



# Primary School Newsletter



July 18th 2025

## Dear Parents/Carers,

The year is ending on such a high for all of us. In the last few weeks, as a school community, we have been gaining success after success and this is coming in many ways. Our incredible results all round, the success of our school show, the happy faces that have been seen around this school as children try out their new classrooms, the joy of teachers who can see the undoubted progress of their class that they have worked tirelessly with over the last year, our children playing and dancing together at the school disco – just to name a few. And just to add to that: today we heard that we have been awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award thanks to Mr Walker and his Young Leader Team. He has worked tirelessly all year to bring PE to become a real priority for our children and as a result, we have been recognised for this. Congratulations to Mr Walker for the extra hours of fixtures and planning that he has put in; it has meant that all of our children have been able to engage in school games throughout the year.

The last two weeks have been extremely busy; we have had transition days, where children have met their new teachers (and some existing ones), Year 6 had their final trip of Primary school as they went off to play golf after a MacDonald's breakfast in order to celebrate a successful Primary School career and fantastic progress in their SATs. I hear there were even a couple of hole in ones!

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Berkshire Cricket came to provide a taster day for the children. The children all enjoyed the session with the coach and we are looking to have more events like this next year.

On Wednesday we invited parents in to school to enjoy all of the work that the children had to share with them from their year. It was lovely to see parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles join us to celebrate the achievements of all of our children: there were some real masterpieces to be enjoyed.

Thursday afternoon brought our final PTA event of the year – the Summer School Disco. As always, our wonderful PTA provided an afternoon of great entertainment and it was super to see the children having such fun, dressed up to the nines on the field in the afternoon. It is at this point that I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Year 6 parent PTA members who will be leaving us this year, Anna and Becky have been an integral part of the PTA for many years as they have seen all of their children through Ashford Hill. They have been unwavering support for me personally since the very first day that I started in January 2022; without

them, a lot of the school journey would not have been as successful. They have often been seen in and out of school ensuring that our children have the best experiences whilst fundraising for the things that are the extras. They will be missed by our community hugely. So, thank you for your commitment and dedication to Ashford Hill over these years. Becky and Gemma have stepped into their shoes extremely successfully also and their hard work is already there to see. Thank you to a fantastic team of parents who add the cherry to the top of our fabulous school.

Mrs Yeo – well what can I say. A real character with the best sense of humour in our school. She has worked tirelessly over the last 39 years to bring learning and opportunity to thousands of children and her legacy will remain with these children for the rest of their lives. She has been a tour de force in the classroom and has been a valued and supportive member of the staff team at Ashford Hill over the last 17 years. We wish her well as she moves onto exciting new ventures in her retirement and we are already booking her back in to come and see us. We hope that she enjoys her farewell in assembly this afternoon. We will miss you Mrs Yeo.

Finally, none of the success we are enjoying comes without the sheer hard work and professional love that our staff team has for our school and our children. To lead and be part of such a wonderful and committed team is an absolute privilege. Miss Hudson and I would like to say a very public thank you to each and every one of the team for being the very best that they can be every day!

Thank you for all of our lovely cards and gifts that we have received over the last week – it is appreciated and we love teaching your children.

I hope that you all have a wonderful break and I genuinely look forward to seeing the sparking school uniforms and smiling faces back at the school gates on Wednesday 3rd September (after a lovely long break that is!). And to our amazingly talented, funny and curious year 6s...Good Luck – we will really miss you!!

Bring on the sunshine...

Kirsty Kingham  
Principal

## Results for 2024-2025

We have had the most incredible results across the school this year which is the highest testament to all of our children, staff and parents at Ashford Hill. We are so very proud to share this information and this makes us securely one of the top 2% of Primary schools in the whole country. Thank you for your continued support in our school improvement journey; we really have gone from strength to strength.

### Early Years Foundation Stage Performance Data 2024-2025

Year R who attained a Good Level of Development (GLD) by the end of Year R 2025.

	Ashford Hill Primary School 2025	Nationally 2024
% of children who attained GLD	100%	68%

### Phonics Performance Data 2024-2025

The children take part in a phonics screening test in Y1. If a child does not meet the threshold, they are expected to attempt the test again in Y2. In the table below are the results for 2025.

	Ashford Hill Primary School 2025	Nationally 2024
Year 1 - % of children meeting threshold	100%	80%
Year 2 - % of children meeting threshold	100%	89%

### Multiplication Tables Check 2024-2025

	Ashford Hill Primary School 2025	Nationally 2024
Y4 Children % of children with 25/25	56%	35%

### KS1 Performance Data 2024-2025

The table below shows the percentage of children who attained the expected standard or better by the end of Year 2 2025. This is not a statutory assessment but judgement was made via Teacher Assessment informed by the use of non-statutory STA tests.

