



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



17 October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We were delighted to celebrate a wonderful Harvest Festival this week, held in the church and attended by so many of our families. It was lovely to see the church filled with parents and carers who came to watch the children perform their songs, poems, and readings with such enthusiasm. A special thank you goes to John, our church warden, for opening the service with his thoughtful and engaging talk. The event was a true celebration of community and gratitude, reflecting the values we hold dear at Ashford Hill. Our Head leaders Ava and Leo will be taking the donated harvest gifts to the food bank next week.



Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our recent wraparound care survey. Your feedback has been incredibly helpful in understanding the needs of our families. Based on the results, I will be meeting with the after-school care company next week to discuss the next steps. We are hopeful that we will be able to introduce wraparound care in the new year, although there are still some discussions to take place around its viability and the operational running of the club. I will keep you updated as plans progress.

Exciting news! Over the half-term holiday, the Year R Garden will be fully landscaped to create a fresh, new outdoor area for the children. Over the next half term, the space will be gradually populated with new learning equipment and resources, allowing it to develop into an engaging environment that enhances exploration, play, and learning. We can't wait for the children to enjoy their evolving new garden as it takes shape!

Please remember that next week is a three-day week as we have staff inset on Thursday and Friday. Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on the gate next week.

Kirsty Kingham
Principal

Attendance

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
981	100	95.6	99	99.5	94.5	98.8	97.9
Well done YR for 100% attendance this week							

Safeguarding Audit - Tuesday

This week, we had a full-day audit of our safeguarding procedures and policies. We were assessed very strongly in all areas, which is extremely pleasing. This outcome was further supported by the parent survey completed by over 50 families, in which **100%** of you said that children feel safe at Ashford Hill, and **100%** also confirmed that behaviour is good. We are so proud of these results.

Our strong safeguarding practice stems from a robust culture where we truly believe that *'it could happen here'*. As a community, we consistently look out for one another and for our children — a key strength highlighted in the audit.

Please note that the release button on the office door must **not** be used to let anyone into the building — even if you know them. Only school staff are authorised to grant access. Please ensure that all members of your family, including older school children, are aware of this, as it is a vital part of our safeguarding practice.

Parent/carer survey

Thank you for completing the parent/carer survey. We have had over 50 families give us feedback and the results are showing a very positive view of the school overall.

A small number of you have said that you disagree or strongly disagree with some of the statements and for these we would appreciate knowing more.

This link will take you to a form where you can share further feedback which will help us to continue improving. <https://forms.office.com/e/N8Bu7YfiFX>. Thank you.

Spooky Spoons Competition!

We have already had so many excellent spooky spoons arrive in school – there are clearly some very creative and talented children and families in our school.

Please decorate your spooky spoon(s) over half term for a chance to win a prize - there will be a winner for each year group! Spooky spoons will need to be handed in by the 4th of November, ready for judging by Mrs Kingham. Winners will be announced that same week.

Please make sure that spoons are labelled and come back in the envelope provided with your £1 entry fee for each spoon.



PTA AGM – 7th November 2.30pm in School Hall



Ashford Hill Primary School Parent Teacher Association

Ashford Hill Road
Ashford Hill
THATCHAM
RG19 8BB

14th October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and School Staff

A very warm welcome from our school PTA.

The PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school. It is a fun way to bring staff, parents and children together in support of a common goal. Our efforts are focused on raising money to purchase extra resources that the school needs to support our children's education and to run fun events that the children of the school can enjoy. All parents and members of the school community can get involved in the PTA.

Every year we are required to hold an AGM. The AGM includes a report from The Chair(s) & Treasurer(s), where you will see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used to benefit the children at our school. It is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTA Committee for the forthcoming academic year.

This year the meeting will be held on Friday 7th November at 2.30pm in the school hall.

Format committee positions are Chair (&/or Co-Chair), Vice Chair (&/or Vice-Chair), Treasurer & Secretary. All these positions are available to be filled plus 'happy helper' roles.

If you would like to stand for election or propose a candidate, please send your nominations via email to ah_pta_chair@gmail.com by the morning of **Monday 3rd November**. Please state their name, position you are nominating them for, your name, and name of a second person who also supports the nomination.

If you would like to attend the meeting, please do come along. Everyone is welcome.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ashford Hill PTA

Parking at drop off/pick up

We have had reports of cars dropping off and parking in inappropriate and unsafe places in the mornings and afternoons. Please do not park on the side of the road, in front of the neighbours' houses or on any of the yellow school road markings. Please use the designated car park opposite school. If the car park is full, please use the church car park and walk up. Please also approach the school and car park with caution during these busy times.

Parents Evening Autumn Term - reminder

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.

New Year R 2026 Admissions Open Day Event Dates

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

Monday 24th November: 10.45am-11.45am

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

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
Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Vice Principal and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Class Teacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Keeping Children Safe on TikTok and Social Media

Children under the age of 13 are not able to have or access a social media account. This information is for families who may use the platform and older children also. It is important to stay aware of the dangers with these social media platforms.

