



# Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



September 12th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a wonderful first full week back at school despite the torrential downpours. All the children have been working incredibly hard with both their classroom routines and academic learning, and it has been a pleasure to see. They really are embodying our school values of **Integrity, Community and Determination**. The newsletter this week is very full so please take time to read and digest all the information.

Have a great weekend.

Catherine Hudson  
Vice-Principal

## Attendance

Our school attendance target is **97% and above for all children**

At Ashford Hill Primary, we are committed to:

- Promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence
- Ensuring every pupil arrives at school on time and ready to learn
- Ensuring every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled

Good attendance means being in school at least 97% of the time (184 days or more)

Good punctuality means being in school at 08:45 ready to learn.

Please can we remind you of the following.

Parents have the legal responsibility for ensuring that:

- their child attends regularly
- their child is in school ready to learn by 08.45
- they avoid medical and dental appointments during the school day
- they take holidays during school holiday periods
- they inform school of absence daily or give an expected return date
- any applications for leave of absence during term time are made in advance
- they work alongside the school and Local Authority to improve lateness and attendance

Examples of unsatisfactory explanations which will be marked as unauthorised include:

- a child's/family member's birthday
- shopping for uniform
- having their hair cut
- closure of a sibling's school for INSET or other purposes

- a sibling being ill
- inability to bring your child to school
- "couldn't get up"
- tired
- Illness where the child is considered well enough to attend school without medical authority and in the absence of a communicable disease (NHS – Is my child too ill for school? [https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery))
- leave during term time taken without authorisation of the school
- head lice – let the school know and letters will then be sent to all parents in a confidential manner

Our updated 'Attendance and Punctuality Information for Parents' will be sent out at the beginning of next week.

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
98.4	99	100	100	98.5	95	98.8	98.9
Well done everyone for exceeding our whole school target. Well done, Y1 and Y2 for 100% attendance.							

## Parents Evening Autumn Term

Parents evening this term will be on Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th November. More details regarding times and booking details will follow nearer the time.

## Parking

Can we please remind you that parking in the disabled parking space in the car park is only for holders of blue badges? Blue badges must be displayed clearly.

## Travelling to School

We have two dedicated school transport buses provided by Hampshire County Council that transport 24 of our pupils to and from school each day. These buses are only for our school children and do not transport any members of the public or children from other schools at the same time. Please visit [Apply for school transport | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council](#) to check your eligibility for this school transport. The service is completely free.

## New Year R 2026 Admissions Open Day Event Dates

Our open days for Year R 2026 admissions have been arranged for:

Monday 6th October: 2pm - 3pm

Thursday 9th October: 2pm – 3pm

Monday 24th November: 10.45am-11.45am

Please spread the word and help us to continue to grow our amazing school.

## Clubs

You should have received information regarding your child's chosen club for this half term. If you haven't, please contact the office for further details.

## Homework

We're excited to begin another year of learning and growth with your children. To help them succeed, we've outlined our homework expectations for the year. We believe that a consistent routine at home, with your support, is key to building good habits and reinforcing classroom learning.

### Reading (YR – Y6)

Reading is the most important homework task for your child. It should be done every school night, from Monday to Friday.

Your child has a reading record which should be completed daily and kept in the plastic school bag. Please refer to the expectations set out below.

### YR, Y1 & Y2

- Your child will have a RWI phonics book and a RWI book bag book sent home weekly. YR will be sent their first book once they are able to blend sounds together to make words.
- Your child should read these books 3 times. The first read focuses on decoding sounds and words, the second on reading with speed and accuracy, and the third on expression and understanding the story's meaning.
- Children will also bring home a reading for pleasure book from the library. Please enjoy this book together.
- Every time you hear your child read or you read together, please complete the reading record.

### Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6

- Reading Log: Please ensure your child records what they've read and adds a comment about it each night.
- Parent Comment: At least one of these weekly comments should be made by a parent. This helps us see your child's progress and your engagement with their reading journey.
- Book Choice: Children should read their assigned AR (Accelerated Reader) book. They can also read another book of their choice if they wish to. The reading log can be used for either book.

### Numbots (YR – Y2) and Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) (Y3 – Y6)

Regular practice of number bonds and times tables is essential for developing quick recall and fluency, which is a foundational skill in mathematics.