KS1 2024-2025	Ashford Hill Primary School 2025		Nationally 2024
	Age Related Expectations	Working above Age Related Expectations	Age Related Expectations
Reading	83%	33%	71%
Writing	83%	17%	62%
Maths	100%	39%	71%

### KS2 Performance Data 2024-2025

The table below shows the percentage of children who attained the expected standard or better by the end of Year 6 in 2025.

KS2 2024-2025	Ashford Hill Primary School			Nationally 2024
	Age Related Expectations	Working above Age Related Expectations	Average Scaled Score	Age Related Expectations and Above
Reading	93%	53%	110	74%
Writing	93%	40%	n/a	72%
Maths	100%	40%	108	73%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	87%	47%	109	72%
Combined Reading Writing and Maths	87%	27%	N/A	61%

There are no progress scores for the year 6 cohort of 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 due to Covid 19.

## Attendance

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	9.9	96.0
98.2	100	100	98.9	100	95.0	94.7	98.7
Well done YR, Y1 and Y3 for 100% attendance this week							

With your support, we have managed to reach our target this year of 97% attendance across the school. This is fantastic news and good progress on our attendance last academic year. Unfortunately, we have a higher than hoped for number of persistently absent children and this will again be a major focus for us as we move in to next year. Thank you for instilling a great work ethic with your children – it will serve them well as they progress through the school system and their working lives.

### Moment to Share – Curriculum Showcase

It was wonderful to see so many parents in to share the work of their children at the final showcase of the year. I know many of you were blown away by the quality of the work that your children have achieved over the year. Today they will be bringing home all of their books to share with you over the summer and for many years to come.

### Classrooms for Next Year

As I am sure you are aware there will need to be a bit of a change around of classrooms due to the class splits and differing class sizes next year. I will be there to guide you on the first day back so please do not worry.

Teacher and LSA	Class Name	Year Group	Classroom
Mrs Barber and Mrs Murray (Fri) Mrs Gough	Willow	EYFS	Willow
Miss Hudson (Mon, Tues) and Mrs Quirk (Wed, Thurs, Fri) Mrs Huxley	Chestnut	1/ 2	Current Oak Class
Mr Dixon Miss Lambden	Maple	3	Current Chestnut Class
Mr Walker Mrs Avery	Oak	4	Current Maple Class
Mrs Lang Mrs Wildman Mrs Wallace	Hornbeam	5/6	Current Hornbeam Class

### Inset Days

Just a reminder of inset days for next year:  
 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025  
 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

## **Wrap Around Care and After School Care from September**

All year I have been working with county, the trust and After school care providers to put this in place for September, ensuring viability. At trust level, we are now a little behind this target but it looks like we might be close. We will be providing some afterschool care initially for the first half term and looking at a successful wrap around provision as soon as possible. I will share with you what this will look like in the first week back. Thank you for your support with this complicated matter.

## **School Uniform and Resources for Next Year**

Next year the uniform will remain the same. Please be aware that no sports branded items are permitted. We do have second hand uniform in reception if you require some last-minute pieces for next year. It is always lovely to see the children arriving in full school uniform on the first day back. We will share the PE timetable with you in September.

Children will not need a pencil case as we provide all stationary – they will however require a sensibly sized water bottle with preferably a sports style cap to stop spillages.

## **PTA Thank You**

This year the PTA have worked hard to fundraise through their great events. We have been lucky enough to have The Colour Run, discos, film nights, ice cream Fridays and the summer fayre. All of these events have been run excellently and have both built our community and the fundraising pot. With the fund we have been able to update IT resources, classroom libraries, hire coaches fund, costumes and props for the show. School budgets are extremely tight and we will have some larger projects for next year that we will share with you. Thank you for your support of all of these events and a huge thank you to the parents who have helped with all of the other initiatives this year such as the library, the show and supporting with readers and on our school trips and adventures.

## **Shrek Jr Review**

Thank you so much to one of our new Year R parents, Mr Wilson, who is a theatre reviewer – he has written up a review on our Shrek Performance and I have the pleasure of sharing with you here. A wonderful review for our wonderful actors! Congratulations to all.

Photo books have been ordered by parents and as soon as they are paid for we will order them from the company. Thank you to Anna Liddeatt, Mr Taylor and Mr Quant for the design of the booklet and the quality of the fantastic photographs.

