



# Ashford Hill Primary School

Newsletter  
27 February 2026

Dear Families

Welcome back to a new half term shaped by our values of determination, integrity and community. I hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half term holiday. Now that we are already a week in, it has been wonderful to see children continuing their learning journeys with fresh energy and a real sense of purpose. A special well done to Year 1, who have completed their first set of assessments with great determination and confidence.

To build on this positive start, we also have a wonderful range of enrichment activities ahead that will inspire curiosity, strengthen our community and give children new experiences to enjoy.

- World Book Day and Science Week will spark curiosity and celebrate a love of learning.
- Touch rugby and the gymnastics festival will give children the chance to show determination, teamwork and resilience.
- Visits to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and Rushall Farm will deepen children's understanding of the world around them.
- A visit from our PCSO will support children to act with integrity as they learn about staying safe in the community and online.
- Our educational psychologist coffee morning will give families the chance to explore screen time, play and wellbeing together.
- Parents' evenings will offer valuable time to reflect on progress and plan next steps together.
- Our curriculum showcase will be a lovely opportunity for you to come in and see your child's work and celebrate their learning together.

Thank you for completing the recent survey on parental engagement and communication. Your feedback plays an important role in strengthening our partnership with families and ensuring everyone feels informed, involved and valued.

Best wishes

Catherine Hudson

Principal

## Attendance

Our school attendance target is **97% and above for all children.**

### This week's attendance:

Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
96.9	93.6	97.8	100	93.5	100	95.3	97.9

Well done to Y2 and Y4 for 100% attendance

Please remember our challenge: can we work together as a community to reach our ambitious target of 0% persistent absence in the coming term?

## The Good Mental Health Handbook

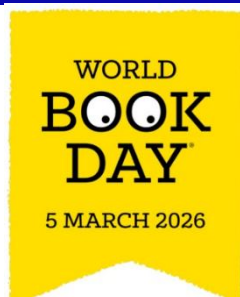
The [Good Mental Health Handbook](#) has been developed by Hampshire CAMHS and parents/carers. Within its pages it contains information, short videos, and workshops to support our children's mental health challenges including anxiety, bereavement, depression, self-harm, eating disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, sexuality, substance misuse and trauma. This handbook also contains information about parental wellbeing.

### The Good Mental Health Handbook

A guide for parents and carers



## World Book Day



We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day next week. Your child will have come home with their circle of card. This will be used to create their 'favourite book badge' for our whole-school activity. Please help your child decorate their circle with clues about their favourite book or character using simple illustrations, collage, or designs that represents them.

They can use pens, pencils, paint, or any craft materials you have at home. Finished badges should be returned to school by Tuesday, so we can prepare them in time for Thursday's celebrations.

Thank you for your support in helping us make World Book Day a joyful celebration of reading for all our children. 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.

## British Science Week

During the week beginning Monday 9 March 2026, we will be celebrating British Science Week. This year's theme, "Curiosity... what's your question?", invites children to become true young scientists by noticing the world around them and asking the questions that spark investigation.

To bring this to life, each class will choose a scientific question to explore. Over the week, children will:

- Plan and carry out an investigation linked to their class question.
- Make predictions, test ideas, and record what they observe.
- Work collaboratively to solve problems and think like scientists.
- Share their findings with the rest of the school at the end of the week.

This approach helps children see that science begins with a question and that their own curiosity is a powerful starting point for learning.



## Coffee Morning with Educational Psychologist

### Screen time, play and children's development

Join us for a Coffee morning with Alana Gallacher, Educational Psychologist, at **09:00** on **Wednesday 11 March**. Please feel free to arrive from 08:45 onwards.

We'll cover:

- How play supports children's learning, development and wellbeing
- How screen time can impact children's play, development and wellbeing
- How adults can support positive, balanced and healthy screen use at home
- Space to ask questions and share experiences

## Red Nose Day



Red Nose Day Friday 20 March – Wear Red to School!

We are excited to be taking part in Red Nose Day 2026 in support of Comic Relief. On Red Nose Day, children are invited to come to school wearing something red – this could be a red top, red socks, a red accessory, or even a red nose!

There is no set donation amount, but if you would like to contribute, donations can be made online via our JustGiving page – [Ashford Hill Primary School's Page](#)

All money raised will go towards supporting Comic Relief's work helping people

facing hardship both in the UK and around the world.

We hope the children enjoy taking part in this fun day while helping to make a difference.

## Pupil Success

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.

## 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.

## 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. Burridge  
Executive Headteacher

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

Mr. B. Dixon  
Teacher

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

## Dates for your diary

11 March 2026	Parent Coffee Morning- Alana Gallagher, Educational Psychologist – 08:45
23 March 2026	No teacher-led clubs this week
24 March 2026	Parents' Evening
25 March 2026	Parents' Evening
27 March 2026	iRock Concert 09:15 (only for iRocker families)
27 March 2026	Curriculum Showcase – 14:45
27 March 2026	PTA Easter Egg Hunt – 15:15
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

**Jiminy Cricket's**  
A warm and welcoming pre-school in Ashford Hill

Spaces currently available

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

0118 9810 333

OFSTED RATED GOOD

**ULTIMATE FAMILY 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 10% OFF!

At St. Gabriel's School in Newbury

Ultimate savings when you book early!

**Breast Walk Ever Hampshire**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
IBM Hareley, 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  
AG Incentive Support Trust  
Registered in England Number 1410051 Registered Charity Number 107058

**North Hampshire Sport In Mind**

FREE!

