Devon

Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 November 2023

10am – 4pm

Free entry, advance booking preferred



Scan to book tickets



www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/

Please see the following message which we have been asked to share with you by Devon County Council:

We believe that in order for a pupil to fully benefit from their education, good attendance is crucial. As of September 2013, an amendment to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 came in to force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. These changes reinforced the Government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted authorised absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

A family holiday is not normally considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised by the school.

Should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measures could be instigated. This could mean receiving any of the following;

- *A Penalty Notice*
- *A summons to the Magistrate Court which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment for up to 3 months.*

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority if a pupil has a number of unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can be acquired when;

- 1) Leave has been requested, but the circumstances are such that the school is unable to authorise the leave and it is taken anyway.*
- 2) Leave is not requested and/or the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason (example – a family holiday). Only the Head teacher can authorise an absence. This year there have been occasions when schools have been notified that the pupil is sick, but the school later discovers and reasonably believes that the reason given for the absence is not genuine.*
- 3) A child continually arrives late after the registration period has closed.*

Schools need to notify the Local Authority in all of the circumstances listed above.

Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated.

We understand the disappointment that the refusal of a leave request may cause, but as you can appreciate this policy represents the school's responsibility and commitment towards providing your child's education and supporting their future life opportunities.

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:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).

Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

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) 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.

NORTH DEVON CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

**SPONSORED BY
BREMCO HYDRAULIC SERVICES LIMITED, YELLAND**

**Six Races throughout the Winter
2023- 2024**

Sunday 1st October: West Buckland School

Sunday 5th November: Northam Burrows

Sunday 26th November: Coxleigh Barton, Shirwell

Sunday 14th January: Westward Ho!

Sunday 4th February: Northam Burrows

Sunday 3rd March: West Buckland School

**FULL DETAILS AND TO ENTER ON LINE GO TO:
www.northdevonxcleague.weebly.com**



2023-24 LEAGUE PROGRAMME

ENTRIES INVITED FROM

SCHOOLS, RUNNING CLUBS, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS

THE LEAGUE IS OPEN TO NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY IRRESPECTIVE OF ABILITY OR EXPERIENCE

RACES FOR UNDER 9's THROUGH TO SENIORS



www.northdevonxcleague.weebly.com

Struggling to top up your prepayment meter?

You might be able to claim fuel vouchers

If you have prepayment meters and can't afford to top them up, we can help. We may be able to give you fuel vouchers, and our specialist energy team can help you find ways to save money on your household bills

Call 01237 879233, email fuelvouchers@ruraldevoncab.org.uk or scan the QR code to request a call back



**citizens
advice**

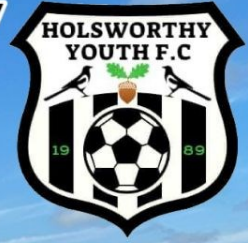
**Torridge, North,
Mid & West Devon**



Registered charity number: 1068496



HOLSWORTHY YOUTH F.C



*** 2 FREE TASTER SESSIONS ***

U10G-YR 4/5

COME ALONG & HAVE A TRY.....

**EVERY TUESDAY 6-7PM
TRAINING @ YOUTH PITCH**

**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE MESSAGE/CALL
TERINA 07415 498680**

Ashwater Baby and Toddler Group!

Held at Priestacott Cottage EX21 5EW

Thursday mornings
from 9.00am to 11.00am
(Term Time only)

£1.00 per child towards
snack etc

For more information
please contact Joy Dawe
on 07879336743
Or PM on Facebook