



Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

**Ashwater Pre-School
Information Pack
January 2024**



Ashwater School, Ashwater, Beaworthy, Devon, EX21 5EW
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Welcome to Ashwater Pre-School

Ashwater Pre-School is the perfect setting for your 2 – 4 year old to play, explore and learn. It is part of our teacher led Foundation Stage Unit, which means that transition into Reception is seamless and your child will be very ready for school, both socially and academically. We are a school for 2-11 year olds so our pre-

school children have access to all the additional opportunities such as eating a hot lunch in the dining hall as well as Wild Tribe outdoor learning, which is similar to 'forest school'. In addition the pre-school children join in with our specialist dance, performing arts, yoga and PE teachers. We always include the pre-school children in whole school special events, such as Sports Day, Christmas Nativity and our recent, African Drumming Workshop.

The pre-school children love to receive awards in our Celebration Assembly and enjoy playing with older peers in the playground. This gives a real sense of safety and wellbeing for the pre-school children, as the older children really do demonstrate our school motto by 'Taking Care of Each Other'.

Children can move through the Foundation Stage curriculum at their own pace. Continuity and progression are ensured. Groupings are more flexible to benefit the children and staff can provide opportunities that are challenging and meet individual needs. The small cohort of our setting encourages emotional security which builds confidence and reduces issues around transition. Children have familiar routines and work with the same team of familiar adults. Staff know children and families very well, making it easier to cater for their needs.

Opening Times (term time)

These are the sessions available to book, we ask that you do this half termly:

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 9:00 – 12:00 | | | | | |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | | | | | |
| 12:00 – 3:00 | | | | | |

There will always be a cheerful member of staff to greet your child. We also need to make sure that children are handed safely back to their parent or carer. If your child is going to be picked up by another adult, we will need you to inform us in writing or ring the school to let us know. Drop-off and collection are via the side gate

Children enjoy having lunch in our dining hall. Due to popular demand we offer lunch each day we are open, the lunch session is from 12-1pm.

It is **£2.30** for a hot school lunch (children may bring a healthy packed lunch if preferred).

Please book lunches on our School Money App by Friday for the following week.

Morning Health Club from 8:00 am

Children are also welcome to join us for Morning Health Club where the children are welcome to join us for breakfast and activities from 8:00 (£2.75 per child, payable via our on-line money app). Please book a place for the Morning Health Club with as much notice as possible and at the latest by 12 pm on the previous day.

Fees and Funding

2 Year Olds

The fee for two year olds is £4 per hour. You will be invoiced at the end of each half-term. Payments for sessions will be paid via our on-line payment service, 'School Money'.

Are You Eligible for Free 2 Year Old Funding?

2 Year Olds

1. 2 Year Olds

Generally, children will start at nursery/preschool at the beginning of a term, however if spaces are available we can take in term time. Eligibility for the Early Years Funding for two-year-olds is from the start of the funding period following a child's second birthday and eligibility for all three-years-olds to receive the Early Years Funding is at the start of the funding period following their third birthday.

4.2. This funding will be paid up until the time when the child reaches compulsory school age if the parent chooses to defer or delay entry into school.

If a child is born (or reaches 9 months) between:

- 1 January and 31 March funding can be claimed from: 1 April following the child's birthday
- 1 April and 31 August funding can be claimed from 1 September following the child's birthday
- 1 September and 31 December funding can be claimed from 1 January following the child's birthday

4.3. There is a legal requirement that all children begin full time education by the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. All places offered in reception are for full-time admission in the September following the fourth birthday. This is a legal requirement on schools but not on parents who retain a right to defer admission or send their child part time.

Please view the updated Nursery Policy on the Devon County Website for more information below:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/eycs/for-providers/early-years-and-childcare-in-schools/admissions-to-nursery-places-and-foundation-stage-units-in-schools/>

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Are You Eligible for Free 2 Year Old Funding if not working?

A 2-year-old can get funded childcare if the parent/carer gets one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- child tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Parents must check their eligibility for the entitlement to Early Years Funding for their 2-year-olds. Parents will need their National Insurance number, date of birth, name and child's details. Eligibility can be checked [online](#) or by phone: 0345 155 1013.

