



Ashwater Primary School

Newsletter No.11 Autumn Term.

8th December 2020

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Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

We had a festive start to the season last week with our Christmas Tree Light Switch-On. The children sang beautifully and really enjoyed the experience. Huge thanks to the PTFA for purchasing the real tree and lights which added a bit of much needed sparkle. Also a big thanks to Andy Moakes, Federation Health and Safety Lead for putting up the tree and ensuring it is securely tethered to the fence. The tree is large and very bushy, so this was no mean feat!

COVID Safety: Moving forward, please may I ask parents and carers to wear a face covering at drop-off and pick-up as you come from the road and on to the school site. You have been incredibly supportive in keeping distance between households but we feel this extra precaution will help to keep us all safer. We will not be policing this and rely on your support, so thank you.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 in the first 7 days of the Christmas Holidays (which takes us to Christmas Day), you must let us know by emailing safeguarding@halwill.devon.sch.uk. We will need to seek advice from Public Health and we may need to ask children within the bubble to isolate, even though it is school holidays.

Christmas: Please see the attached Christmas Programme. Pre-School children are able to book an additional session on the afternoon of **Thursday 17th September** as there will be a Christmas party. Please confirm your child's place as soon as possible, via the office, to avoid disappointment. Please send in a plate of party food for your child, this will be in addition to their lunch so you don't need to send in a feast! Just something you are happy for them to have as an extra treat (but no nuts or products with nuts please). Please label the plate and cover with foil or cling film. Children can come to school in their party clothes as long as they are appropriate for school and the weather.

On **Wednesday 16th December, children will have Christmas lunch**. They can come to school **mufti** (non-uniform) and either wear a Christmas jumper or something Christmassy, even tinsel. Please don't buy something especially, unless you want to. Donations to Save the Children will be gratefully received.

The specific dates for sending in Christmas cards are to allow quarantining of the cards in the post box for 72 hours. Please remind children NOT to lick the envelope flap but instead tuck it in. Please also ensure the name and class of the child is on the envelope.

Christmas Hamper Donation Request: The PTFA have asked if parents would kindly donate towards the Christmas hampers. We have kindly had a few things donated from local supermarkets, however, we still need some more things to fill the three hampers. Items requested include: Christmas pudding/cakes, crackers, cranberry sauce, mince pies, crackers for cheese, shortbread, chocolate biscuits, after dinner mints, drinks, wine, chocolate log, panettone and boxes of chocolates.

The PTFA will leave a box at the gate so parents can put their donations in it when they drop their children off. The box will be there from Monday 7th Dec until Friday 11th December. Thank you in anticipation.

Free School Meals Over Christmas: Devon County Council (DCC) have now put in place arrangements to provide supermarket vouchers to families of children who receive free school meals, to help their families buy groceries over the Christmas holidays.

From Tuesday 8th December, DCC will be sending a unique code per child to all families that are currently in receipt of Free School Meals. Each code can be used once on a website called 'Hawk Select' to redeem vouchers to the value of £30 per child (£15 per week for the two weeks of school holidays) for Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrison's, Asda, M&S Food and Waitrose.

The website requires families to provide an email address for the vouchers to be sent to once they have chosen their preferred supermarket. When received, they can save the vouchers to their phone or tablet to use online (depending on the supermarket) or show at the checkout in store. Alternatively, they can print the vouchers off to give to the cashier.

We are conscious that a few parents may not have access to the internet or a mobile device to receive and store the vouchers on, if this is the case, please contact the office, as they will be able to complete the process for you on the Hawk Select website and print off the vouchers. Parents will need to provide the office with their unique code in order for us to redeem the voucher on the Hawk Select website on their behalf.

DCC education helpline is available on 0345 155 1019 for any questions about the distribution of the unique codes. There are also some useful FAQs on the Hawk Select website along with contact details for any technical support about using the codes and vouchers.

There is still time to register for your eligibility for free school meals and receive these vouchers. With financial circumstances continuing to change due to the impact of the second lockdown and tier 2 restrictions, some families may become eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and entitled to **vouchers during holidays or school meals during term time as well as a free set of uniform, free Morning and After School Clubs and free or subsidised trips.**

Please check the criteria below and follow the link, all you will need is your date of birth and National Insurance Number.

