



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

Dear Parents,

Apologies that we were unable to send out a newsletter last week due to having Ofsted at Ashwater School. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

### Children's Health

We have had a case of Strep A at Ashwater School and a case of Scarlet Fever at Halwill. Please see the 'Safeguarding' section of the newsletter for signs and symptoms. If you are at all concerned please see your GP or call 111 out of hours. Both schools are regularly deep cleaned and good hand hygiene is promoted with the children, please continue this at home. Please let us know if your child is diagnosed with one of the above diseases.

### Christmas



A huge thank you to the 'Friends' for putting on a super Christmas Craft Party for the children and organising the purchase of the Christmas tree. For their first event, I thought our new team did a fantastic job and the children certainly seemed to enjoy it! Thank you also to parents who joined the light switch-on, the children sang beautifully and it certainly gave us the Christmassy feeling! Thank you also for the hamper donations.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the Christmas plays and church service.

This year we have changed the format of the Christmas performances so we have three separate shows. This means that parents and extended family will only watch the show their child is in, obviously if you have children in different classes you will watch each of these. We are not restricting numbers, but we are asking that parents and family attend only one of the two showings for their child's class. The changes mean we will not be issuing tickets this year. Please see below for the show dates and times.

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am Class 1&2 Christmas Production - Parents welcome 2:30 pm Class 1&2 Christmas Production – Parents welcome
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	2:20 pm Class 3 Christmas Production – Parents welcome 3:00 pm Class 4 Christmas Production – Parents welcome  5:30 pm Class 3 Christmas Production – Parents welcome 6:15 pm Class 4 Christmas Production – Parents welcome
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day (£1 to Save the Children)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	2:00 pm Church Service in the Baptist Chapel – Parents welcome



The Christmas Post Box is up and children can bring in cards and post them to other children or staff. Cards can be brought in right up to the last day of term. Please ensure the **child's name and class** is written on the envelope. In the last two years we have asked children not to lick down the envelopes and we would ask the same again, due to the number of bugs circulating. Please can children either tuck in the envelope flap or seal with a sticker, tape or glue. Thank you.

Children can wear **Christmas jumpers or something Christmassy on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**. Donations of £1 are welcome and these will go to Save the Children. Please don't buy anything especially, second hand jumpers are encouraged or even some tinsel! This will be a non-uniform day.

### Home-Learning

It was wonderful to see so many parents at the display of home-learning projects. I am sure you were impressed by the range of projects and the learning demonstrated. Well done to all the children for their hard work and to parents for your support with these. Children should have received feedback from teachers by now. Thank you to the Year 6 guides who did an excellent job of welcoming parents. The children showed great resilience in overcoming their nerves in what can be a daunting task but one that will give the children confidence in the future.

We would value your feedback on our new Home-Learning Policy that was implemented this term. Please complete this form by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December: <https://forms.gle/sUSB6pwYgaSTwAbXA>

### Wild Tribe

**Class 1 & 2** will have Wild Tribe on Tuesdays for the first half of the Spring Term. 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. During Wild Tribe sessions, children may be given hot chocolate and marshmallows. If you would like to see the ingredient list, please speak to the Office and please let us know if your child **CANNOT** have these.



### Clubs

A reminder that Mr Hayler's club that was rearranged from 1<sup>st</sup> December will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

All Class 4 children will need to be collected after clubs until February half term due to the earlier sunset times.

### Household Support Fund

Please see a notice from the Early Help Team of Devon County Council

We are pleased to announce that we have access to further funding to support families on low incomes to support with food and utility costs. This is through the Household Support Fund.

Families on low incomes can get help with food and utility costs via the new round of the **Household Support Fund**, which Early Help are administering locally. The scheme runs until **31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**. Funds are limited, so when the allocation is used up we will close for applications.

Through this fund, Early Help is able to provide a grant per family to support with:

- Food
- Supporting for energy and water bills for household purposes
- Essential white goods such as a fridge, freezer or cooker
- Consideration for petrol for essential journeys



The family needs to meet the following criteria:

- You are a family (at least 2 people where at least 1 person is either pre-birth or up to 18 years old)
- You are experiencing financial hardship
- You need financial help to pay utility bills or buy food and essential items linked to food, warmth, and utilities for your family
- Not have received financial assistance from another source for the same reason

Please note:

- Payment will be sent directly to families through BACS (it is essential we have the families bank details)
- There will be no food vouchers available in this scheme
- Only one application for an award per household within this round (HSF3) of the scheme, that will run from 16 November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Repeat applications are unlikely to be successful.
- If a family have previously received hardship funding from Early help applications to HSF1 and 2 they will be considered. However, families who have not previously received funding will be prioritised



**Please contact Mrs Alford via the school office if you would like to apply for this fund.**

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>
Class 2—Jake Class 2—Bella Class 4—Oscar	Class 3—Emily Class 4—Emily Class 4—Summer	Class 1—Bethany Class 1—Thomas Class 4 —George Class 4—Kitty	Class 3—Harley	Class 3—Jack H Class 4—Caleb

**Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers.**

Families in Devon on low incomes, whose children receive free school meals, will get support this winter to help them buy food during the school holidays.

