



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



October 26th 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you are having a lovely half term. The final week of the half term was full of Autumn in the air with Year 1 out and about on an Autumnal walk to the Water Meadows. The Halloween disco was a huge success so a huge thank you to our dedicated PTA team for creating such a brilliant event.



Mrs Lawrence has been the warm and welcoming face on the reception desk at Ashford Hill Primary School for over thirty years. Her commitment, sense of humour and kindness have been part of what makes Ashford Hill such a great place to be. Mrs Lawrence has decided that it is time to leave Ashford Hill to give her more time to spend time with her lovely family and time for her grandparenting duties. Over the years, Mrs Lawrence has become a very important face to our children and I know that you will join me in wishing her the very best as she embarks on new challenges. She will always be a familiar face and part of the Ashford Hill family and I am sure that we will see her at our events when she comes to support her grandchildren in their performances and learning. So, a huge and heartfelt thank you from all of us to Mrs Lawrence for all of her time, patience and love during her time at Ashford Hill.

Attendance:

Attendance has begun to dip slightly. Please can I remind parents that all holidays outside of term times are unauthorised and strongly advised against. This is due to the heavy content of our curriculum – if your children are not at school, it makes it incredibly difficult for them to catch up on the learning lost.

Medical appointments (where possible) should be booked for outside of school hours and siblings should not be taken out of school to a medical appointment. We can not authorise this absence.

Please [click this link](#) to see the Hampshire non-attendance at school policy for further details of unauthorised absence and subsequent fines.

Sports Event:

Mr Walker took six of our year 2s along with our Sports Ambassadors to a multiskills event. They all came back smiling as they had won the Gold Medal for Ashford Hill. Congratulations to our wonderful year 2s and thank you to Mr Walker for making this event possible.

Contact with teachers and Whatsapp groups:

If you do have any concerns regarding your child or if you have something that you would like us to know that could affect your child's learning, please do contact your child's teacher via the school office. While we understand that class whatsapp groups are helpful for parents, it is also important that any concerns or issues are shared directly with us to ensure that these can be dealt with in the most effective and efficient way possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Book Fair - 8, 9 & 10 November

As you know, we love to read and reading is our main priority across the curriculum. We will be running a Scholastic book fair in school. There will be more details will come closer to the time.

Book Amnesty and Read, Write, Inc book reminder:

Please can we ask you all to check your bags and book shelves for any Read, Write Inc books or school library books to return to the school after half term? Please can we also ask that your children's reading books are bought into school everyday and not left at home. We use the books during the school day and only have limited numbers of each story. We can only send home new reading books once we receive the old ones back.

Dinner Menu Changes:

The school dinner menus will be updated after half term- visit the [HC3S website](#) to view our new hot dinner menus which are on a 3 week rotation as usual. Picnic boxes will not be offered after half term.

Term Dates 2024-2025:

Term 1	
<i>Inset Days (school closed to all pupils)</i>	Monday 02/09/24
Term Starts	Tuesday 03/09/24
Term ends on	Wednesday 23/10/24
<i>October holiday</i>	Thursday 24/10/24 – Friday 1/11/24
<i>Inset Days</i>	Thursday 24/10/24 and Friday 25/10/24
Term 2	
Term starts	Monday 4/11/2024
Term ends on	Friday 20/12/24
<i>Christmas holiday:</i>	Monday 23/12/24 – Friday 03/01/2025
Term 3	
Term starts	Monday 06/01/25
Term ends on	Friday 14/02/25
<i>February holiday:</i>	Monday 17/02/25 – Friday 21/02/25
Term 4	
Term starts	Monday 24/02/25
Term ends on	Friday 4/4/25
<i>Easter holiday:</i>	Monday 7/04/2025 – Monday 21/04/25
Term 5	
Term starts	Tuesday 22/5/25
Term ends on	Friday 23/5/25
<i>May holiday</i>	Monday 26/05/25 – Friday 30/05/25
Term 6	
Term starts	Monday 02/06/25
Term ends on	Friday 18/07/2025
<i>Inset Days</i>	Monday 21/07/2025 and Tuesday 22/07/2025

KS1 PE Kit Change:

We have had much success with PE kit being worn on PE days. After half term, we would like to invite KS1 (years 1 and 2) to wear PE kit all day on their PE day. It is important that children still look smart and that they have to correct kit. Trainers must only be worn on PE days. PE days are detailed below.