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FCCSCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

If you are successful, please forward any evidence you receive (or do a screenshot of the result) to
admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk

If you need help applying, please speak to a member of the admin team who will support you through the process.

Enrichment Lessons in the Spring Term from January 2021

Please note that PE kit in the winter is a white T-Shirt, long dark leggings / tracksuit bottoms, red school jumper and trainers. Please encourage children to stick to this so they continue to look smart on days when they come to school in PE kit.

TUESDAY - Class 1&2 French and Orienteering – please can children bring wellies and a waterproof coat for orienteering.

WEDNESDAY - Class 1 & 2 to come in PE kits

FRIDAY - **Class 2 will be doing Wild Tribe** and should ideally bring waterproofs and wellies to wear over their uniform. If they don't have waterproofs then some other long clothing to cover arms and legs (not jeans) should be sent in. Unfortunately, the Wild Tribe provider's risk assessment will not allow children to take part if they have bare arms or legs. In addition long hair must be tied up.

Class 1 will have Dance lessons so will come to school in uniform and trainers.

Clubs: Now that Lockdown restrictions have lifted we can resume after school clubs. Multi-Sports with Budehaven will resume in January on Wednesdays from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. Please note there will be a fee of £1 per session for these. You must book in advance for the half-term and the fee will be added to SchoolMoney. Unfortunately, we won't be able to offer a refund if sessions are missed.

We are hoping to also offer a club on Tuesday, this will be confirmed next week if it is able to take place.

Celebration Assembly: With the exciting news that the Pfizer vaccine has been approved in this country. We learnt a little about the dream team couple behind the vaccine. We talked about what a vaccine is and how they work and children were reminded of their recent 'flu vaccine. The children learnt that Ugur Sahin and Ozlem Tureci who have developed the first COVID-19 vaccine inspire us to Aim High, Be Resilient and Take Care of Each Other. Both scientists are the children of Turkish migrants who moved to Germany in the late 1960s. They got married in 2002 but only left the lab for a short while for their wedding. As soon as they heard about COVID-19 in January 2020, they told all their employees to work as hard as possible to find a vaccine but some were not happy because they had holidays booked. Ugur and Ozlem insisted they stay and work because it is so important to find a vaccine.

Mrs Ruh Alford

Executive Headteacher

Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 16th December.

To help with catering numbers, please order as soon as possible using the schoolmoney ordering system. **Last day to order is Friday 11th December.** 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
Carly Nancy	Reuben	Verity William		

Dates for your diary:

December

11th Last day to order Christmas Lunch. Please use school money

16th Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

17th Federation Christmas Assembly (pupils, staff & governors only)

18th Last day of term

January 2021

4th Term Starts

21st Special Menu (order on Schoolmoney)

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.



Contacting Ashwater School in the Afternoon

If trying to contact the school in the afternoon when the office is closed and if you need to speak to us urgently **please call (No texts please) the school mobile number (temporary number): 07375 958482** or contact Halwill school on 01409 221476.

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

Wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas
and a prosperous New Year



Wednesday 2nd December

3:00 pm: Christmas Tree Light Switch-On for pupils and staff only.

Please can Pre-School children be collected at 3:15pm

1st & 14th December

The Christmas Card Post Box will be ready on Tuesday 1st Dec. To enable cards to quarantine, please note that the last day to post will be 14th December and cards will be handed out on the 17th December.

Wednesday 16th December

Christmas lunch -children can wear a Christmas jumper or something Christmassy (even some tinsel) in aid of Save the Children.

1:30 pm Children will join a virtual Devon Big Sing.

Thursday 17th December

9:30 am Federation Christmas Show Assembly. Children will watch each others' virtual show and sing carols via Zoom.—for pupils, staff and governors.

1:30 pm Children's Christmas Party—Children to wear party clothes to school and bring a plate of party food for themselves. (no nuts please)

That evening, the virtual Christmas Show will be shared via Dojo and Facebook.

Father Christmas will also visit (socially distanced). His elves will let us know
when!