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 L33, Newchurch Road, TADLES FC28 area
Wed	4.5pm	Sport & Games	10-14 years	Sports Hall, Farnell Community Academy, Oxford Way BASSINGTOKE RG24 9UP
Thurs	4.50-5.30pm	Sport & Games	10-14 years	Sports Hall, Andrew Leisure Centre, East Street, ANDOVER SP10 1GR

Session runs weekly (excluding school holidays)

\*New joiners must first sign up\*

Scan the QR code above & email youth@spormind.org

Working in partnership with NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare

**FACE March 2026 Timetable**

Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Improving Family Communication	2 Mar 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	2 Mar 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Mar 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 Mar 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Mar 10am
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	10 Mar 10am
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Mar 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Mar 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 Mar 10am
What is ACT	17 Mar 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Mar 10am
Decreasing Depression	23 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Mar 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 Mar 7pm
FREE Anxiety Based School Avoidance	26 Mar 7-8pm

"Where the UK Comes to Bounce"

**LABYRINTH CHALLENGE**

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR

1100ft Inflatables Obstacle Course  
Worlds Biggest Bouncy Castle  
Huge Jungle Mania Course for Tiny Adventurers

**NEWBURY SHOWGROUND**  
6th-7th JUNE 2026

USE CODE **SCHOOL10** for 10% ALL TICKETS

[WWW.THELABYRINTHCHALLENGE.COM](http://WWW.THELABYRINTHCHALLENGE.COM)

**You Are Not Alone**

You Are Not Alone Drop-in

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

This You Are Not Alone community is a friendly and safe space run by Fik & Sally Wagher where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's experiences.

In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings (mindfulness etc)
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and SENCP
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring IETAs or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more

Here's what parents have said:

"My husband James was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned so much more about autism and PDA than he has over the past year - in 30 mins!"

"This was so much for the group this evening I can't tell you how grateful I feel and really do feel like others and more validated. My hope is to do" Louise Grant

You can request the Zoom link on our website  
<https://youarenotalone.community> or you can send an email to [team@youarenotalone.community](mailto:team@youarenotalone.community)

**Your Space**

Therapies for young people

Easter Holiday Mindfulness Party Day for Kids!

Dates: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 9.30am - 2pm  
Venue: Hill Road Arts, Newbury

Join us for a magical day of games, singing, art, friendship, and mindfulness!

- What to Expect
- Mindfulness Time with Paws
- Play Zone
- Biting and Mowling Games
- Connect with Arts and Nature
- Make New Friends

Click the link to book the day of your choice:  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Mindfulness Party Day - Book Now!  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Mindfulness Party Day - Book Now!

Cost: £48 per child  
or purchase a ticket via eventbrite, you will receive 10 tickets, you will be invoiced via email with the correct amount due on 27<sup>th</sup> March.  
Spaces limited to 10 children per day

We are an inclusive team and warmly welcome children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We welcome diversity and are committed to providing a supportive environment where every child can thrive.

**Holiday Activities**

**Easter 2026**

MUSIC PRODUCTION

The Rose Theatre, Barton Perini College, Eastleigh  
Mon 30th & Tues 31st March  
9.30am - 3.30pm  
Suitable for children in Years 5, 6, 7 and 8  
£88 (both days) including lunch

Dive into the world of music creation using Ableton and GarageBand. Explore recording, sampling, and live DJing with hands-on experience using professional gear. Discover how chords shape songs, experiment with different genres, and learn to beat your own tracks from the ground up. Whether you're into beats, melodies, or mixing, everything you need is provided - just bring your creativity!

Click here to watch a video about the enrichment days  
Click here for the sign-up form

**ROCK 2 THE BEAT**

The Rose Theatre, Barton Perini College, Eastleigh  
Mon 30th & Tues 31st March  
9.30am - 3.30pm  
Performance Tues 31st at 3.30pm  
£88 (both days) including lunch

Suitable for all Years 5-10 currently playing in a Rock 2 the Beat band, or who currently learn vocals, guitar, bass, keyboard or drums at Grade 1 (or above) and are able to read basic notation.

Come and join other Rock 2 the Beat musicians from around the county and learn a song from start to finish, building confidence through collaboration and creativity. Limited places for each instrument, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Click here for the sign-up form

**Holiday Activities**

**Summer 2026**

GET MUSICAL!

Five Days of Musical Theatre Magic - Western Style!

The Rose Theatre, Barton Perini College, Eastleigh  
Mon 10 - Fri 14 August 2026  
10.00am - 4.00pm

Performance Friday at 5.00pm  
Suitable for Year 4 - Year 13  
£185 (includes £20 non-refundable deposit), including lunch  
Breakfast Club available each morning from 8.30am at a cost of £5 per day

Stabile up for an unforgettable week of singing, dancing, and acting as we bring the Wild West to the stage! Learn iconic show tunes, master toe-tapping choreography, and perform a spectacular medley at the end of the week.

Click here for the sign-up form

Whether you're a seasoned performer or trying musical theatre for the first time, this is your chance to shine!

For more information:  
music.service@hants.gov.uk  
[hantsmusicalhub.org.uk/holidayactivities](mailto:hantsmusicalhub.org.uk/holidayactivities)

SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW  
Our Rock 2 the Beat and Music Production enrichment days will run on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th August 2026.