



Ashford Hill Primary School

Newsletter
06 March 2026

Dear Families

The second week of this half-term has been filled with sunshine, energy and a wonderful mix of learning and enrichment across the school. Year 2 have shown real focus determination during their Mock SATs, while Reception enjoyed a bright and busy day at Rushall Farm. Year 3 and 4 represented us brilliantly at the Touch Rugby festival, embracing the challenge with teamwork and enthusiasm.

World Book Day gave us a chance to celebrate stories and reading together, with classes enjoying shared books and activities throughout the day.

For Year 6, this week has brought two important milestones: news of their Year 7 secondary school places and for those children going to The Hurst School, their first transition meeting. It's an exciting moment for them, and we'll continue to support each child as they prepare for the move to secondary.

Behind the scenes, our PTA have also been hard at work, carrying out a full stock-take in the teaching kitchen as we look ahead to enhancing our food technology provision for all year groups. It was a lovely reminder of the strength of our school community and the way families, staff and volunteers come together to support opportunities for our children.

Next week, we are looking forward to celebrating British Science Week, with plenty of opportunities planned to spark curiosity and notice the world around us.

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	87.3	100	99.5	94	97.4	99.41	97.4

Well done to Y1 100% attendance

YR visit to Rushall Farm



Year R had a wonderful time on their visit to the farm this week. The children loved meeting the animals, learning about how they are cared for, and discovering where some of our food comes from. Highlights included feeding the chickens, riding on the tractors, and enjoying a picnic together. We were so proud of how curious, kind, and brave the children were throughout the day. Most of all, the trip showcased our strong sense of community, with the children supporting one another and working together throughout the day. A huge thank you to the staff and volunteers

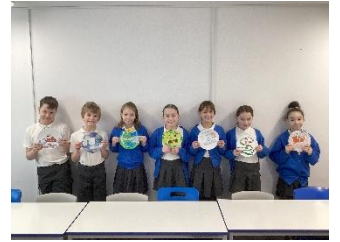
who made the trip such a success.

World Book Day



World Book Day was a wonderful celebration of stories, curiosity and the joy of reading across the school. Children took part in a lively book scavenger hunt, searching through a wide range of books to find answers to different questions and discovering new titles along the way. They also spent time guessing the books represented by the fantastic badges designed and made by pupils and staff, an activity that sparked lots of discussion and excitement.

In the afternoon, we dropped everything and listened as teachers from across the school visited each class to read aloud from one of their favourite books. Classrooms were filled with shared stories, new voices and plenty of imagination.



Many classes also immersed themselves in National Theatre productions, including *Treasure Island*, bringing drama and storytelling to life in a different way.

It was a day that truly celebrated our love of reading and the power of stories to connect us as a community.



Y4 Touch Rugby Festival



Our Year 4 rugby team took part in a touch rugby festival at Newbury Rugby Club this Thursday. They worked hard to implement the coaching they had received in two short training sessions and so were able to work incredibly well as a team – leading each other and ensuring everyone was in the right place. They worked extremely hard through 4 games and managed to succeed in all 4 of them – winning three and drawing the 4th with a late try coming in from their opponents in the moments of a final play after the time had run out. Excellent effort by all, well done.

Hockey Taster Sessions



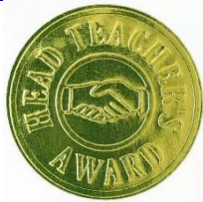
KS2 had an exciting taster session with Liam from Newbury and Thatcham Hockey club on Tuesday 24 February, learning new skills and discovering how enjoyable hockey can be. Following on from this, the club have offered 50% off membership for next season. There are 4 sessions left this season and children are invited to 2 free trial sessions. So, if you'd like to get a taste for it then contact the club to

arrange your free trial and membership for next season. The information can be found in the Community Notices section.



After the Easter holidays Liam will also be running a hockey club on Thursdays after school. All equipment will be provided, and the children will be able to develop their skills and enjoy a new sport. Separate communication will be sent with sign-up information.

Head's Award Certificate Design Competition



Celebrating 'Determination', 'Integrity', 'Community' and 'Being the Best We Can Be'.

I'm excited to launch our new Head's Award and am calling on all our creative children to help shape the look of the certificate by taking part in the Certificate Design Competition. I am looking for a certificate design that reflects the very best of our school vision and values with a place for our Head Teacher's Award sticker.

The winning design/s will become the official certificate used for every Head's Award throughout the year. This special award will launch in the Summer term. Please look out for more information in the newsletter.