We will review the success of this at the end of this term. Do not worry if your PE kit is at school – we will send it home this week.

Class	PE Day 1	PE Day 2
Chestnut	Monday	Thursday
Maple	Monday	Thursday
Oak	Tuesday	Friday
Hornbeam	Tuesday	Friday

Poppy Appeal 2023:

The school has been provided with some lovely poppy appeal items including wrist bands, reflective poppy keyrings and the classic paper poppy pins. All donations are gratefully received towards these items after half term and our Year 6 Poppy Appeal team will be helping sell these items.

Emergency Gate Release:

The emergency gate release at the pedestrian entrance to school has been pressed multiple times in the past few weeks. The button has a plastic cover over it so cannot be accidentally pressed. Once pressed, the gate will remain unlocked until a member of staff manually

re-sets the gate. This can compromise security at school especially over night and during the weekends. Please be mindful of small children playing with this button and be vigilant in case of tampering. Press the green button.

PTA Save the dates:

Ashford Hill PTA

SAVE THE DATE

Autumn Term

October	November	December
18 th Halloween Disco	3 rd Film Club 24 th Non Uniform Day (Hamper Donations)	1 st Film Club 1 st Hamper Raffle (Tickets go on sale) 1 st Wreath Making (Evening) 14 th Hamper Raffle (Draw)

Please save the upcoming event dates in your diary. Letters with more information will follow.

Parentkind Member Association

Open Days for Year R 2024:

It is that time of year again. We have open days for the year R September 2024 intake. If you or you know anyone who would like a place next September, please share these dates:

Wednesday 8th November 9.30am

Monday 27th November – 9.30am

Ashford Hill Primary School

Year R September 2024 Open Days and Tours

Monday 9th October at 1.45pm - Wednesday 8th November at 9.30am - Monday 27th November 9.30am

We warmly invite you to visit our school and look inside and to meet our team and wonderful children.

Please contact the school office on 0118 981 3822 or email admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk to book a place on the tour. Individual tours also available by request.

THAMES LEARNING TRUST

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding is our number one priority. Together we want to ensure that all children are safe, happy and secure at all times.

This year our Designated Safeguarding Lead Team are as follows:



Mrs K. Kingham
Principal

Miss C. Hudson
Vice Principal

Mr B. Dixon
UKS2 Teacher

Designated Safeguarding
Lead

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Please do have a lovely weekend and Miss Hudson and I look forward to seeing you at the gate bright and early on Monday morning.

Kirsty Kingham

Principal

Dates for your diary

Book Fair - 8, 9 & 10 November

Tuesday 28th Nov – 10am – Corn Exchange Panto

TEACHER LED CLUBS END: 1st December

Nativity and Carol Concert – Whole school – Families invited.
Tuesday 12th afternoon and Wednesday 13th Morning.

Y4 – Minstead Residential Trip – 7th – 9th February 2024

Y3 – River trip to Minstead 8th February 2024

Y2-6 – Frozen West End Trip – Wednesday 13th March 2024

Sports Day – Friday 21st June 2024

SATS week - 13th – 17th May 2024

Y5/6 Residential Trip - 20th – 24th May 2024

Date	Event	Location	Years
Thu 19 th Oct	Multiskills	Park House	1/2
Wed 22 nd Nov	Alternative Olympics	Theale	5/6
Thu 14 th Dec	BISI Badminton	Theale	3/4
Wed 7 th Feb	Speed Stacking	Theale	1/2
Tue 27 th Feb	Hockey Festival	Park House	5/6
Thu 7 th Mar	Tag Rugby Megafest	Newbury RFC	3/4
Wed 13 th Mar	KS1 Cricket	Willows	1/2
Tue 12 th Mar	X Country	Newbury Showground	3/4/5/6
Tue 23 rd Apr	Kwik Cricket Dynamos Skills	Douli Abbey	3/4
Thu 9 th May	Tri Golf	St Barts	3/4
Tue 14 th May	Kwik Cricket	Falkland	5/6 Girls
Tue 4 th June	Kwik Cricket	Douli Abbey	5/6 Boys
Tue 18 th June	Table Tennis	Willink	5/6
Tue 2 nd July	Dodgeball	St Barts	KS2 Girls
Tue 9 th Jul	Multiskills	Theale	1/2