Social media platforms like TikTok can be fun and creative, but it's important to be aware of the potential dangers. These include:

- **Exposure to inappropriate content** such as violence, sexual material, or harmful challenges.
- **Cyberbullying**, which can affect children's mental health and confidence.
- **Online grooming**, where someone builds trust with a child with the intention of exploiting them.
- **Data privacy risks**, including strangers accessing personal information.

To help keep your child safe, consider the following:

- **Use devices in shared spaces** so you can monitor activity.
- **Check and update privacy settings** to control who can see your child's content and contact them.
- **Maintain open communication:** regularly talk about online experiences and encourage children to report anything that makes them uncomfortable.
- **Set boundaries** for screen time and age-appropriate apps.
- **Know how to report concerns** using in-app tools and resources such as the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) website.

By staying informed, vigilant, and supportive, you can help your child enjoy social media safely and responsibly.

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
- 23th Oct – 31st Oct Half Term
- 26th November – Ed Psych Service Coffee Afternoon on Executive Functioning (in school)
- 10th December – Whole school trip to Pantomime - should be returned by 3.45pm
- 12 December – iRock concert 09.15
- 17th @ 1.45pm & 18th @ 9.45am December - Nativity Performances
- 18th December – Christmas Lunch and Parties
- 18th December – 2.45pm Curriculum Showcase for Parents
- 19th June- Sports' Day
- 9th July – Annie Jr Haymarket Theatre – school show





Hi Ashford Hill Primary School,

With a new season and a new era well underway at Reading Football Club, I am delighted to announce the return of our School & Grassroots fixtures for 2025/26.

The first of two fixtures will take place on Saturday 22nd November when Rotherham United make the long trip down from Yorkshire. The showdown with the Millers will see your School enjoy discounted ticket rates, and what's more, the action doesn't stop at the final whistle.

Post-match will see a spectacular firework and drone show take place outside the stadium, giving you a great excuse to stick around and celebrate what we hope will be a fine Royals win.

Full details of how to get involved can be found below so please share with all your children, friends, family and staff and let me know if you require any further information.

You have been invited to Reading Football Club's first School & Grassroots Fixture of 2025-26!

When?

Reading vs Rotherham United
Saturday 22nd November, 3pm kick off

Where?

Select Car Leasing Stadium

How to qualify for the discount and confirm your attendance?

To redeem, please click below and enter the following unique coupon code: **#AshfordHillPrimary** in the basket once you have logged in and selected your tickets which will be discounted to the below prices:

- 13 and Under: £1
- 17 and Under: £5
- 18 to 24: £10
- 65 and over: £10
- Adult: £15

WHAT'S ON September - December 2025 **Southampton** City of Opportunity **SOUTHAMPTON CITY MUSEUMS**

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Wizard School
Mon 27 and Tues 28 October | 10.30am - 11.30am or 1.30pm | Tudor House | £8

Art for All: Pumpkin Printing (U)
Mon 28 October | 10.30am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Clay Cakes and Whitted' Hats (U)
Tues 29 and Wed 30 October | 10.30am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Freddie's Clay Dinosaurs (U)
Wed 29 October | 10.30am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Spooky Laminated (U)
Wed 29 Oct | 10.30am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Pigments and Patterns (U)
Thu 30 October | 10.30am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Clay Ghostly Goblins (U)
Thu 30 October | 10.30am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Halloween at Tudor House
Thurs 30 October | 10am - 4pm East Entrance 4.30pm | Tudor House | FREE

Culture Club for Kids: Half-Term Activity Days (U)
Nov 27, Nov 28, Wed 28 Oct | Sat - 4pm Drop off from 8.30am | Family | £4.95 per child | £8 for all three

Get creative, explore our collections and learn new stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days!

See venue websites for further details on events and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com

TUDOR HOUSE & GARDEN
PRESENTS

HALLOWEEN FAMILY DAY

Ghost tours, crafts, face painting and games

THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER
10AM - 5PM

FREE ENTRY ALL DAY

tudorhouseandgarden.com

Evening Support Group



"A drop-in group to meet with other local parents & carers to share support, knowledge and advice"

Support Group for Parents of Neurodivergent Learners

Join us every month at:

The Hare & Hounds

A4 / Bath Road, Speen
Newbury RG14 1QY



2025 Dates

Weds 1st October – Weds 5th November – Weds 3rd December

7.30 – 9.30pm



In association with Newbury SEND Parent Carer Café

A small and friendly pre-school in the beautiful countryside location of Ashford Hill for 2-5yr olds

- Quality pre-school education & childcare
- *Open in School Term Times Monday-Friday*
- Great links with Ashford Hill Primary School
- Government funded hours available for

children aged 3yrs+ and for eligible children aged 2yrs+

We currently have availability in some of our sessions.

Please call 0118 9810 333 if you would like to meet us and have a look around.

www.jiminycricketspreschool.com

