

Ashwater Primary School
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THE CAREY FEDERATION



Halwill Primary School
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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Ruh Alford B.Ed (Hons.), M.Ed
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Monday 6th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Ashwater School Update

As you can appreciate the COVID situation is ever changing and as I said in my letter to you yesterday, we would continue to monitor the situation.

Unfortunately, there have been further cases at Halwill School. In addition, Torridge rates are one of the highest in the country and other local schools have experienced a number of cases too, so COVID is certainly in the community. Therefore, in discussion with the Chair of Governors, we have taken the very difficult decision **to postpone the Ashwater Christmas Shows this week**. Depending on the COVID situation, we may be able to show them next week but we will keep this under review. Staff will be making a virtual recording. It is disappointing as the show means so much to children and families and offer the children a great opportunity to develop their confidence, however, the safety of the community must come first.

What further measures are we taking?

To avoid movement of staff between the two schools:

- Wild Tribe, Dance with Jess Squire and PE providers have been cancelled for this week. Therefore, there will be no After School Club. If you have paid for this week, this will transfer as a credit to next term.
- Both Alex Rogozinsky and Ruth Hayes music tuition will be cancelled this week.
- I will remain at Halwill and can be contacted via the Halwill office admin@halwill.devo.sch.uk 01409 221476.
- Ailie Wilson, Ashwater Administrator has tested positive on the LFD test and so is isolating and awaiting the results of PCR test so will not be attending Ashwater School. If her result is negative, she will remain at Halwill in her MTA role.
- All visitors including the Toddler Group will be cancelled
- All staff meetings will be virtual

The only staff who move between schools are our Catering Assistant who only has contact with the Halwill kitchen and as you know Claire Baker, the cook, has already had COVID and Andy Moakes who will only clean Ashwater School when it is completely empty.

Cleaning Regime

We have maintained a high standard of cleanliness throughout the pandemic. We have never stepped down hand washing but will certainly impress this again. The whole school is cleaned thoroughly with Invincible, daily, this includes tables and their under edges, pens, pencils and other equipment. Touch points, such as door handles and light switches are cleaned with Invincible throughout the day. Invincible is a product approved to kill COVID-19 and is also safe to use in schools. If any parent would like to see the products we use, we will be happy to show you.

As we now know, COVID-19 is an airborne virus so classrooms always have windows and doors open and CO2 monitors are in place to check the air quality.

Unfortunately, means such as fumigation are only suitable for insect infestations and will not kill COVID-19, hence why they are not recommended.

In our recent Health and Safety Audit, the inspector was very pleased with our measures for hygiene and particularly with COVID-19 procedures.

Face Coverings

Please wear face coverings and keep your distance from each other at drop-off and pick-up. Staff have been wearing face coverings for a long time and will continue to do so.

Testing

The majority of cases at Halwill are asymptomatic so please test your child with an LFD test regularly so we can catch cases quickly. All staff are testing regularly.

I thank you for your understanding at this very challenging time and wish you and your families well.

Keep safe,

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher