



Ashwater Primary School

Newsletter No.23 Summer Term.

18th May 2021

01409 211228

admin@ashwater.devon.sch.uk

Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

Last week as part of 'Mental Health Awareness Week' we spoke to the children about the importance of talking if they have worries or feel anxious. We explained that they could speak to a member of staff if they needed to talk. Some children already have a regular time to speak to a specific teacher or teaching assistant and if you feel your child would benefit from some input, please do let us know. In the parent survey, a couple of parents have mentioned that this would be of value so please do get in touch if we can help.

As I was celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr on Friday, I Zoomed in from home to do an assembly in which I shared with children how I would be celebrating this year. The younger children were particularly fascinated in the sighting of the new moon, which determines when Eid will be celebrated. They were very keen to know about the moon's phases, something I am sure they will look out for in the night sky. They were all interested to see the sweets and foods that are eaten as part of the celebration and the older children asked very thoughtful questions.

You may be interested to know that I am now a governor for Holsworthy College and attended my first meeting last Thursday. This, I am sure, will help strengthen the links between our schools.

You should have received letters from Holsworthy College now with their transition dates and information. We have included the transition days in the date list of the newsletter.

SATs Assessments

Last week Year 6 would have been sitting SATs assessments. I told you a few weeks ago that Year 2 and Year 6 SATs are not required for this year and I want to confirm we will not be submitting any results centrally. We will continue to do on-going assessments and low-key tests later in the term to get a picture of children's attainment which will be reported to you in the End of Year Report. I am pleased to say that the children are working really hard to catch-up on missed learning and staff are working hard to ensure children are ready for the next phase of their education.

Covid-19 Risk Assessment Update

You should have received a letter from me on Friday. Here is a reminder in case you missed it:

The DfE have updated their advice on face coverings in schools:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/984843/10_May_Schools_Guidance.pdf

We have looked carefully at this guidance and assessed the risks to our Federation. We have taken into account the low rates of transmission locally; that all staff now undertake twice weekly LFD tests and the majority of staff have now had at least the first dose of vaccine. We have also considered the barrier to learning and communication that face coverings are posing.

Therefore, in line with DfE guidance, we have updated our Risk Assessment so that from May 17th 2021, face coverings will no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. We continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible.

Some staff members may choose to wear a face covering in class and we support them in their choice.

We still require face coverings to be worn (unless exempt):

- By visitors
- By parents at drop-off and pick-up
- If supervising a child with COVID symptoms
- If undertaking intimate care

As well as essential visitors for the maintenance of the schools, we are also able to have professional visitors such as County advisers and governors, who hold us to account. We request visitors to undertake LFD tests before their visit and as stated above, they will be expected to wear face coverings.

All other COVID-secure measures will remain the same at this time.

I hope you feel reassured that the changes to the Risk Assessment have been carefully considered and are in line with DfE advice. If you have any concerns, do contact me via the office.

Summer Term Events

As I mentioned last week, we are awaiting further guidance of what exactly we will be able to do post 21st June but we anticipate and hope that we will be able to have a Sports Day, though this may be run differently to previous years. Likewise we hope to have an outdoor event for Year 6 Leavers. We hope parents will be able to attend so we want to give you adequate notice. We have planned:

Sports Day: Wednesday 30th June 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm (timings may vary slightly)

Year 6 Leavers: Wednesday 21st July 2:00 pm

Please note these events, will of course be subject to restrictions easing in the way we anticipate. It is likely that we will have to be flexible in our plans depending on DfE and Government advice, therefore the detail of the events will be finalised nearer the time. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Trips

We would like to offer each class a trip because the children have missed out on so much in the last year.

We have organised a Federation trip for Years 4, 5 & 6 to Roadford Lake where the children will undertake outdoor activities. We are finalising the details and a letter will be sent home in the next couple of weeks. We will be subsidising the trip with Sports Grant money so the cost to parents will be **£25** (no charge to those eligible for Pupil Premium). We are a reflective school and it was suggested previously that parents be canvassed to ensure the cost of trips would not cause financial difficulty before the children are told about them and I appreciate people's financial situations may have changed during the pandemic. If you feel the cost of this trip will be a challenge please do get in touch.

Staff are planning trips for other year groups and we will let you know when we have more details.

Parent Remote Learning and Key Worker Survey

This survey is still open. Thank you to those who have already completed the survey, there are some really positive comments and helpful feedback that we will take on board. Please do complete it if you haven't already: <https://forms.gle/f7qCrgThL3Gtmv6o8>

Tempest Photographs

A reminder that group and individual photos will take place on Thursday 27th May.

Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

May

27th Tempest Photographs

31st May - 4th June HALF TERM

7th June NON PUPIL DAY

June

7th June NON PUPIL DAY

8th Children Return to school

30th Sports Day

July

13th & 14th Yr 6 Transition Days HCC

18th Ashwater Tractor Run

21st Year 6 Leavers

23rd Last Day of Term

September

6th Non-Pupil Day

7th Term Starts

Contacting Ashwater School

The school office (01409 211228) is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you urgently need to contact a member of staff when the office is closed please either call the Classroom direct line or contact Halwill school on 01409 221476.

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.



Please remember to order your School lunches via school-money by Friday of each week. This helps us cater correctly.

Thank you.

The Carey Qualities

In the Carey Federation, we are aspirational learners who build

Relationships by being **Resilient, Resourceful, Reflective** and **Respectful**

Each Friday 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 Relationships	For being Resilient	For being Resourceful	For being Reflective	For being Respectful
Harry H Faith			Thomas Verity Harry C	

After School Clubs - Summer Term 1st Half

Tuesday	Club: Gym Teacher: Di Stanbury	KS1 & KS2	Starting 20th April 3.30-4.30pm Runs for 6 weeks £6
Wednesday	Club: Multi-skills Teacher: Budehaven	KS1 & KS2	Starting 21st April 3.30-4.30pm Runs for 6 weeks £6

If your child has:
a runny nose, is sneezing or feeling unwell
But they don't have:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough, or
- a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

These are
not normally symptoms of coronavirus

Seek advice from a pharmacy,
dial 111 or see your GP

If your child has:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough, or
- a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

This could be a sign of
coronavirus

Book a test