



# Ashwater Primary School

Newsletter No.13 Spring Term.

23rd February 2021

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

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your children managed to have a good half term break despite the poor weather and restrictions. I thought it would be sensible to resume the weekly newsletter this half term now that we know all pupils will return from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. In addition we now have a number of upcoming events and information to share.

### Full Opening to All Year Groups March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

As you will have heard, the Prime Minister laid out his roadmap to easing restrictions and we are very pleased that we will be able to fully open the school to all children from March 8<sup>th</sup>. Attendance will be compulsory, according to DfE guidance. Whilst most parents are probably very happy that children will get back to education and social interaction, there may be anxieties about transmission of COVID. To reassure you, all staff who come into school are having twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing for COVID, which they undertake at home. My understanding is that we will resume our enrichment lessons and clubs so all external staff will be included in this testing programme. Alongside testing, we will continue with our stringent measures to remain COVID-safe.

The latest DfE guidance was published yesterday evening and it appears that we will return to a plan very like that of the Autumn term. I will take this week to digest it properly and next week I will write to you with full details of timings and procedures as well as an updated risk assessment.

### Remote Learning

Remote Learning will continue until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. A huge well done to all the children and parents for supporting them so well through this. At the start of half-term I had the pleasure of looking at every child's Class Dojo portfolio and I was really impressed with the great 'aim high' attitude and resilience the children have shown. Keeping self-motivated is not easy but most children have done so well. The children coming into school have also done very well because it is a different atmosphere when most of your friends are not in school so well done to those children too.

Also, I must thank the teachers and teaching assistants who have juggled Remote Learning and teaching children in school admirably. It is only when you see what is going on behind the scenes that you realise how much plate spinning is going on and time committed outside of working hours. Although the live lessons were naturally nerve-wracking for the staff, all took up the challenge with relish and have really enjoyed the contact with the children. Thank you for your kind comments about the Remote Learning, they have really boosted the staff. Our plan reflected on feedback from the first lockdown and we will have another parental survey shortly so we can reflect and improve if there is another lockdown or bubble closure.

### Lunches

We anticipate returning to hot lunches from 8<sup>th</sup> March so you can book your child's lunch on SchoolMoney from now, if you would like to.

### Fairtrade Fortnight On-line Event Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 1:30 – 3:00 pm

I am delighted that Fairtrade Devon will be delivering a live event for the Federation children this Friday. It will be via Zoom and will be for all the children (except Pre-School) of both Halwill and Ashwater Schools (for children at home and at school). I will set up and share the Zoom details with you on Class Dojo on Thursday evening. The children at home will need A4 plain paper, scissors, glue stick and felt tips for the session as well as a copy of the 'Banana Timeline' and 'World Map' which will be shared via Class Dojo. Teachers will ask the children to colour in the map prior to the session. If you don't have access to a printer at home, please let your teacher know and we can print a copy off for you to collect. If children are in school, resources will be provided.

### Reading Week and World Book Day Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Next week we will celebrate reading and books and focus on a theme of Cultural Britain. On **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**, children are invited to dress as their favourite book character to school or Zoom lessons and Miss Squire will also do a special live Zoom dance lesson on this day. I appreciate it might be challenging to get a costume at this time so children could if they wanted to, just make a paper hat depicting their favourite book characters. Thank you to Miss Miners for organising the week.

## Comic Relief Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March

The theme this year is 'Funny is Power'. Children may come to school in mufti (non-uniform) or dress as a superhero for a donation of £1 to Comic Relief. It seems a lifetime ago but the Christmas Jumper Day made £61.12 for Save the Children so thank you for your generosity.

## Term Dates

Please see the term dates for 2021 – 2022 on the website. I am sure many people will be hoping to book holidays, if we are able to!

## Communication

A huge thanks to Mandy Furse, Administrator, for checking admin emails outside of school hours and during holidays. If you need to get in touch to request a key worker place or to send me a message, please do so via [admin@ashwater.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashwater.devon.sch.uk). Class Dojo is only for contacting teachers regarding remote learning. The office don't have access to the messenger on Dojo and I don't check it regularly so by using the admin email you will ensure your message gets through. Thank you.

## Staff News

Lin Jennings, who has been caretaker for several years is no longer working with us. We thank Lin for her service over the years and wish her well for the future.

Andy Moakes, who is the caretaker at Halwill and Federation Health and Safety Lead has taken on the caretaking role at Ashwater. His caretaking work happens when staff and pupils are off site so as to avoid crossing bubbles, something he is very careful to do when he has to be on site in the school day, in his Health and Safety role.

## Assemblies

I have really enjoyed seeing the children each week in assembly, we have covered a variety of topics and it has been wonderful for the children to share with others. Please do look at the video from my friend Yamie about Chinese New Year, which I have posted on Dojo. Until we return on 8<sup>th</sup> March, we will continue with these live Zoom assemblies, so there will be two more and I will continue to upload the powerpoint to Class Dojo so you can see who has been celebrated. When the children are all back, I will revert to Zooming into the school bubbles and names of those awarded will be printed in the newsletter.

I hope you have a good week; nearly there with the Remote Learning!

Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

### *Dates for your diary:*

#### February

26<sup>th</sup> Fair trade fortnight On-line Event 1.30 - 3.00pm

#### March

4<sup>th</sup> Reading Week and World Book Day

8<sup>th</sup> All children return to school

19<sup>th</sup> Comic Relief Day

#### April

1<sup>st</sup> Last Day of Spring Term

2<sup>nd</sup> Start of Easter Holidays

16<sup>th</sup> End of Easter Holidays

19<sup>th</sup> Start of Summer Term

**NO NUTS** Please keep our children with severe nut allergies safe. It is imperative that no **Nuts** or **Nut products** are brought into school. Could all parents **PLEASE** be extra vigilant, especially with some cereal bars which contain nuts.  
Your support is appreciated.

