



# Ashford Hill Primary School

Newsletter  
13 March 2026

Dear Families

What an exciting buzz there has been around school this week. Word is spreading fast about our excellence, and it's been a joy welcoming prospective families into school to discover the warmth and spirit of our community for themselves. Inside the classrooms, curiosity has taken centre stage as children immerse themselves in British Science Week, exploring big questions with the determination that defines us. Our coffee morning sparked thoughtful conversations about digital technology, play and children's development, reinforcing how important it is for us as a community to approach these topics with a shared purpose. Out on the field, our Y5 and 6 children represented us brilliantly at the Y5 & 6 Touch Rugby festival at Newbury Rugby Club, playing with heart, teamwork and plenty of smiles.

Meanwhile, back in school, Year 6 have completed their final mock SATs before the real tests in May, approaching each challenge with admirable focus and commitment.

Across every corner of school life, our values of determination, integrity and community are shining brightly, and it's inspiring to see our children living them so confidently each day.

Next week we look ahead to marking Red Nose Day, taking part in another Touch Rugby Festival, and gradually approaching the final stages of our learning journeys for this term.

I hope you have a great weekend.

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
92.6	83.6	97.8	94.8	94.5	93.0	94.7	93.7

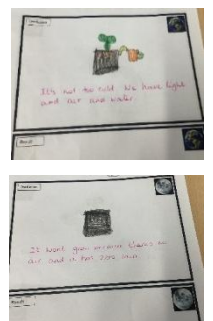
Well done, Y1 for the highest attendance this week.

## British Science Week - Curiosity...what's your question?



For Willow's curiosity challenge this week, they answered the question 'Can We Grow Food on the Moon?'

This week we explored what a seed needs to survive and what conditions are like on the Moon. We even *felt the Moon* using ice balls to understand how cold it is. After planting our seeds, some children picked a "Moon" card and placed their seeds in the freezer, while the others stayed on "Earth." We then made predictions about whether our seeds will grow. We'll check back in the next week or two to see if growing food on the Moon is possible.



Integrity

Determination

Community



For Chestnut's curiosity challenge this week, they answered the question 'What does great teamwork look like?'. Good science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) practice requires working with others effectively. In this activity, teams held the same pencil with pegs to draw an image collaboratively. They explored what made a good team and how to communicate to reach success.



For Maple's curiosity challenge this week, they answered the question 'Why do boats float?'. They discussed the properties of materials and the meaning of buoyancy. They explored making various rafts with the aim of seeing how many items it could hold before its eventual sinking. They discussed what might have made a good shape and attempted to improve on previous designs.



For Oak's curiosity challenge this week, the children followed their own curiosity and asked a question about an element of science that they are interested in. Some then experimented, some tested out theories and some researched to endeavour to answer their question. Lots of fun and some great scientific thinking skills were on show.



For Hornbeam's curiosity challenge this week, they also answered the question 'Why do boats float?'. The groups designed their own boats using paper and foil, testing out different shapes to see which ones were the strongest. The highlight of the lesson was the 'marble test', where the children competed to see which boat design could carry the most weight without sinking. It was a great way to see how the shape of a boat affects how much it can hold.



### Head's Award Certificate Design Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition. I have received some wonderful entries and look forward to sharing the winning certificate with the children and their families. The School Council are working hard with pupils across the school to decide on the reasons for achieving this award.

### PTA Easter Egg Hunt



This year the PTA are organising our Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the school and their siblings (all ages welcome) on Friday 27th March on the school field.

The hunt involves finding different coloured pegs around the playing fields and exchanging for an Easter Egg at the end. Every child who participates will take home a chocolate egg, plus will be in with a chance to win an extra prize if they can find the silver or gold peg!

The cost to take part is £5 per child.

We want all children to be able to participate in our Easter egg hunt. If the cost of tickets is a barrier for your family at this time, please contact the school office in confidence to discuss how we can support you.

## Digital technology, Play and Children's Development Coffee Morning

Thank you to those who attended the informative coffee morning with our link educational psychologist. Alana shared the importance of children experiencing a balance of all 5 different types of play each day, and compared it to having 5 fruit and vegetables per day.



Play with Objects



Physical Play



Symbolic Play



Socio-dramatic (Pretend) Play



Games with Rules

She also highlighted how play nurtures development across these four key areas, and invited us to consider whether digital play can support these domains as effectively, and whether it truly addresses all four.



Social Development



Emotional Development



Cognitive and Language Development



Physical Development

Alana shared some top tips about digital play such as 'digital play can be beneficial but children need a balance of real-world experiences to support their whole development.'

She finished with this question: What does digital play look like in your household?

## 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.

## Walk to School Week Poster Competition

Just a reminder that the closing date for the competition is **Friday 20 March**.

Entries need to be sent to [road.safety@hants.gov.uk](mailto:road.safety@hants.gov.uk) by this date please.

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.**

## Children's Services Parenting Courses

Sometimes families may benefit from parenting support or a group course when they would like support to strengthen relationships, build confidence, or develop new strategies to respond to everyday challenges. This can include situations where:

- Parents/carers are seeking guidance on boundaries, routines, emotional regulation or behaviour.
- Family dynamics are becoming strained, for example, due to conflict, stress or changes in circumstance.
- A parent/carer wants to better understand their child's needs, including any additional or emerging needs.
- There are concerns about a child's school attendance, engagement, behaviour, or emotional wellbeing.
- Parents feel isolated or unsure what might help, and would welcome a structured, supportive environment.

