



# Ashford Hill Primary School

Newsletter  
13 February 2026

Dear Families

As we reach the end of my very first half term as Principal, I want to take a moment to celebrate what has been a wonderful start. From day one, our school community has shown what *determination*, *community*, and *integrity* truly look like in action.

This half term began on an incredible high with the release of our fantastic Ofsted report, a testament to the hard work of our staff, pupils, and families. Your support has played a huge part in this achievement, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our parents and carers for being such strong partners in our journey.

Our children have embraced a rich variety of opportunities over the past few weeks:

- taking part in Maths Challenges and showcasing their problem-solving skills,
- representing the school brilliantly at various sports events,
- tackling their in-school assessments with focus and resilience,
- engaging thoughtfully in Safer Internet Day,
- competing against schools nationally in the TTRS NSPCC Rocks event,
- and supporting one another through Children's Mental Health Week.

A special highlight today was the PTA Valentine's Bake Sale, which brought our community together in the sweetest way possible. The generosity, creativity, and teamwork on display were truly heart-warming, and we are incredibly grateful to the PTA for organising and running the sale, and everyone who baked, bought, or supported the event.

Thank you once again for your ongoing encouragement and for helping make this first half term such a positive and successful one. I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved together and excited for all that lies ahead.

I hope you have a relaxing half-term break and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 23 February.

Best wishes

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
97.9	88.6	92.2	100	98	98.3	97.6	97.9

Above target for the whole school this week and well done Y2 for 100% attendance

Our current persistent absence rate has increased slightly to 3.8%. Persistent absence is when a pupil misses 10% or more of their possible school sessions, including both authorised and unauthorised absences. This means their attendance is at or below 90%. Please remember our challenge: can we work together as a community to 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 engaged in the challenge of arriving by 08:45. 100% of children arrived before the registers closed, this is excellent progress. Well done and thank you. Let's keep it up.

### 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](mailto: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.

### Children's Mental Health Week 2026

This week opened with an assembly about belonging and the children shared what belonging meant to them. Belonging is the feeling of being a valued part of the groups and places that are important to us. It means feeling cared for and comfortable to be ourselves.

Children took part in various activities linked to belonging, including exploring their sense of belonging by creating a personal map, which included places, groups, or activities or something not physical, where they feel they belong.



### Y5 Maths Challenge at St. Gabriel's School - photo



## (Past) Pupil Success



This week we're celebrating the success of one of our alumni.

William Quant has been cast in the lead role of Galileo in *We Will Rock You*, and he's incredibly excited for the upcoming performances.

With our own production of *Annie* just around the corner, we thought you might enjoy seeing how the skills and confidence developed through our school shows can help pupils shine long after they leave Ashford Hill.

If you'd like to go and support William, you can purchase tickets using the link below.  
[Newbury YoungStars present: We Will Rock You Young@Part@ – Arlington Arts Centre](#)

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](mailto:admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk) and we will share it here.

## Y6 SATs Meeting and SATs Club

Thank you to all the families who attended the SATs club meeting. I hope you found it informative. I will be sending out the slides after the half term.

Some of you may have received invites for your children to attend SATs club after the holidays. These will run from 15:25 – 16:15 and collection will be from the Hall.

## World Book Day

This year, we will be celebrating World Book Day a little differently.

After reflecting on previous years, we have decided that we will not be dressing up for World Book Day. Over time, costumes have begun to overshadow the true purpose of the day, which is celebrating books, stories, and the joy of reading.

We also understand that buying costumes can create financial pressure, especially when children often only wear them once. In addition, we are mindful of the importance of sustainability. Shop-bought costumes, particularly those made from synthetic materials, are often used briefly and then discarded, contributing to unnecessary waste.

By moving away from costume-based celebrations, we hope to reduce this impact while ensuring all children can take part equally and comfortably.

What we'll be doing instead:

Each child will be given a large blank circle of card on which they can draw clues about their favourite book or character. These will then be made into badges for the children to wear, and will form part of a fun, whole-school activity where pupils try to guess each other's chosen books. Children are also invited to bring in their favourite book to share with their classmates. This keeps the focus firmly on reading, creativity and sharing stories.

