



# Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term is already flying by and I am conscious that I have not seen many of you out and about around the grounds. Over the past few weeks, much of my time, and that of the senior leadership team, has been focused on preparing for our anticipated Ofsted inspection. This has been requested by the trust and school to be much earlier than expected and comes alongside a new inspection framework, which has naturally required careful preparation. It has taken a huge amount of time and energy to become acquainted but has also been so pleasing to look at all of the things that we are doing well. We now feel confident (as we can be) and well-prepared, and we are genuinely looking forward to welcoming inspectors into the school to meet and spend time with our wonderful children and team. As part of the new framework inspectors will also want to contact families to speak with them about the impact the school has on the learning and schooling of our children.

We are proud of how far the school has come over the past four years, during which time we have seen significant growth, strengthened practice, and excellent outcomes for children.

We look forward to sharing these successes as a community with Ofsted and, more importantly, continuing to build on them for the benefit of all our children.

The year R garden has really started to take shape this week and the children are having a great time exploring their new learning area - over the coming weeks you will see the development of the garden and I am sure that you will hear many stories of the adventures of the children each day. Thank you to Miss Hudson and the year R team for working so hard to pull this project together.

Odd socks day and Children in Need have gone well this week leading us to raise money for the charity today – thank you for your kind donations. A huge thank you also to our Student Charity Leaders and Mrs Barber for arranging these events.



Thank you to our kitchen team for making us some special Pudsey Bear biscuits today too!

I look forward to seeing you bright and early at the gate on Monday morning.

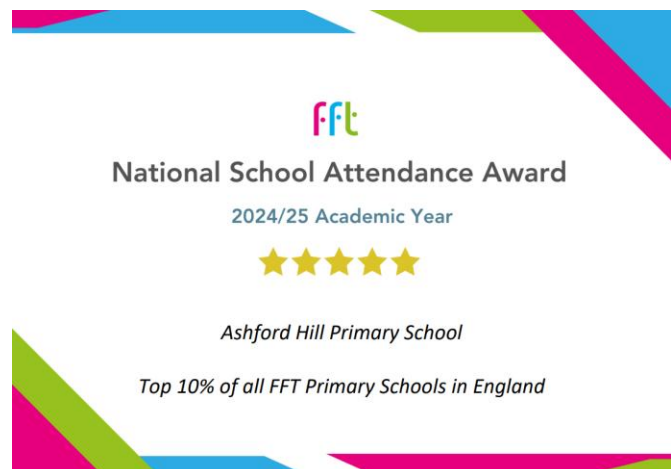
Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kirsty Kingham

Principal

## Attendance

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
97.7	95	100	98.1	95	99.1	99.4	98.9
Well done Y1 for 100% attendance this week							



We have won an award for being in the top 10% of primary schools for attendance in 2024 – 2025.

Well done everyone. Let's keep it up and see if we can win it again this year. We were also mentioned by name in a Department for Education publication as a school with best practice in attendance and the top two in our category for attendance. Thank you to all parents and carers for ensuring that children are getting all of the learning they are entitled to throughout their time at primary school.

[AHPS Attendance and Punctuality Information for Parents 2025 - 2026.pdf](#)

### Whatsapp Groups

A matter has recently been brought to my attention regarding comments shared about a member of staff on parent WhatsApp groups.

As a school, we are always open to discussing any concerns you may have. I want to emphasise that parents are always welcome to speak with me directly to address any issues. My priority is, and always will be, the happiness and safety of our children, and I am more than willing to listen, support, and work with you to resolve any issues at the earliest possible stage. If we do not know about a concern, we cannot help.

WhatsApp groups can be helpful for sharing reminders and practical information; however, they can also unintentionally create misinformation, bad feeling, and unnecessary upset—both within the parent community and for staff. Comments shared publicly or without full context can be damaging and do not reflect the respectful partnership we aim to maintain

### Chestnut Class Update

I know that many of you are keen to hear the arrangements for the new class teacher for Chestnut Class. We have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure a smooth and supportive transition for the children as they move to their new teacher. I hope to share the confirmed arrangements with you by the end of next week. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period of change.

### Parents Evening Autumn Term - reminder

It is parents' evening next week. Codes for the online room will be sent to you next week in advance of the meeting. Meeting slots will be 8- 10 minutes for each parent and we are looking forward to sharing how your child is settling in and the progress they are making this year already.