Children should bring their entries to me by Friday 13 March.

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.

Red Nose Day

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



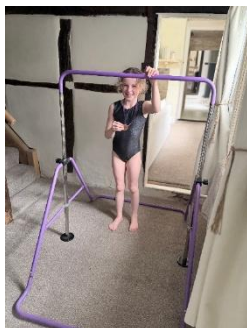
We are excited to be taking part in Red Nose Day 2026 in support of Comic Relief. On Red Nose Day, children are invited to come to school wearing something red – this could be a red top, red socks, a red accessory, or even a red nose!

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

We are celebrating the successes of two children this week.



Florrie was given the medal of the week at gymnastics. Such a big step for Florrie as she has never had the confidence to join any club despite us trying many different things over the years. Since being at Ashford Hill we have seen a difference in her confidence and she had the courage to join the gymnastics club.

Well done, Florrie. Her family and the school are very proud of her.

Bella came first in her cross pole showjumping competition on her shared pony called Sammy, a beautiful new forest pony. Two clear rounds, one in a timed jump off.

The showjumping is part of KH events at Cullinghood. She is very proud of this achievement as are we. Well done, Bella.

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.



Walk to School Week Poster Competition

The Road Safety Team have launched the annual Walk to School Week poster competition. For this, they are asking for pupils to design a bright, eye-catching and informative poster on crossing the road safely.

The winning entry for this poster competition will be shared across all schools who register for Walk to School Week and will be used for any pedestrian safety campaigns.

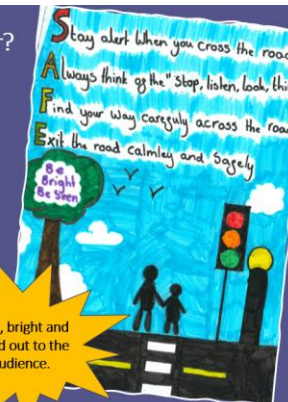
Closing date for the competition is **Friday 20 March**. Entries need to be sent to road.safety@hants.gov.uk by this date please. Please do not bring the entries to school as we

We need a new Green Cross Code poster?

Design a poster which helps people cross the road safely.

Don't forget to include:

- Stop, look, listen and think
- Be bright be seen



Bold, bright and stand out to the audience.

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.

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

Dates for your diary

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	Extra-ordinary INSET Day- School closed to children
23 October 2026	INSET Day – school closed to children

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

Spaces currently available

hello@jiminycricketspreschool.com
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

0118 9610 333

OFSTED RATED GOOD

Breast Walk Ever Hampshire

AG INST breast cancer

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

MARATHON
HALF-MARATHON
10K

Refreshments provided at regular stops along the routes.

Scan Here to Sign-up

AG INST BREAST CANCER
AG Inst Breast Cancer, Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England Number 8431073 Registered Charity Number 1010208

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
Tue	4:30 - 5:30pm	Sport & Games	10-14 years	The Link, Newnarth Road, TADLEY, RG28 5JH
Wed	4:30 - 5:30pm	Sport & Games	10-14 years	Sports Hall, Exeter Community Academy, Okeford Way, BARNSTON, T28 5LP
Thurs	4:30 - 5:30pm	Sport & Games	10-14 years	Sports Hall, Andover Leisure Centre, York Street, ANDOVER, SP10 1GP

Session runs weekly (excluding school holidays)

New joiners must first sign up!
Scan the QR code above & email youth@sportinmind.org

Working in partnership with NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare

FACE March 2026 Timetable

At a cost of £24 each or FREE with School Membership. Book online at facefamilyhub.co.uk. Bookings available for 48 hours (excluding free table).

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 Inflatable Obstacle Course
Worlds Biggest Bouncy Castle
Huge Jungle Mania Course for Tiny Adventurers

NEWBURY SHOWGROUND
6th-7th JUNE 2026

WWW.THELABYRINTHCHALLENGE.COM

USE CODE -SCHOOL10 for 10% ALL TICKETS

You Are Not Alone

Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7:00pm - 8:30pm

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

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

- In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:
 - Helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings (meltdowns etc)
 - Understanding autism and PDA
 - Navigating school and EHCPs
 - Supporting your child with friendships
 - Understanding and managing challenging behaviour
 - Managing sensory needs
 - Developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
 - Supporting EHCPs or home education
 - Looking after your wellbeing
 - and so much more!