- A family is already receiving Early Help, and a parenting programme can form part of their support plan.
- Parents want to build their skills, confidence, and resilience in a positive, non-judgemental setting.

Parenting courses are designed to be supportive, practical, and empowering, helping families build on their strengths and feel more confident in their parenting.

Hampshire Children's Services offer a range of structured, evidence-based parenting programmes. Any professional or family can request a place on a course or intervention. To make a referral, please see the [Early Help Intervention Pathway Guidance](#), which includes a list of district referral forms. Details of each course can be found at [Children's Services Parenting Courses](#).

1. **Stepping Out Stronger (SOS)** – up to three sessions addressing a specific parenting challenge.
2. **Family Links Nurture Programme (FLNP)** – 10 week course for parents of children aged 2–11.
3. **Tots Talking** – eight week programme supporting language development for two year olds.
4. **Talking Teens** – four week course supporting parents of teenagers aged 12-19.
5. **Non-Violent Resistance (NVR)** – eight week programme for parents managing controlling or violent behaviour.
6. **Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PAACE)** – eight week course (Child PAACE) and 10 week course (Adult PAACE) helping parents understand the impact of PAACE on them and their children.

### 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. If you have any concerns about another child or your own, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Safeguarding Leads.



### 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	<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

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 9810 333

**OFSTED RATED GOOD**

**Breast Walk Ever Hampshire**

**AG INST** breast cancer

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 431071 Registered Charity Number 1032028

**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, Evesham Community Academy, Oxford Way, BAININGTONE, RG28 5JH
Thurs	4:30 - 5:30pm	Sport & Games	10-14 years	Sports Hall, Andover Leisure Centre, York 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

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Website

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](http://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
<b>FREE Anxiety Based School Avoidance</b>	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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, James was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned much more about autism and PDA than he has over the past year - Jo Anne

Thank you so much for the group! The evening, court and you have provided that you really do feel safe 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](mailto:team@youarenotalone.community)

**Your Space**

Therapeutic drop-in for young people

Easter Holiday Mindfulness Pony Day for Kids!

Dates: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 10:30am - 12:00pm  
Location: Hill Crest Farm, Newbury

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

- Mindfulness Tales with Posters
- Pony Care
- Writing, art & Musical Games
- Connect with Arts and Nature
- Make New Friends!

Click the link to book the day of your choice:  
Thursday and Adult Mindfulness Pony Day: Book Now!  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April: Mindfulness Pony Day: Book Now!

Cost: £140 per child

By purchasing a ticket via Eventbrite, you are paying a deposit. You will be invoiced 14 days prior to the experience session on 1<sup>st</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 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 Peverel 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 Peverel College, Eastleigh  
Mon 30th & Tues 31st March  
9:30am - 3:30pm

Performance Tots at 3:00pm  
£88 (both days) including lunch

Suitable for all Years 3-10 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 Peverel 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 dances, master jaw-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](mailto:music.service@hants.gov.uk)  
[hantsmusichub.org.uk/holidayactivities](http://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  
Age: 5-18  
Venue: The Clee 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 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>  
TIMES: 10-4PM  
COST: £84  
AGES: 5-18 YEARS  
VENUE: THE CLEE SCHOOL, NEWBURY

STAGE COACH

NEWBURY

**Basingstoke Area Rock and Pop Choir - Open Evening**

LOVE SINGING?  
MEET NEW FRIENDS  
ENJOY PERFORMING?

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 Arnie, 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 email [saah@hantsmusichub.org.uk](mailto:saah@hantsmusichub.org.uk) or [music.service@hants.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@hants.gov.uk)

Hampshire County Council  
www.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](http://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk)  
Parents - Live Talks page

ULTIMATE  
ACTIVITY  
CAMPS

## GET SET FOR ULTIMATE EASTER & SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN!

Outstanding holiday day camps with over  
40 activities every week

Mon - Fri  
8am - 6pm

For ages  
4 to 14

FOR CHILDREN  
EARLY  
BOOKING  
OFFERS

At St. Gabriel's School in Newbury

BOOK NOW AT [ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK](http://ULTIMATEACTIVITY.CO.UK)

ACE  
KIDS

# ACE NATURE

EASTER HOLIDAYS

MON 30TH MAR - FRI 10TH APR



**THIS EASTER DISCOVER NATURE  
AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS!**

**AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU!  
THEMED HOLIDAY CLUBS | 4-12 YEAR OLDS**

PACKED WITH OVER 20 THEMED ACTIVITIES  
PRICES FROM £50 PER DAY

BOOKINGS AND MORE INFO [ACE-KIDS.CO.UK](http://ACE-KIDS.CO.UK) | 0345 644 5747



## Kingsclere Beaver Scouts

We currently have a limited number of spaces for 6 year olds  
in the Kingsclere Beaver Scout Group.

For those who have yet to turn 6 we can place your child on a  
waiting list for a place when one becomes available.

The group meets on a Monday Evening during Term Time at the  
Scout Hut in Strokins Road from 6 to 7 pm

If you wish to register for a place please email  
[kingsclerebeavers@gmail.com](mailto:kingsclerebeavers@gmail.com)