Teachers will also be planning a variety of engaging book-themed activities throughout the day to ensure the celebration remains exciting and meaningful, including watching performances from the National Theatre.

Thank you for your support in helping us make World Book Day inclusive, enjoyable, and environmentally friendly for all our pupils.

## Wraparound Care Update

Integrity

Determination

Community

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the launch of our new wraparound care provision has been slightly delayed. We are now aiming to begin offering this provision after the Easter holidays. We will keep you updated and share further details as soon as they are confirmed. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

In the meantime, GOL Elite will continue to run breakfast club and teacher-led clubs will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Breaking Barriers and GOL Football will also continue to run as usual.

## 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=qllUkckDAzapvCE5MmSXpqjKfCjPh9.1>

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. This may include taking the decision to prohibit certain games at playtime which we deem dangerous.

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

23 February 2026	First day of Spring 2 half term
11 March 2026	Parent Coffee Morning- Alana Gallagher, Educational Psychologist 08:45
24 March 2026	Parents' Evening
25 March 2026	Parents' Evening
27 March 2026	PTA Easter Egg Hunt
19 June 2026	Sports Day
9 July 2026	Annie Jr Haymarket Theatre – school show
14 July 2026	Whole school summer disco
22 October 2026	<b>Extra-ordinary INSET Day- school closed to children</b>
23 October 2026	INSET Day – school closed to children

## Discover Bucks Museum

# 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 Board 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](http://discoverbucksmuseum.org)










**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 meet 60 minute workshop. 10.30am, 12.15pm & 2.15pm  
Suitable for ages 5-10

**Sunday 22 February - Author Event - Simon Smith Schoobey 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

**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 personal items collected from friends, family and our volunteers to Lara Croft, the Spice Girls, Transporting and Posing Magazine - 1990s Year 6&7 shared to revisit the fashion, toys and music that defined the 90s.

**Closes Sunday 22 February**



Discover Bucks Museum  
Aylesbury MK20 2DP  
[www.discoverbucksmuseum.org](http://www.discoverbucksmuseum.org)

## ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMPS

# GET SET FOR ULTIMATE EASTER & SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN!

Outstanding holiday day camps with over 40 activities every week

for ages 4 to 14

Mon - Fri  
8am - 6pm

**EARLY BOOKING OFFER NOW ON!**

### At St. Gabriel's School in Newbury

Ultimate savings when you book early!



# Half Term Netball Camp

Experience fun activities, make new friends, and create lasting memories. All abilities welcome.

**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](http://netballstars.com)



## Let's Play

FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

# SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN DAYS

SWIMMING, MULTI-SPORTS, ARTS & CRAFTS, BOUNCY CASTLE, PERFORMING ARTS, GAMING, LASER TAG, NERF WAR, LEGO BUILDING & MUCH MORE!

## OPEN EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY



**Kennet Leisure Centre**  
Stoney Lane, Thatcham RG19 4LJ  
9.00am - 4.00pm  
Early drop off from 8am, late pick-up until 5pm

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 5) - 12

**FROM £29.50 PER DAY!**

Discounts for siblings - please see booking page for details.

We accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered!

Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & a Refillable Drink Bottle.



Scan the QR code for more information, call 01344 508008 or email [info@lets-play.org.uk](mailto:info@lets-play.org.uk)  
Book online: [www.lets-play.org.uk](http://www.lets-play.org.uk)

[@letsplayuk](https://www.facebook.com/letsplayuk) [@letsplayuk](https://www.instagram.com/letsplayuk)

## WHAT'S ON

January - April 2026

**SOUTHAMPTON City of Museums**

# FEBRUARY HALF TERM

**Hands on History: Castles and Catapults (8+)**  
Thu 19 Feb, 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm. Art Gallery. £8

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

**Tour for All: Saxons, Vikings and Normans Building Tower**  
Tue 17 Feb, 10am. (Accompanying children FREE)

**Art for All: Mincestriff Mosaic Mural (7+)**  
Tue 17 Feb, 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm. Art Gallery. £8