- Frequency: Your child should practice on Numbots/Times Tables Rock Stars at least three times a week. If they can do it every night, that's even better.
- Goal: The goal is to build speed and accuracy with their number/multiplication facts.

### Spelling (Y1 – Y6)

Spelling practice helps children improve their writing and vocabulary.

### Y1 & Y2

- Statutory Words: We've provided a list of the statutory spelling words for Years 1 – 6. Please stick this list somewhere visible at home. Encourage your child to practice 3 or 4 of these words each week throughout the year to master them.

### Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6

- Weekly Words: Each week, your child will bring home a list of new spelling words in their Spelling Log. They should check this log daily and practice the words as often as they can.

We truly appreciate your support in helping your child establish these routines. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher.

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Year 7 Secondary School Applications

The application window for applying for a secondary school place for your Year 6 child is now open. Please read the below guidance which has been sent to us from the Admissions team at Hampshire County Council.

Applications can be submitted [online](#) or you can request a form by emailing [admissions.team@hants.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.team@hants.gov.uk). The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025.

If you live in west Berkshire, applications can be submitted [here](#).

- Name three schools on your application to maximise your chances of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.
- Submit your application on-time, before the 31 October deadline.
- Use the County Council's school catchment area finder to check the catchment school for your address
- Read the school's admission policies to find out how many places are available and what criteria will be

used to allocate places if the school is oversubscribed.

- Think about how your child will get to school. See travel to school to help plan your journey and find out if you are eligible for help with transport. You must name your catchment school(s) if you have one, as a preference if you wish to apply for travel assistance.

## Secondary School Open Days:

### The Hurst School

#### Open Evening

We are delighted to invite you to our Open Evening on Thursday, 2nd October, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Come and explore the school, visit classrooms, and meet our dedicated teachers and enthusiastic students. Headteacher Mrs McLaren will deliver two presentations at 6:30pm and 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome—no booking required. We look forward to seeing you there.

#### Open Mornings

Our Open Mornings, held during the school day, offer a chance to see the school in action, enjoy a prefect-led tour, and speak with a member of our Senior Leadership Team. Each session lasts about an hour and must be booked in advance.

Our 2025 Open Mornings take place on the following dates:

- Tuesday, 7th October - 9:15am-10:00am, 10:15am-11am, 11:15am-12:00pm
- Wednesday, 8th October - 9:15am-10:00am, 10:15am-11:00am, 11:15am-12:00pm
- Thursday, 9th October - 9:15am-10:00am, 10:15am-11:00am, 11:15am-12:00pm

Please contact School Reception to book a place on 0118 981 7474.

## School Photos: 8<sup>th</sup> October

School photos have been booked for 8<sup>th</sup> October. We will remind you nearer the time in order to give you some warning for hair gel and bunches! 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.

## 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.

## Dates for your diary for the year ahead

- 24<sup>th</sup> Sept –7pm Meet the teacher evening for all parents to attend.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Oct - School Photographs (school Uniform)
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival 9.30am
- 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> October – Inset Days
- 23<sup>th</sup> Oct – 31<sup>st</sup> Oct Half Term
- 10<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school trip to Pantomime - should be returned by 3.45pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity Performance
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch and Parties
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – 2.45pm Curriculum Showcase for Parents
- 19<sup>th</sup> June- Sports' Day



**OPEN EVENING** | 6 PM - 8:30 PM  
**THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

OR VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#) TO BOOK A 'SCHOOL IN ACTION' TOUR

- 11-18 SECONDARY SCHOOL
- DISRUPTION FREE LEARNING
- WIDE RANGE OF EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, TRIPS AND VISITS
- HUGE INVESTMENT IN SCHOOL FACILITIES
- HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND EXCELLENT OUTCOMES
- EXCELLENT DESTINATIONS FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM LEAVERS

**OUTSTANDING**  
 QUALITY OF EDUCATION  
 - OFSTED 2025

#### 2025 GCSE RESULTS

64% 5+ IN ENGLISH & MATHS  
 90% 4+ MFL  
 100% 5+ DANCE  
 80% OF ALL RESULTS WERE 4+

**WORK HARD, BE KIND, TAKE RESPONSIBILITY**