



11th November October 2025

Upcoming Events

Ashwater Primary School

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Newsletter No.8 Autumn Term

Dear Families,

The children have settled back into the second half of term very well. I hope they had a good half term break and are ready for another busy few weeks!

We are delighted and very grateful to Ashwater Parish Church, who have generously donated £285 to Ashwater School. This is half of the sum of money raised from the Archangel's Way Expedition on September 13th to Brentor Church. The day was also a celebration of the Archangel's Way Path. Prior to half term, Dianna Marriott, who also previously volunteered here, the treasurer Derek Ching and Liz Martin presented the cheque to the children in assembly. Thank you so much for thinking of the school. We will be talking to the children and staff about how best to spend the money.



Just before we broke up, we hosted the DISP Football Tournament at Halwill. This was a fantastic occasion including Halwill, Ashwater, Shebbear, Winkleigh, St Giles, Monkleigh, Hatherleigh and Bow. All the children did brilliantly, they aimed high and were respectful to each other. Congratulations to Hatherleigh who won overall and well done to Shebbear, who were the runners up. Thank you to Mr Alford, Miss Frayn and Mr Hayler for their help before and on the day. Also, a huge thank you to Mrs Wilson for her help with a lot of behind the scenes organisation.

November 11

Remembrance Assembly (children only)

November 12

After School Club – Tag Rugby
Parent Consultation 2:00pm – 6:00pm

November 13

After School Club – Board Games

November 14

Wild Tribe Class 1
Children in Need
PTFA AGM 2:45pm

November 22

KS2 children singing at Exeter Cathedral

November 23

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

November 24

After School Club – Board Games
(Change of date)

November 27

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

December 18

Last Day of Autumn Term

January 5

First Day of Spring Term



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

Parent Consultation- Wednesday 12th November, 2:00 – 6:00 pm

You can now book your 10 minute appointment slot by calling, emailing or coming to the school office. Devon Family Hub will be in school for the duration of the Parent Consultation, if anyone would like a chat with them.

Remembrance

Today, 11th November, we will hold a special Remembrance Assembly with the children. Poppies are still available, if children would like to wear one in the assembly.

CLUB CHANGE OF DATE – board Games

Due to the KS2 school trip on Thursday 27th November, **Board Games will be Monday 24th November.**

Wild Tribe

Class 1 have Wild Tribe this half term on Friday mornings. Children doing Wild Tribe need to bring in waterproof overalls or long sleeves and long trousers (not jeans), long hair must be tied up.

Children In Need Friday 14th November

The dress up theme is 'dress like a superhero' or 'wear something spotty', if children would like to, for a £1 donation. There will also be a 'Surprise 25' challenge led by the School Council.

Attendance Letters

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. We have reviewed attendance for the first half of the Autumn term. If your child's attendance is below 95%, you will receive a letter this week. We appreciate that parents might be disappointed to receive a letter, however, it is important that we flag to you if your child's attendance is below the expected so you are aware.

Exeter Cathedral Chorister Outreach Programme – Saturday 22nd November

This term we have the pleasure of taking part in the Chorister Outreach Programme. Andrew Downton, Singing Development Director at Exeter Cathedral will be teaching our Key Stage 2 children, 3 songs during three workshops in school. (There is no cost for these workshops). The children then have the fabulous opportunity to perform these songs at Exeter Cathedral with other schools within the Torridge area along with Exeter Choir and the Cathedral Choristers on **Saturday 22nd November**. It will be a great experience for the children to be able to attend. We will be asking parents to make arrangements for children to be dropped to and from the Cathedral. Parents, siblings, grandparents, and family friends are all welcome to come to the (free) concert at the end of the afternoon.

A letter will be sent out in due course with details and consent form. We are looking forward to a wonderful afternoon and we really hope as many children as possible will attend. Below are the timings for the Saturday performance:
Saturday 22nd November:

1.15-1.30pm: Children to arrive and are supervised by school staff.

(Please ensure that children have had lunch and been to the toilet before they arrive)

1:30 Rehearsal
4.00pm: Short break (Children may wish to bring a drink and snack)
4.25pm: All performers into "offstage" position
4.30pm: Concert – everyone welcome. (approx. 5:20 finish)

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 today

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)
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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