**Art for All: Great Fire of London Clay Scapes (8+)**  
Wed 18 Feb, 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm. Art Gallery. £8

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

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

**Art for All: Characterful Dugel (under 4s and friends)**  
Thu 19 Feb, 10.30am. Art Gallery. £8

**Hands on History: Awesome Egyptians (7+)**  
Fri 20 Feb, 10.30am, 1pm. Art Gallery. £8

**Junior Art School: Go Wild with Wood (7 - 13 years)**  
Fri 20 Feb, 10.30am - 3.30pm. Art Gallery. £26

**Stop off your young people**  
Fri 20 Feb, 10.30am - 3.30pm. Tutor House. £8

**CULTURE CLUB FOR KIDS ACTIVITY DAYS**  
(Ages 6+ - 12 years)

Stop off your young people  
Three days per week, 10am-1pm (drop off from 9.45)

Activity: £10 per day or £40 for all three days  
Get creative, explore our collections and have fun stuff while making really cool things at our themed activity days.  
Online adventures  
Mon 16, Tue 17, Wed 18 Feb

See venue websites for further details on events and to book [seacitymuseum.co.uk](http://seacitymuseum.co.uk) | [tutorhouseandjardn.com](http://tutorhouseandjardn.com) | [southamptoncityartgallery.com](http://southamptoncityartgallery.com)



## NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FREE TENNIS AT BASINGSTOKE TENNIS

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 ages! With equipment provided and qualified coaches leading the way, just turn up, mix in, and meet new people in a fun group environment.



## Seahorses Swim School

PROUD TO OFFER SMALL GROUP & PRIVATE CLASSES FOR BABIES, CHILDREN & ADULTS AT FOUR LOVELY WARM PRIVATE POOLS IN FAREHAM, HINSEAD, BORDON & NEWBURY

### About Us

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.

We take great pride in offering small group and private lessons, ensuring a calm, supportive, and progressive environment for our swimmers to thrive.

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 Fareham, Hindhead, Bordon, and Newbury, with sessions available during daytime, evenings, and weekends. Our weekly classes are held on a 6m-by-12m basin, 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](http://WWW.SEAHORSESSWIMMING.CO.UK)



## Jiminy Cricket's

A warm and welcoming pre-school in Ashford Hill

Spaces currently available

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**



**Parent Information Portal**

**NHS** Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Your Health Visiting and School Nursing records all in one place... at your finger tips

- 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 Childhood Measurement Programme: Receive results of your child's height and weight measurements (Year R and Year 6)

Today's health, tomorrow's future  
Sign up today! Email [parent\\_portal@nhs.net](mailto:parent_portal@nhs.net)

We CARE through:

**Breast Walk Ever Hampshire**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026**  
IBM Hursely, Winchester, SO21 2JA

**MARATHON**  
**HALF-MARATHON**  
**10K**

Refreshments provided at regular stops along the routes.

AG-INST breast cancer

Scan Here to Sign-up

AG-INST  
Breast Cancer  
Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in England Number 0102019 Registered Charity Number 1127288

**North Hampshire**

**Sport In Mind** FREE!

Registered Charity 116323

**Youth Activities for Mental Wellbeing**

Sport In Mind provides free sport and physical activity opportunities for children and young people to help build confidence and self-esteem, meet new people and support low mood and other mental health challenges.

Day	Time	Activity	Age	Venue
Tues	4.30-5.30pm	Sport & Games	10-14 years	The Link, Newchurch Road, TADLEY HC28 4HN <b>NEW!</b>
Weds	4-5pm	Sport & Games	10-14 years	Sports Hall, Everset Community Academy, Oxford Way, BASINGTOPE, H214 6UP
Thurs	4.30-5.30pm	Sport & Games	10-14 years	Sports Hall, Andover Leisure Centre, West Street, ANDOVER SP10 1QP

Session runs weekly (excluding school holidays)

\*New joiners must first sign up!  
Scan the QR code above & email [youth@sportinmind.org](mailto:youth@sportinmind.org)

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Working in partnership with **NHS** Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust