



Ashford Hill Primary School

Newsletter
6 February 2026

Dear parents/carers

As we enter the final week of the half term, it has been wonderful to see our school community continuing to learn, grow, and support one another. This week began with a thoughtful and inspiring assembly led by Albie, who bravely shared his experience of living with Type 1 diabetes. We also enjoyed celebrating teamwork and problem-solving as a group of our pupils visited St. Gabriel's to take part in a Maths Challenge. They represented our school beautifully, demonstrating enthusiasm and our core values of *determination* and *community* throughout the event. And, today was Number Day, where the children took part in a variety of engaging Maths activities. The KS2 children also participated in the TTRS NSPCC Rocks challenge and although we weren't in the Top 50 the children enjoyed taking part.

Looking ahead, next week is Children's Mental Health Week - a valuable opportunity for us all to pause and focus on wellbeing. We will be engaging the children in activities designed to build a sense of belonging, resilience, encourage reflection, and highlighting the importance of looking after their mental health.

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
95.7	90	100	97.1	100	97.4	92.9	94.7

Well done Y1 and Y3 for 100% attendance this week

Our current persistent absence rate is just 3.1%, compared to 15.8% nationally – a fantastic achievement. Now we have a challenge: can we work together to reduce this even further and reach our ambitious target of 0% in the coming term?

Punctuality

Just a reminder that doors open for children at 08:45. Early morning activities will be ready for them so they can begin learning as soon as they enter the classroom.

Thank you to everyone who is arriving at school before 08:55. Since we began closing the gate at 08:55, there have been 10 out of 20 days when all children arrived on time – a great achievement. I have another challenge: can we aim for 100% of children arriving by 08:45 next week? Let's see if we can do it together.

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.

Special Assembly



On Monday, we were lucky enough to enjoy an assembly led by Albie, who bravely and confidently shared his experience of living with Type 1 diabetes. He talked about what it was like when he was first diagnosed and explained the daily routines and treatments he follows to manage his condition. Albie spoke with honesty and maturity, helping everyone gain a better understanding of what diabetes means and how it affects his day-to-day life. We are incredibly proud of the way he educated his peers. Well done, Albie.

Pupil Success



We love to celebrate childrens' successes out of school. Nathan has been presented with his Chief Scout's silver award by the mayor of Basingstoke and Deane. Well done, Nathan, what a fantastic achievement.

If your child has had a success outside of school, we would love to celebrate it. Please send a photo and a short description to admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk and we will share it here.

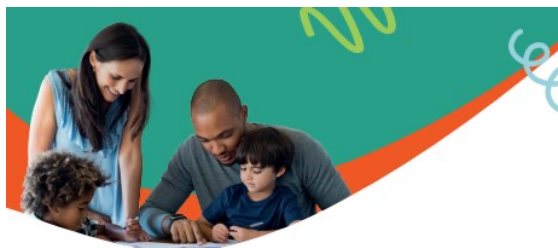
Y5 Maths Challenge at St. Gabriel's School

This week, I had the pleasure of accompanying four Year 5 children to St. Gabriel's School for a Maths Challenge. Much like the Year 4 team, they worked superbly together, approaching each problem systematically and with eagerness and determination. It was wonderful to see them work together, collaborating, shared ideas, and supporting one another throughout the afternoon. They represented our school superbly and truly reflected our value of community. I am very proud of both their hard work and their excellent attitude.

Y6 SATs Meeting

There will be a SATs meeting for all Year 6 parents and their children on Tuesday 12 February. To accommodate the varying needs of families, the session will be offered twice: once in school at 15:30 and once online at 18:00. The link to the online Microsoft Teams meeting will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Children's Mental Health Week 2026



'THIS IS MY PLACE'

We know that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school and in communities plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing.

To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need. It can have powerful and long-lasting impacts in lots of areas of our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

This year, Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week will aim to support the groups and systems surrounding our children. We'll encourage peers, families, schools and community groups to create inclusive and nurturing environments, where children and young people feel they belong and can say "THIS IS MY PLACE".

WHAT BELONGING MEANS TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We spoke with primary and secondary aged children to ask what they wanted from the week - to help shape the activities we create for them, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families and groups.

What is Belonging?

- Feeling that you have a place where you are always welcome and valued as either place or set of people.
- A place you belong with your family and friends.
- Feeling included, not left out.
- Belonging means feeling a connection with something, feeling like I am meant to be there with no stresses or worries. It's all about feeling safe.
- Feeling a part of something e.g. a group or society.
- People accepting you as you are.

The week beginning 9 February is *Children's Mental Health Week 2026*. At Ashford Hill, we are committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of both our pupils and staff. We are fortunate to have a strong support network in place, including our Mental Health First Aider, SENDCo, six Children's Mental Health Champions and additional support from outside agencies.

This year's theme is "**This is My Place**". Throughout the week, we will be using assemblies and resources from *Place2Be*, a children's mental health charity, to guide our learning and discussions. A strong sense of belonging—within ourselves, in our friendships, at school, and in our wider communities—plays a crucial role in our mental health and wellbeing. Feeling that we have a place, and truly belong in our environment, is a basic human need. It can positively influence many areas of life, including our physical and mental health, education, relationships, and future opportunities. When we feel we belong, we are empowered to contribute, grow, and make a meaningful difference. For more information and ideas, please visit Place2Be's website:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

PTA meeting

We have arranged a PTA zoom meeting on Thursday 26 February at 19:30 - this is open to all.

This won't be a long a meeting but it would be great to inform you all on some exciting plans for the year ahead. We appreciate everyone is very busy but we welcome any help and would love to see some of you join in and get involved, whether it be on the PTA, as a happy helper or just for a one-off event.

Meeting details:

Topic: Ashford Hill PTA

Time: Feb 26, 2026 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86299609840?pwd=qjLUkckDAzapvCE5MmSXpqjKfCjPh9.1>

Meeting ID: 862 9960 9840

Passcode: 2gWbXE

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. Burridge
Executive Headteacher

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Mr. B. Dixon
Teacher

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and healthy digital habits through 'family friendly' National Online Safety. These guides now address wider topics and themes for the home, school and for physical and mental health.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 6 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That means between home, school and education, we're not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offscreen.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- SLEEP DISRUPTION**
Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and disrupt sleep patterns. Children may struggle to fall asleep or experience disrupted sleep, leading to fatigue and irritability.
- ONLINE PEER PRESSURE**
Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic beauty standards, cyberbullying, and peer pressure. Children may feel excluded or pressured to conform to trends or behaviors.
- CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE**
Children may experience bullying through text messages, social media, or gaming. This can lead to anxiety, depression, and self-harm. It's important to monitor online interactions and provide support.
- REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**
Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and low cardiovascular fitness.
- EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION**
Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains, leading to irritability, mood swings, and difficulty controlling emotions. Screen time can also be addictive.
- PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS**
Children may unknowingly share personal information, photos, or videos. They may also be exposed to inappropriate content, scams, or predators. It's crucial to educate them on safe online practices.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**
Establish screen-free zones and times, such as bedrooms and mealtimes. Use parental controls and co-viewing to monitor online activity. Encourage children to take regular breaks and engage in offline activities.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE**
Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy today?" to build trust and encourage honest communication. Encourage them to report any concerns.
- MODEL HEALTHY HABITS**
Children mirror adult behavior. Demonstrate balanced device use, screen-free mealtimes, and regular outdoor play. Encourage them to disconnect and engage in offline activities. Making it fun by putting your phone away during family time can show that you're also disconnecting.
- PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY**
Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognize inappropriate and untrusted profiles, and understand privacy settings. Encourage them to think critically and not to share personal information. Use age-appropriate tools to help them understand online safety.

Meet Our Expert
Adrian O'Brien is Assistant Vice Principal for Personal Development at Peckham Secondary School and leads an award-winning day a week for adults, offering advice to schools on improving their mental health provision.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source of this guide do as all their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.01.2025

Valentine Bake Sale



Valentine's Day Bake Sale

Friday 13th February 2026
From 3.25pm

Our bake sale is back!

Please could we kindly ask for all Years to bake or buy some Valentine's Day themed cakes for us to sell at our very popular Bake Sale on the last day before half term.

Please no nuts due to allergies.

Cakes can be dropped to the school office on the morning of Friday 13th Feb. The sale will take place after school in the Hall and we will have a table set up with a selection of cakes for the bus children to buy, so they won't miss out.

Cakes will be sold individually at £1 or 3 for £2.

You can pay by cash or card.

Once again thank you for your support.