### Shrek Photo Booklets

Mrs Liddeatt has been busily preparing the art work over the last few weeks for the final print. These wonderful souvenir booklets will be with us in the next couple of

weeks for you to share with your friends and families. Thank you for your patience with these. They will be worth the wait!

### First Class picture supplement – Newbury Weekly News

The First Class photos will be in your local **Newbury Weekly News** newspaper **next week on Thursday, November 20, 2025**.

You can also get a digital copy of the Newbury Weekly News, and to celebrate the First Class 2025 picture special, parents of children in the First Class photos can take advantage of an exclusive offer just for them. They get a full year's worth of access to the Newbury Today premium website, our app, and all of our digital newspapers and supplements for just £20, that's better than half price, by using the offer code **FIRSTCLASS** at [www.newburytoday.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.newburytoday.co.uk/subscribe)

### Parent Coffee Afternoon – Wednesday 26 November 2025 Executive Functioning

All children are still developing their executive functioning skills – the thinking and doing skills that help with everyday life.

Join us for a Coffee Afternoon with Alana Gallacher, Educational Psychologist, on Wednesday 26th November, 2:15pm, –3:15pm. Open to all parents.

We'll cover:

- What executive functioning is and why it matters
- Common challenges children face at home and school
- Practical tips for routines, organisation, and emotional regulation
- Simple games and activities to build these skills
- Time to share experiences and ask questions

### 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
<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>




## SCHOOL & GRASSROOTS FIXTURE

READING V ROTHERHAM UNITED  
22.11.25  
15:00  
SELECT CAR LEASING STADIUM




### Dates for your diary for the year ahead

- 26<sup>th</sup> November – Ed Psych Service Coffee Afternoon on Executive Functioning (in school)
- 10<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school trip to Pantomime - should be returned by 3.45pm
- 12 December – iRock concert 09.15
- 17<sup>th</sup> @ 1.45pm & 18<sup>th</sup> @ 9.45am December - Nativity Performances
- 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
- 9<sup>th</sup> 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**



**STARTING SCHOOL IN 2026**

If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before 1 September 2026, they can start school in September 2026.

For more information go to [www.hants.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hants.gov.uk/admissions)

Applications open for Hampshire residents on 1 November 2025

THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2026


**DON'T MISS IT!**

Hampshire County Council [hants.gov.uk](http://hants.gov.uk)

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

# Evening Support Group



DYSLEXIA  
AUTISM  
ADHD  
ANXIETY  
TRAUMA



"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 1<sup>st</sup> October – Weds 5<sup>th</sup> November – Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**7.30 – 9.30pm**

In association with Newbury SEND Parent Carer Café



Spaces currently available

# Jiminy Cricket's

A warm and welcoming pre-school in Ashford Hill

hello@jiminycricketspreschool.com [www.jiminycricketspreschool.com](http://www.jiminycricketspreschool.com)



- Highly experienced and qualified staff
- Government funded hours available
- Small setting with community feel
- Excellent child-to-staff ratios
- 2 years to school age
- Creative and outdoor play

Contact us for more info  
**0118 9810 333**

**OFSTED RATED GOOD**



## You Are Not Alone - Free Parent Online Drop-In

Parenting an autistic child can feel amazing, confusing, and overwhelming, sometimes all in the same day. That's why we host our **no-cost monthly online drop-in sessions for parents and carers**.

Normally we run the monthly drop-ins on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month but in **DECEMBER we run 5 drop-in sessions from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.**

### First Tuesday of every month

7pm - 8.30pm

Platform: Zoom



Erik Wagter - host of the drop-in

### What these sessions are all about:

We've created a safe, non-judgemental space where parents can bring their questions, share worries and connect with others who 'get it'.

### Topics often included:

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Making sense of autism on a deeper level
- The ups and downs of family relationships and dynamics
- Working with schools and professionals
- Meeting like-minded parents and realising you are not alone



### What parents say:

*'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel, and I really do feel less alone and more validated. **My hope is back**'*

### Who runs the sessions?

I'm Erik Wagter, co-founder of Autism Family Support Service. Alongside being a social worker, trainer and Solution Focused family coach, I also bring over two decades of personal lived family experience of autism. Sometimes my wife Sally will join in as well.

**If you would like to join please send an email to [sallywagter@gmail.com](mailto:sallywagter@gmail.com) and we will send you the Zoom link.**

Autism Family Support Service  
[www.autismfamilysupportservice.com](http://www.autismfamilysupportservice.com)

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