Once again, we're providing holiday food vouchers for children and young people who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals.

If you have children at school and your financial circumstances have changed, your children may be eligible for free school meals.

You can find out by applying online through our [Devon Citizen's Portal](#).

The deadline for applications, in order to receive free school meal holiday vouchers for the Christmas school holiday, is **Friday 16 December**, so please apply as soon as possible.

Before the end of this term, we'll be sending eligible families free school meal holiday vouchers to cover both the Christmas and February 2023 half-term holidays at the same time. That's to give families more flexibility to prioritise and budget their winter food expenditure themselves.

Vouchers can be used at the following supermarkets: Aldi, Iceland, Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Asda, Waitrose and M&S Food.

### *Dates for your diary:*

#### December

7th	9:30am Class 1 & 2 Christmas Production—Parents welcome 2:30 pm Class 1 & 2 Christmas Production – Parents welcome
13th	2:20 pm Class 3 Christmas Production – Parents welcome 3:00 pm Class 4 Christmas Production – Parents welcome 5:30 pm Class 3 Christmas Production – Parents welcome 6:15 pm Class 4 Christmas Production – Parents welcome Christmas Lunch
14th	Christmas Jumper Day (£1 donation to Save the Children)
16th	Church Service in the Baptist Chapel. 2.00pm.
16th	Last day of Autumn term

#### January

2nd	Bank holiday
3rd	First day of Spring term

#### February

13th to 17th	Half term
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#### March

31st	End of term
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#### April

17th	Start of summer term
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#### May

1st	Bank holiday
8th	Bank holiday
29th May to 2nd June	Half term

#### June

5th	Non-pupil day
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#### July

21st	Last day of term
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## School lunches—have your say!

Devon Norse who provide our school lunches are Looking to improve their service. Even if your child does not currently have school lunches, please take a few moments to complete the online questionnaire. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/r/y8tiTr4vHa>



# 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

**Six children in the UK have died after contracting** strep A infection and health officials are warning parents and school staff to look out for its signs and symptoms.

While most people who get it will not become extremely sick, the highly contagious bacteria that cause the infection can, in some cases, cause serious illnesses, health complications and death.

### **What is strep A?**

Strep A bacteria can cause many different infections. The bacterium is commonly found in the throat and on the skin, and lots of people have it without even knowing and do not come to any harm.

However, they can spread it to others who might become ill. People can catch it through close contact and from coughs and sneezes. Outbreaks can sometimes happen in places such as schools.

Most health issues caused by strep A are mild, but can range from minor illnesses to serious and deadly diseases. They include the skin infection impetigo, **scarlet fever** and strep throat.

### **What are the symptoms?**

Strep throat is different from a regular sore throat and the pain can come on very quickly. Symptoms include pain when swallowing, fever and red and swollen tonsils – sometimes with white patches or streaks of pus.

The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature, a sore throat and swollen neck glands.

A rash appears 12 to 48 hours later that starts on the chest and stomach, then spreads. A white coating also appears on the tongue that peels, leaving the tongue red, swollen and covered in little bumps, which is often called “strawberry tongue”.

Impetigo is a skin infection which starts with red sores or blisters that then burst, leaving crusty, golden patches.

Very rarely, strep A can cause severe illness when the bacteria get into parts of the body that are usually free from bacteria. This is called invasive group A streptococcal disease.

Microbiologists believe that reduced mixing among children over the last two years may have caused a drop in population-wide immunity that may result in the UK experiencing an increase in transmission, particularly among school-age children.

*Source – The Guardian*



# **Christmas Lunch**

Wednesday 14th December. Please order through SchoolMoney asap.



## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**



**Roast Turkey**

*or*

**Vegetarian Roast**

*served with*

**Roast Potatoes**

**Pigs in Blankets**

**Sage & Onion Stuffing**

**Peas, Carrots & Sprouts**

**Gravy & Cranberry Sauce**

*followed by*

**Christmas Pudding Cake**



*or Ice Cream Tub*



Was your child born between  
1st September 2018 and  
31st August 2019?

## How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at

[www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)

from 15th November 2022 to the 15th January 2023

If you cannot access the school  
admissions website you can get  
more information by calling our  
Education Helpline on

**0345 155 1019**

or email: [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk)



Even if you have already given  
details to a primary school, you  
must apply for a place through the  
Admissions Team. This is the only  
way to apply; other forms or lists  
held by schools will not count.

**Devon**  
County Council 



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