3 & 4 Year Olds

Once children reach the first term after their third birthday, they are entitled to **15 hours of free sessions**. You can choose the 15 hours from any of the sessions (please see opening times). You may also choose additional sessions but these will be chargeable at £4 per hour.

If you are entitled to 30 hours of free childcare, you can select any/all of the sessions we offer.

If you are interested in a place for your child or if you would like to come and visit, then please contact our School Office: Telephone: 01409 221 476 (am) or e-mail: admin@ashwater.devon.sch.uk

Meet the F.S.U team!

Mrs Ruh Alford - Executive Headteacher

Mrs Gee – FSU teacher

Miss Millie May – Foundation Stage Practitioner

Miss Ella Dannan – Teaching Assistant (part-time)

Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Children learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

We follow the EYFS curriculum appropriate for their age and development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating his/her understanding through seven areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the three prime areas first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in four specific areas. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.

These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities, which are suited to your child's unique needs. The children in Key Stage 1, follow the National Curriculum for their age range.

More information of the EYFS Framework can be found on www.foundationyears.org.uk

Characteristics of Effective Learning

We understand that all children engage with other people and their environment through the Characteristics of Effective Learning that are described in the Development Matters section in the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance as:

- Playing and exploring - engagement;
- Active learning - motivation; and
- Creating and thinking critically - thinking.

We aim to provide for the Characteristics of Effective Learning by observing how a child is learning and being clear about what we can do and provide in order to support each child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

What will the children be doing?

Children have times throughout the day when they separate to do different activities, e.g. phonics, maths. They enjoy a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities and will have opportunities to learn as a whole group, in small groups as well as individually.

The setting has areas of learning organised for children to access independently, with children allowed to flow between the classroom and outdoor area. They have access to sand and water play, imaginative role play and small world toys, painting, drawing, playdough, cutting and sticking, puzzles, construction, writing and number activity areas, book corners, and computers, climbing, throwing and catching..... as well as many many more! We are fortunate to have extensive grounds and a school garden. The children also have the opportunity to participate in Wild Tribe activities during the term.

Adults in the team assess the children's needs, abilities and interests through observing them in their play and from these observations, will plan 'next steps' for the children.

Working together

Children are helped to settle and ensure that learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs.

We believe that it is very important that parents and staff work closely together, as sharing our knowledge of the children will enable us to plan appropriate experiences and learning opportunities. We aim to provide a range of opportunities to inform you about your child's progress and the activities in which they are involved:

- Parents' consultations
- A learning journey which is available for you to look at and share with your child, and contribute towards.
- Informal discussions: we are generally available to talk to you at the beginning and end of the session. If you need to talk to us privately, please let us know so that we can arrange a convenient time to meet.
- End of year reports

Clothing

Pre-school children do not have to wear school uniform. However, if they wish to they may wear a yellow t-shirt and green sweat shirt which are both available to order from the School Office. Please be aware that the children may get messy, when exploring at times, so practical clothes are recommended! If possible the children need to wear sensible shoes, that they are able to fasten themselves.

Children will be learning outside in all weathers, so please ensure they bring a suitable, waterproof coat every day. If they have waterproof clothing and boots they are welcome to leave these in school, to access them when required.

In sunny weather please apply sun cream before the session and provide a named spare bottle of sun cream and a sunhat. The children will be encouraged to apply this for themselves.

Please send children with spare clothes, including pants and socks, in a named bag, in case of accidents. If your child has nappies/pull ups, could these also be included along with wipes/cotton wool.

Snack time

Children will be offered a mid-morning snack of fresh fruit, milk or water. Children are also encouraged to bring a bottle of water to drink throughout the day, in a named bottle, with a 'sports' type cap.

Please note that we are a nut free school, therefore nuts, or products containing nuts must NOT be brought in to school.

Toilet facilities

The younger children have access to low level toilets or a potty, so that the children can use the toilet safely and comfortably. The children are supported especially with handwashing. The classroom also has a sink for independent hand washing. Your child does not have to be 'potty trained' before they attend Pre-School and we will work with you in achieving this goal, when you feel your child is ready. For children in nappies, the children are changed regularly or when required. We record this information, please see our intimate care policy for more information.

