



Ashford Hill Primary School

Newsletter
30 January 2026

Dear parents/carers

This week has been filled with moments that beautifully reflect our school value of **community**, both within school and beyond it. Our visits to Cheam School and St. Gabriel's School were real highlights, giving pupils the chance to learn alongside others and engage confidently with the wider community. We were especially proud to hear such positive feedback from staff, including the comment: *'Your pupils were all beautifully behaved and really were a credit to Ashford Hill Primary.'* We're delighted to share more of their achievements and experiences with you below.

Our Year 6 children have shown wonderful **determination** during their mock SATs this week. They approached each paper calmly and sensibly, and it was lovely to see how they encouraged one another throughout. Their teamwork and positive attitudes truly reflected the strong sense of community they have built together. We are very proud of them.

It's been a wonderful week of determination, teamwork, and community across the school. We're proud of all the children's efforts and look forward to sharing more with you next week.

Warm regards

Catherine Hudson

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

This week's attendance:

Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
96.6	98.6	95.6	93.8	92	97.4	100	98.9

Well done to Y5 for 100% attendance this week

Reminder: **The gate will now close promptly at 08:55**. If your child arrives after this time, they will need to enter via the main entrance and sign in at the office. Thank you for supporting us in ensuring every child starts their day ready to learn.

Reporting Absence

If your child is absent, please contact the school by either calling the office and leaving a message or emailing our dedicated attendance mailbox: attendance@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk

When reporting an absence, please remember to include the **reason** your child is away from school. If you report that your child is unwell, a member of staff will follow up to gather a little more information, in line with our attendance procedures. Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate and up to date.

Y4 Maths Challenge at St. Gabriel's School



I had the honour of taking four Year 4 children to St. Gabriel's School this week to take part in a Maths Challenge. They worked brilliantly as a team, tackling tricky problems with enthusiasm and determination. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they collaborated, shared ideas, and encouraged one another throughout the afternoon. The children represented our school beautifully and demonstrated our value of community. We were very proud of both their effort and their attitude.

Y5 Sports Experience at Cheam School



Year 5 had a fantastic day of sports discovery at Cheam School on Thursday where they enjoyed playing new sports and made new friends. The team of excellent sports coaches took our Year 5s through cricket, netball and football skills and engaged them in fun competitive play alongside and against the Year 5 children from Cheam. They represented the school in fantastic fashion, working hard and playing well – they showed their sportsmanship and competitive natures in excellent balance.

Healthy Lunchboxes and Snacks



Whether squeezing it in before the school run in the morning or before bed on a busy midweek evenings, preparing your child's lunchbox can seem like just another thing on the long list of things to do.

School meals are a great choice and we would highly recommend them as a well-priced, nutritious choice, but if you do make a packed lunch for your child, then please ensure that:

- Water bottles in school should contain only water – fruit juice, milk etc. should only be provided in packed-lunches
- Morning snacks should be healthy – fruit, vegetables or a healthy cereal bar
- Packed-lunches should be healthy, nutritious and containing the main food groups – carbohydrate, protein, dairy, fruit and vegetables
- We are a **nut free** school – this also means **no** spreads such as Nutella in sandwiches
- Sweets and chocolate are not appropriate for packed lunches and should be saved for treats at home.

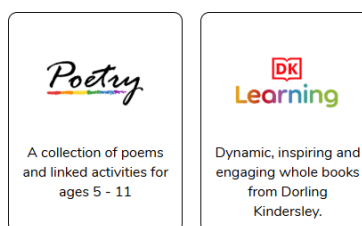
The NHS UK website has some excellent ideas and recipes for lunch boxes if you are struggling for new ideas and also is packed full of nutritional advice.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Purple Mash Library

2026 is the National Year of Reading and to celebrate, we have access to the Purple Mash Library with over 250 eBooks. There are seven clearly-defined libraries to allow children to find books quickly and easily. Children can mark books as favourites and access them directly from the home screen. Children can search the platform by book title, author, genre, or topic (Victorians, Rivers, Stone Age etc.) To access the library, children use their Purple Mash login <https://library.purplemash.com/#/home>

Libraries



Headlice

If you notice any signs of head lice, please inform the school as soon as possible. Head lice can usually be treated effectively by using a pharmacist-recommended lotion or spray and by carefully combing wet hair with a fine-toothed nit comb over several days to remove eggs and lice.