Ashford Hill PTA

WHOLE SCHOOL

VALENTINE BAKE SALE

FRIDAY 13TH FEB
FROM 3.25PM
IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Dates for your diary

13 February 2026	Last day of Spring 1 half term
23 February 2026	First day of Spring 2 half term
24 March 2026	Parents' Evening
25 March 2026	Parents' Evening
19 June 2026	Sports Day
9 July 2026	Annie Jr Haymarket Theatre – school show
22 October 2026	Extra-ordinary INSET Day- school closed to children
23 October 2026	INSET Day – school closed to children

Community Notices

Discover Bucks Museum
A Road Dahl Children's Gallery

February Half Term

14 - 22 February 2026

This February half term, dive into hands-on fun with Sand Art, Dragon Puppets for Chinese New Year, Superhero Capes and Masks, plus dazzling Rainbow Science. Make a day of it and explore the Road Dahl Children's Gallery, discover the I Grew Up 90's exhibition, family trail and sensory room for a week packed with imagination and discovery.

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org







Book Now!

Monday 16 February – Dragon Puppets
Celebrate the Year of the Horse by making a Chinese dragon puppet and a paper lantern to take home!
10am - 2.30pm, drop in. Suitable for ages 5-10

Tuesday 17 February – Superhero Capes & Masks
Transform into a superhero by decorating your own superhero cape and mask to take home!
10am - 2.30pm, drop in. Suitable for ages 5-10

Wednesday 18 February – Sand Art
Learn how to make beautiful sand art in a bottle to take home!
10am - 3pm, drop in. Suitable for ages 5-11

Thursday 19 & Friday 20 February – Rainbow Science
Learn all about the science of colour with our rainbow-themed workshop: make a rainbow in a jar to take home, experiment with how we can split light and how rain clouds are formed and more!
40 minute workshop. 10.30am, 12.30pm & 2.30pm. Suitable for ages 5-10

Sunday 22 February – Author Event – Simon Smith Schoolboy Spy with Mark Cressy
Join us for a special event with new author Mark Cressy, who will be reading from his exciting children's book. Enjoy interactive crafts inspired by the story, followed by a book signing.
12.30pm - 1.30pm. Suitable for ages 7-11

Play, Discover, Learn! this Feb Half Term in the Road Dahl Children's Gallery

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Enjoy our Trail and Sensory Rooms every day 14 - 22 Feb

Closes Sunday 22 February

I Grew Up 90s – last chance to see!
"I Grew Up 90s" dives into the decade seen through the eyes of youth, showcasing over 200 nostalgic objects and artworks from collector Neil Fox. From Snuggly and Cool Belongs to Sara Cruff, the Spice Girls, Telepresence, and Power Rangers – this is your LAST chance to revisit the fashion, toys and music that defined the '90s.

Discover Bucks Museum
Aylesbury MK45 2DP
01295 231447 | info@discoverbucksmuseum.org



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Book online: www.lets-play.org.uk

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Half Term Netball Camp

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NUFFIELD HEALTH

10:30 AM - 16:30 PM

18th February - Years 7, 8 & 9

19th February - Years 4, 5 & 6

£30.00 per day

netballstars.com

WHAT'S ON January - April 2025

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Hands on History: Castles and Catapults (8+)
Mon 16 Feb. 10.30am, 1pm | Tudor House. £8

Art for All: Introducing Acrylics - Winter Scenes (8+)
Mon 16 Feb. 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery. £8

Tour for All: Saxons, Vikings and Normans Walking Tour
Tue 17 Feb. 10am | Tudor House. £10 (accompanying children FREE)

Art for All: Minecraft Mosaic Worlds (7+)
Tue 17 Feb. 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery. £8

Art for All: Great Fire of London Clay Scenes (8+)
Wed 18 Feb. 10.30am, 1pm | Tudor House. £8

Art for All: Blurry Inspired Pen Pots (5+)
Wed 18 Feb. 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery. £8

Art for All: K Pop Demos: Horner Clay Sculpture (8+)
Thu 19 Feb. 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm | Art Gallery. £8

Hands on History: Awesome Egyptians (7+)
Fri 20 Feb. 10.30am, 1pm | Tudor House. £8

Junior Art School: Go Wild with Wood (7 - 12 years)
Drop off your young people at 8.00 for all three days

CULTURE CLUB FOR KIDS ACTIVITY DAYS
(Age 8+ - 12 years)
Drop off your young people Three days per week 9am-4pm (drop off from 8.45)
Seachy - £25 per day or £80 for all three days
Get creative, explore our collections and learn more about whilst making healthy and things of our theme - activity days
Online Adventures Mon 16, Tue 17, Wed 18 Feb.

See venue websites for further details on events and to book seachymuseum.co.uk tudorhouseandgarden.com southamptoncitygallery.com



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TENNIS FEDERATION

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OPEN DAY EVENT
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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.

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- 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 Childmood Measurement Programme. Receive results of your child's height and weight measurements (Year 8 and Year 6).

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