Independence

Where possible we encourage your child to be independent. You can encourage your child to be more independent by helping him/her learn to:

- dress and undress, including putting on his/her coat
- use the toilet and wash his/her hands
- play games, take turns and share
- enjoy new experiences
- tidy away his/her toys
- recognise his/her name

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Children have varying needs and it may be that, from time to time, a child may have special educational needs. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is Mrs Cawsey. A register of children with special needs is maintained. Children are monitored internally and where appropriate they may receive a My Plan. If necessary, there is a range of outside specialist help available. Parents are encouraged to talk to Mrs Cawsey if they have any concerns or queries regarding special needs. A Special Educational Needs Policy is available in school.

Illness

Please telephone or e-mail the school office to notify us of any reasons for absence by 9:00 am.

If your child is ill we will make arrangements to send him/her home. Please make sure we are given an emergency telephone number where you can be contacted. An alternative number of a person nominated by parents must also be available. Children who are already ill must not be sent in to the school.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea please do not return them to school until they have been clear for 48 hours.

Please note due to staffing commitments, we are unable to refund families for days absent due to sickness.

Medicines may be administered in the FSU only on the following conditions:

- It must be absolutely essential that the child receives the medicine during the session.
- An 'Administration of Medicines' form is completed. (Available in school.)
- It is clearly labelled with the child's name and given to a school adult. Other medicines should not be brought to school.

Accidents

If your child has a minor accident, he/she will be given first aid and the incident recorded in the 'Accident Book', you will be given a bump note or informed of the injury at the end of the session. If the accident is one requiring professional treatment you will be contacted and, for this reason, it is important that we have a telephone contact for you. If we are unable to get in touch with you and action is needed, we will telephone for an ambulance. We will attempt to make contact with parents first, however if we are unable to reach parents, we will then use contact details that you have given to us.

Equalities

The Carey Federation is an inclusive federation where all are welcome. We celebrate diversity and champion equality. Everybody who enters our schools is expected to behave in a way which respects the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010.

We are committed to ensuring equality of provision throughout the school community. To achieve this, our equality objectives (2021-2025) are as follows:

- To continue to monitor and support attendance of all groups of children in school
- To provide bespoke CPD for all staff and governors on equality and diversity
- To continue to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through all appropriate curricular opportunities, with particular reference to issues of equality and diversity.

Care and Discipline

The atmosphere of the school reflects our core values. We want each child to feel valued and secure, we encourage them to behave in a courteous and responsible way which is reflected in our school motto to 'Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other'.

Security

During the day, all visitors, including parents, must sign in with School staff. No child will be allowed to leave school during the school day without the permission, following a request from his/her parent/carer and accompanied by a known adult. A digital system is used. We know that parents understand that their child's safety and welfare is of paramount importance to all staff.

Child Protection

Safeguarding is extremely important to us. Please see our Child Protection Policy on our website: <https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/key-information/safeguarding/>. Parents will be reassured to know that, in line with school policy, all adult staff, volunteers and governors are checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Ruh Alford.

Mrs Rosie Cawsey and Miss Frayn are Deputy Safeguarding Leads.

If you have any concerns or require support with safeguarding, please do speak with one of the Safeguarding Leads.

Insurance

The LA is insured against legal liability for any injury, loss or damage caused to pupils/students as a result of negligence on its part or that of its employees, servants or agents.

Pupils/students attending the LA's schools and colleges are not insured for personal accident benefits whilst on education premises or taking part in recognised activities outside the school/college.

The Council expects all employees, pupils and students to accept full responsibility for their personal possessions, including money and to consider taking out insurance to cover any risks.

Starting our Setting

For a pre-school child please complete the Application Form to apply for a place for your child and return it to the school office in person or via e-mail / recorded post. Once a decision has been made for your child to join us, we will arrange for some 'settling in' sessions. These will help to familiarise you and your child with the setting and the staff.

Admissions

If you are interested in placing your child in our care we will need you to complete and return the forms that are available from the School Office. To facilitate this process please use the checklist below to ensure we have all the necessary documentation to get you started!

Please ensure that you return all of the following documentation to the school office:

- Foundation Stage Unit Registration Form
- School Data Forms S11
- Foundation Stage Unit Session Request Form
- Birth Certificate (for copy to be taken)
- Nursery Admissions Policy

Come and find out more for yourself

The best way to find out more about Ashwater Pre-School is to come and visit us. Please contact us if you have any questions, or to arrange an appointment. We look forward to meeting you!