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.



Miss. C. Hudson
Principal
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs. L. Burrige
Executive Headteacher
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr. B. Dixon
Teacher
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Dates for your diary

24 March 2026	Parents' Evening
25 March 2026	Parents' Evening
19 June 2026	Sports Day
9 July 2026	Annie Jr Haymarket Theatre – school show
23 October 2026	INSET Day – school closed to children



Spaces currently available

Jiminy Cricket's

A warm and welcoming pre-school in Ashford Hill

hello@jiminycricketspreschool.com | www.jiminycricketspreschool.com

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- Small setting with community feel
- Excellent child-to-staff ratios
- 2 years to school age
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BACK ON COURT THIS JANUARY 2026

TENNIS TASTERS

Kickstart your fitness journey with a free group coaching taster at Basingstoke Tennis starting 20th January. Whether you're a total beginner or returning to the game, our brand-new sessions are the perfect way to get active and stay social.

OPEN DAY EVENT

The perfect chance to jump on court with taster sessions for both adults and juniors. Meet our friendly coaching team, chat about our programmes, and discover our local tennis community. Plus, enjoy exclusive discounts on coaching and memberships available only to those who attend on the day!

FREE PARKS TENNIS

Free social tennis in Basingstoke every weekend for all aged. With equipment provided and qualified activators leading the way, just turn up, mix in, and meet new people in a fun group environment.

JOIN NOW! WWW.SEAHORSESSWIMMING.CO.UK BOOKSEAHORSES@GMAIL.COM



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At Seahorses, we are dedicated to supporting you throughout every stage of your swimming journey. We offer classes for all ages and abilities, for babies and children through to adults.

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Our caring team undergo extensive training & qualifications & we offer unrivalled teaching quality within our personalised swimming scheme.

We swim at four warm, private pools in Farnham, Hindhead, Bordon, and Newbury, with sessions available during daytime, evenings, and weekends. Our weekly classes are held on a term-by-term basis, with additional courses offered during school holidays.

We take great pride in ensuring a strong foundation from the very beginning. We wholeheartedly believe that it is crucial for every child to learn the proper techniques and skills necessary to become a competent, confident and safety-aware swimmer.

TO ENQUIRE, PLEASE SEND US AN EMAIL, OR COMPLETE A BOOKING FORM ON OUR WEBSITE

WWW.SEAHORSESSWIMMING.CO.UK



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9.00am – 4.00pm
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OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 0 - 12)

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Discounts for siblings - please see booking page for details.

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Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & a Reusable Drinks Bottle.

Scan the QR code for more information, call 01344 508008 or email info@lets-play.org.uk
Book online: www.lets-play.org.uk



Breast Walk Ever Hampshire

Sunday 14th June 2026
IBM Hursely, Winchester, SO21 2JA

MARATHON
HALF-MARATHON
10K

Refreshments provided at regular stops along the routes.

Scan Here to Sign-up

AG INST Against Breast Cancer. Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England Number 8318478. Registered Charity Number 112326.

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- View and manage your appointments with Health Visitors
- View your child's vaccination history and newborn blood-spot screening results
- Search a wide range of resources about children's health
- View growth charts and add measurements
- The Ages and Stages Questionnaires are available for you to complete electronically before your child's 1 year/2 year health reviews
- National Childbirth Measurements Programme. Receive results of your child's height and weight measurements (Year 0 and Year 6).

Today's health, tomorrow's future
Sign up today! Email parent.portal@nhs.net

We CARE through
Compassion Accountability Respect Excellence