



# Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has flown by, and the Christmas music has already begun on the radio. I am desperately fighting the urge to put up the Christmas decorations at home—much to the distaste of the rest of my family! I hope you are all getting ready to head into the loft and dust off the lights.

The children have been working hard, and it was lovely to share their progress with you during the parents' evenings this week. They are getting all of their work ready to share with you when you pop in on **18th December**.

This week, I had my follow-up meeting and site survey with the wraparound provider that I have been working with to get wraparound care in place for the Spring Term. The meeting went well, and we are in the final stages of looking at viability and operational needs. I will be able to update you in the coming weeks on what this will look like and the potential start dates.

After many years of trying to make the roads outside safer, we have finally been given some additional traffic control measures. Hopefully you have seen the new speed monitor outside the front of the school—we have already seen a reduction in traffic speed over the course of the day.

Kit Malthouse (local MP) also contacted me this week to follow up and suggested that there should still be further measures in place. He will look into this and get in touch with Miss Hudson in the new year.

Next week, we have new parents visiting on Monday to look around the school for Reception places in 2026. We have had a record number of people interested and have already received applications for next year. The student leaders are really looking forward to showing them around.

We also managed to raise over £140 for Children in Need last week—thank you for all of your efforts. The Charity

Leaders are working hard on their next project; please see below for more details.

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

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kirsty Kingham

Principal



## Kabuwambo Christmas Dinner Fundraiser

Our school has a historical link with Kabuwambo in Uganda, and we have regular visits from Rev. Dodie Marsden, who updates us on how the children are doing and what they are learning at our link school. Most recently, Years 5 and 6 sent letters to the children, and they have now received some replies following Dodie's visit.

The children are excited to share that our school will be raising money to help provide a special Christmas lunch for the children in Kabuwambo. To support this, the children will be creating their own Christmas decorations in school, which you will have the opportunity to buy for £2.

All money raised will go directly towards giving the children in Kabuwambo a joyful Christmas meal.

If you would like to purchase your child's decoration, please pay the £2 into your School Money account by Monday 15th December. Your child will then bring their decoration home.

Thank you for your kindness and support!  
Mrs Barber and the Charity Leaders

## Attendance

| Attendance % (whole school target 97%)     |      |     |    |    |      |      |      |
|--|------|-----|----|----|------|------|------|
| Whole School                               | YR   | Y1  | Y2 | Y3 | Y4   | Y5   | Y6   |
| 95.7                                       | 94.1 | 100 | 99 | 97 | 96.4 | 95.3 | 93.2 |
| Well done Y1 for 100% attendance this week |      |     |    |    |      |      |      |

## Chestnut Class Update

I am pleased to share that we are now in a position to confirm the new teaching arrangements for Chestnut Class. We have secured a new teacher to cover Miss Hudson's teaching commitment, and I am delighted to announce that Mrs Salter will be joining our team.

Many of you will already know Mrs Salter, as she has been working with us since October, teaching music to the whole school every Wednesday. We are thrilled that she will now be with us three days a week—teaching Chestnut Class on Mondays and Tuesdays, and continuing to deliver music across the school on Wednesdays.

We are very pleased to welcome her more formally to our staff team and are confident that this continuity will support a smooth and positive transition for the children. Please do say hello and make her feel welcome if you see her around the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

## Roblox Information for Parents

We have been made aware of a pop-up that is appearing on Roblox, encouraging children to download an app called pollybuzz (or pollyfuzz in some spelling cases). The app seems quite simple where children are asked questions, and it generates an Artificial Intelligence 'friend' – this starts off quite innocently but then begins to show extreme content (including suicide, self-harm and pornography). It may be helpful to remind children about not clicking on pop-ups in games and to report anything that is worrying or inappropriate to a trusted adult. It may also be helpful to communicate with parents about this. Roblox has parental controls and instructions of how to put these on can be accessed via this link: [Parental Controls Overview – Roblox Support](#) .

## Parents Evening Autumn Term

It was lovely to see all of our parents over the last week to celebrate your children's successes. The children are learning well and going from strength to strength in their new year groups and we are looking forward to seeing you in school on 18<sup>th</sup> December to celebrate their work with them further – we know you will be impressed with their efforts.

## Shrek Photo Booklets

These books have been ordered and should be here the first week of December if not before. We will update you as soon as they arrive.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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

## A Message from St Paul's

Concert of the highlights of Handel's Messiah- St Paul's Church, Ashford Hill – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 7.30pm. Celestia Music, a professional choir, are singing the solo pieces and we have a choir of local people to sing the choral pieces. Tickets are £15 for aisle seats and £30 for nave seats. This concert is being held to raise funds for the new floor that we are installing in St Paul's. Do come and support your local church.

## Mini Maker Kits – a PTA Fundraiser

Do you have some Christmas shopping to do? Would you like to buy a gift that is screen free fun AND supports our school? If yes please see the below! This is a fantastic offer and easy way to support us and a small business.

Order by the 28<sup>th</sup> November and your order will be delivered in school the following week. Happy shopping!

[Mini Maker Kit Fundraiser for Ashford Hill Primary School – Ash & Co. Workshops](#)

## 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)                     |

**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

# 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 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 




## Mini Maker Kits Fundraiser

A brilliant way to keep kids entertained this Christmas and raise money for Ashford Hill Primary School!

Perfect for the holidays or as a gift, Mini Maker Kits are hands-on woodcraft projects for children aged 5+.

Each one is made locally from real wood and packed with creative, screen-free fun.

**20% of each sale goes to Ashford Hill PTA**

*Christmas gift idea!*



**How it works**

- Choose from a range of fun project kits
- Order at a discounted price of £15.95 (characters) or £16.95 (car kits)
- Free delivery via Ashford Hill school
- 20% of your order total goes to the Ashford Hill Primary School PTA
- Order online by 28/11/25



[www.ashandcompany.co.uk/ashford-hill](http://www.ashandcompany.co.uk/ashford-hill)

**Order by Friday 28th November 2025**



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

**OFSTED RATED GOOD**

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



## 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)

STAGE COACH

# ENCHANTED WINTER WORKSHOP

22<sup>ND</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER  
THE CLERE SCHOOL  
NEWBURY

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 10 AM - 4 PM (AGE 5-18)     | £84 |
| 12 - 4 PM (FOR 4-YEAR-OLDS) | £56 |

\*all per LISTED guidance

Showcase to families at 3:30 pm on final day  
Wrap around care 9 am - 5 pm available  
Sibling Discounts

SCAN TO BOOK

GET READY TO SING, DANCE AND SPARKLE  
IN OUR BROADWAY BLIZZARD!