Here's what parents have said:

My husband Jimmie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned much more about autism and PDA than he has over the past year - Jimmie

Thank you so much for the group! The evening is just what you need and really do feel less alone and more validated. My hope is best - Louise Baker

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

Your Space

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Join us for a magical day of games, crafts, art, friendships and mindfulness!

Easter Holiday Mindfulness Pony Day for Kids!

Dates: Thursday 2nd April and Friday 10th April
Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm
Location: Hill Crest Farm, Newbury

- What to expect:
 - Mindfulness Tales with Pictures
 - Pony Care
 - Writing, art & Mindfulness Games
 - Connect with Arts and Nature
 - Make New Friends

Click the link to book the day of your choice:
Thursday 2nd April - Mindfulness Pony Day - Book Now!
Friday 10th April - Mindfulness Pony Day - Book Now!

Cost: £140 per child

By purchasing a ticket you are agreeing you are making a deposit you will be allowed to claim for any non-attendance on 1st 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 encourage diversity and are committed to providing a supportive environment where every child can thrive.

Holiday Activities

Easter 2026
MUSIC PRODUCTION

The Rose Theatre, Barton Pavent College, Eastleigh
Mon 30th & Tues 31st March
9:30am - 3:30pm
Suitable for children in Years 6, 7 & 8
£88 (both days) including lunch

Dive into the world of music creation using iPads and GarageBand! Explore remixing, sampling, and live DJing with hands-on experience using professional gear. Discover how chords shape songs, experiment with different genres, and learn to build 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 Pavent College, Eastleigh
Mon 30th & Tues 31st March
9:30am - 3:30pm
Performance Times 1st at 3:00pm
£88 (both days) including lunch

Suitable for all Years 5-10 currently playing in a Rock 2 the Beat band, or who currently learn to rock guitar, bass, keyboards 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 Pavent College, Eastleigh
Mon 10 - Fri 14 August 2026
10:00am - 8:00pm
Performance Friday at 5:00pm
Suitable for Year 4 - Year 13
£185 (includes £30 non-refundable deposit), including lunch
Breakfast Club available each morning from 8:30am at a cost of £5 per day

Saddle up for an unforgettable week of singing, dancing, and acting as we bring the West to the stage! Learn songs, show skills, master the tapping choreography, and perform a spectacular musical 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
hantsmusichub.org.uk/holidayactivities

SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW
Our Rock 2 the Beat and Music Production enrichment days will run on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th August 2026.

HEROES vs VILLAINS
STAGE BATTLE ROYALE

EPIC CHOREOGRAPHY
GREAT SONGS
TIKTOK STYLE CHALLENGES

STAGE COACH

WORKSHOP DETAILS

DATE: 1st & 2nd April 2026
TIME: 10-4pm
COST: FREE
Choreography to suit all levels
AGES: 5-18
VENUE: The Cleeve School, Newbury

Wraparound care and sibling discounts available

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE CROWNED 2026 CHAMPION?

LET'S SING, LET'S DANCE!

TWO DAYS, BIG ENERGY, ONE SHOWCASE

If your child sings in the car...
If they make up dance routines to the songs...
THIS IS THE WORKSHOP FOR THEM!

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Current chart hits
Vocal harmonies that hit
Choreography to suit every level
Wraparound care available & sibling discounts

DATE: MARCH 30th & 31st
TIMES: 10-4PM
COST: £84
AGES: 5-18 YEARS
VENUE: THE CLEEVE SCHOOL, NEWBURY

STAGE COACH

NEWBURY

Basingstoke Area Rock and Pop Choir - Open Evening

LOVE SINGING?

ENJOY PERFORMING?

MEET NEW FRIENDS

Do you love singing?
Are you aged between 8 and 18?
The Basingstoke Area Youth Choir would love to welcome you to our Open Evening on Thursday 5th March at GMC.


We sing a wide range of contemporary music, including rock and pop, and perform regularly throughout the year at exciting venues such as The Arvli, Basingstoke.


Rehearsals take place every Thursday evening from 5.45-6.45pm in the Claude Butler Building at GMC.

If you're thinking about joining us, come along to our Open Evening - no audition required!

For more information about the choir please email saah@hants.gov.uk or music.service@hants.gov.uk

Hampshire County Council
HantsMusichub.org.uk


FREE online talk by
 Jane Keyworth
 FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator
Decreasing Depression
 23rd April 7-8pm



Book online
www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk
 Parents - Live Talks page


**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
 9am - 6pm
**NO COST
 EARLY
 BOOKING
 OFFERS**

At St. Gabriel's School in Newbury
BOOK NOW AT ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK