



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



September 5th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. It was wonderful to see the children arriving in their uniforms with smiling faces on Wednesday morning. We really have missed them. And a special welcome to our new children across the school. Year R were greeted by the biggest downpour I have ever seen on their first day, but parents, children and teachers handled the whole experience brilliantly. I have heard so many lovely comments about our new cohort and had the pleasure of joining them for a few hours this week.

There is a lot of content in the newsletter this week, so please make a note of all of the dates and messages and if you do have any questions, please do let us know either at reception or via our email address admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk.

Have a fantastic week and I am hoping that the sun will shine for at least an hour or so this weekend!

Kirsty Kingham

Principal

Attendance

The start of the new year gives us the opportunity to ensure that attendance remains high from the very start. Great schools have good attendance. Our school target is to keep attendance between 100% and 97%. Last year we achieved 97% and we know that as a community we can do even better.

Miss Hudson will again be leading on attendance this year, so if you have any concerns regarding your child and their attendance, please do not hesitate to book an appointment to meet with her via the Office. She will be sending out a copy of our attendance policy and procedures to you next week.

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
97.7	96.2	100	96.8	95	99.2	100	98.2
Well done to year 1 and year 5 this week for 100% attendance							

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.

This year our Designated Safeguarding Lead Team are as follows:

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

In assembly this week children have been taught about our lanyard system. Please speak to them and ask them what a blue, green and red lanyard mean when adults wear them around school as this is an important part of our schooling life.

Contacting Teachers

Sometimes you may need to contact a teacher regarding your child or to ask a question – please ensure that all questions or communication for teachers is done through our admin email address. We will ensure that all emails are directed accordingly and that you will get a timely response (within two working days). Please **do not** contact teachers' personal school email addresses.

Please also be aware that although drop off is a good time to update a teacher with brief information, longer questions, concerns will require a meeting to be arranged. The start and end of the day are a very busy time for the staff team. If you do require a meeting with myself or a member of staff, please contact the school office who will book in an appropriate time for both parties.

Communication with parents is an important part of building our school community – we love to use feedback to improve and celebrate our successes. Schools in

general (including our school at times) receive communication from a very small minority of parents that is upsetting, personal and not respectful to our teams. Due to this and to ensure that all stakeholders are protected, Thames Learning Trust Principals have collaborated to create a Parent Code of Conduct. This is now on our website for you to read. Our team will always endeavour to respond to general communications within two working days.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to growing our school community to be the best that it can be.

<https://www.ashfordhillprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=528&type=pdf>

School Priorities for the Year Ahead:

The new school year is always full of the excitement of what is yet to come. Our school priorities for the year ahead are the following:

- To continue and develop the positive reading culture within our school and community
- To embed our writing scheme fully across the whole school with a focus on handwriting and spelling
- Embed the teaching for mastery approach within mathematics
- Develop the school community including parental engagement for the progress of all children
- Develop the Early Years Outdoor area to support the progress of our Early Years Children

Golden Sparkle Badges

The Golden Sparkle Badge is a weekly prestigious award that is given children to celebrate their demonstration of the school values. To gain this award is huge recognition for children as they will be modelling to others how they exemplify the school values every day. Our school values underpin everything that we do and everything that we believe at Ashford Hill and in turn they guide us all (adults and children) to be the best we can be. These are the values of Integrity, Determination and Community. Over the coming weeks we will be doing lots of work around our school values and what they mean to us. I will keep you updated in our newsletters. The Golden Badges will be rewarded in our celebration assembly on a Friday.

Wellington Boots and Coats:

As we like our children to be able to adventure outside in all weathers, please can you provide a pair of wellington boots to have in school. We often like to

learn and play outside and this will help to keep school shoes clean (and our new carpets!). Please make sure that children have coat each day in this every changing weather.

Student Leadership:

As a staff team we will be reviewing our student leadership structure. We believe that leadership is important at all levels and we are currently

Clubs

A club's letter will be sent out by Mrs Marchetti early next week and teacher led clubs will begin from week commencing 15th September. GOL and Breaking Barriers will begin from Monday and these are bookable via the provider's website.

Homework and Reading

Now that the children have settled in this week, Phonics sessions will begin on Monday. By Friday next week all children will have their reading book and reading log sent home with them. Learning to read is the most important thing for our children to do in order to be successful in their education and their future lives. Reading at home with your children is not only rewarding and special time together but also fundamental to their development and engagement as a learner. Information will be sent home regarding homework expectations and reading log use. Logs will need to be sent into school every day along with their reading book in their clear reading bag (provided by the class teacher early next week).

Allergies and Nut Free School

We have some children and staff in the school who have severe nut allergies and other food related allergies. Please ensure that no food with nut content or nuts are sent into school to safeguard our school community.

Wednesday 24th Sept – 7pm Meet the Teacher Evening

Teachers will invite you into their classrooms on this evening to talk to you about the curriculum that your children will be covering this year, homework and classroom routines. They will also share with you how to help your children at home and the opportunities that are open to our students this year. This is also a great opportunity to meet your teacher and ask any questions that you may have. Each meeting will be approx 30 mins so if you have a child in two classes, you will be able to visit each teacher.

Shrek Photos and Brochures:

A huge thank you to our photographers - we are currently selecting images and then sending them off to print in our photobook like last year. We are hoping that this will be completed and delivered in the next month. There are thousands of fantastic photos and it is proving difficult to pick from such a beautiful array of shots. We are so lucky to have such a talented group of parents and grandparents within our community! Thank you again to all involved.

School Photos: 8th October

School photos have been booked for 8th October. We will remind you nearer the time in order to give you some warning for hair gel and buns! Please ensure that your child wears full school uniform and not PE kit on this day - PE kit can be brought to school in a bag on this day.

Outstanding Dinner Money:

If you have any outstanding dinner money or trip money from last term, please can you clear this as soon as possible. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Mrs Marchetti in the admin office and she will be able to help you.

Y6 Walking Home

In order to ensure your children's safety, we will only allow Year 6 to walk home on their own. If you wish for your year 6 child to walk home, we require written consent from a parent/carer confirming that your child can walk home alone and that you have discussed all necessary safety aspects of walking home to them.

Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers and not the school, once your child has left the school premises. A form has been sent via Teacher to Parents today – please fill this in. Children will not be dismissed without the completion of this form.

Year 6 children will not be authorised to collect younger siblings to walk home with them. Younger siblings will be required to be collected by their adult.

Parking:

Our school has increased in size this year and so have the number of cars at drop off. I have been contacted by local residents who already have had some issues with leaving driveways and cars parked dangerously in the road. Please use the car park opposite, the church car park or the cricket ground car park for drop offs and pick-ups.

Dates for your diary for the year ahead

24th Sept – 7pm Meet the teacher evening for all parents to attend.

8th Oct - School Photographs (school Uniform)

Friday 17th October – Harvest Festival 9.30am

23rd & 24th October – Inset Days

23rd Oct – 31st Oct Half Term

10th December – Whole school trip to Pantomime - should be returned by 3.45pm

17th & 18th December - Nativity Performance

18th December – Christmas Lunch and Parties

18th December – 2.45pm Curriculum Showcase for Parents

19th June- Sports' Day