Review:

## **A Shrektacular Performance**

*Ashford Hill Primary School presents Shrek Jr,*

*Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke,*

*There's something truly magical about watching children take to the stage with such heart, humour, and confidence and Ashford Hill Primary School's production of Shrek Jr at the Haymarket Theatre delivered that magic in buckets. With clever staging, infectious energy, and a cast that knew how to play to their strengths, this production was a total delight from swamp to Duloc.*

## *Spot-on casting and standout performances*

*It's safe to say the casting was absolutely spot on. Will, in the title role of Shrek, was simply amazing, commanding the stage with presence and gusto, knowing the role inside and out, not missing a beat in terms of vocals, characterisation or comedic timing, this kid is going to go far, mark my words! The Donkeys, played by Brody and Ava-Jack, were bundles of joy, full of fun and fizz. Each version of Fiona (Sena, Esmee, Naomi, and Ava-Lily) brought a regal grace and individuality to the performance, capturing both the strength and vulnerability of the role, making for a beautifully layered performance of the character's journey.*

*The Fairytale Creatures deserve high praise for staying in character throughout, even when not the focus of the scene. The three little pigs (Olly, George B, and George L), Big Bad Wolf (Zachary S), and the delightfully sinister Wicked Witch (Alisa) all had great characterisation. Thomas and Zach as Pinocchio had great character and moved brilliantly for someone made of wood. And how could I not mention the bearded knights - Nathan, Leo, Max and Charlie, who had the audience in stitches, or the tiny but unforgettable Rooster (Lexi), quite possibly the cutest thing I've ever seen on stage.*

*Eli W's Lord Farquaad was a masterclass in balance, hitting the funny notes without losing the villain's gravitas. His comic timing was excellent, and he knew exactly when to play it BIG and when to let the scene breathe. And the Storytellers - Mallie, Evie, and April were so strong vocally and in delivery that I could easily imagine listening to them narrate a full audiobook. Captivating from start to finish.*

## *Design, direction, and delightful details*

*The production made clever use of a minimal set, with effective projections helping transport us through Shrek's world without overwhelming the young cast. Costumes were an absolute treat for the eyes - bold, characterful, and full of detail that elevated the entire production. Blocking was well thought through, with children positioned forward of the stage and never hidden at the back, which allowed every performer their moment to shine.*

*The Dragon, played by Esme, was staged smartly using the full space to give the character real impact. Her confident performance, paired with some well-placed gymnastics, brought the Dragon to life with style and strength. The flatulence section in "I Think I Got You Beat" earned a wave of laughter that rippled through the auditorium, pure comedy gold!*

*Scene changes occasionally occurred mid-scene, which slightly disrupted the flow at times, but this didn't detract the children or the overall pacing. One minor shame was that not all performers were mic'd, meaning a few lines were lost, but I completely understand that it is a numbers game and there are not enough to go around and financial implications that go along with this, but what was heard was clear and confidently delivered.*

## Emotions, energy, and pure joy

This show was packed with emotion. One minute I was chuckling away, the next I was genuinely teary-eyed. I wasn't the only one, many audience members were visibly moved, whether by pride, nostalgia, or sheer belly laughs. The professionalism of these young performers was astounding. Their timing, focus, and commitment to their characters showed maturity beyond their years.

The simplified choreography was smart and accessible for all cast members yet still visually effective. The musical edits were clearly made with care, giving time for transitions while keeping the momentum. It's worth noting how seamlessly the show adapted to its young cast's needs without sacrificing story or impact.

## Final thoughts

This production was a heartfelt reminder of what school theatre can do: bring communities together, nurture young talent, and tell a great story with joy. The confidence on stage was infectious, and it genuinely looked like the children were having the time of their lives. With *Shrek* nearing its 25th anniversary, it's wonderful to see that its humour, heart, and message of acceptance continue to resonate.

To every cast member, creative, teacher, and behind-the-scenes helper, you should all be so proud. You created something truly Shrektacular!

Jaz Wilson















 A promotional poster for Stagecoach Newbury. It features a young girl in a black t-shirt with 'STAGE COACH' on it, raising her arms. The text on the poster includes:
 

- CREATIVE COURAGE FOR LIFE!**
- Stagecoach Newbury**
- Delve into the creative arts with our combined singing, dancing and drama sessions.
- Holiday Workshops**
- No experience necessary, our super-creative team have put together these courses which are suitable for the total novice through to those that live and breathe the performing arts.
- 'Show in A Week' 28<sup>th</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August - Mad on Musicals 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> August.
- Available to book online. Scan the QR code
- Join us for a Two-Week Trial**
- Now enrolling for the Autumn term.
- A two week trial is £25 for Early Stages (4-6 yrs) & £50 for Main Stages (6-18 yrs).
- Weekly classes available on Fridays & Saturdays at The Clere School, Newbury, RG20 9HP.
- All teachers are fully trained and DBS checked.
- QR code
- stagecoach.co.uk/newbury
- 07842 944 697
- newbury@stagecoach.co.uk

**Safeguarding:**

Safeguarding is our number one priority. Together we want to ensure that all children are safe, happy and secure at all times. If you have any concerns about another child or your own, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Safeguarding Leads.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are as follows:

Mrs Kirsty Kingham	Miss C Hudson	Mr B Dixon
Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Vice Principal and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Class Teacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

**Dates for your diary**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Inset Days

3<sup>rd</sup> September – Back to School