



Ashford Hill Primary School

Newsletter
9 January 2026

Dear parents/carers

What a delight this first week as Principal has been.

Although Ashford Hill is already very familiar to me, stepping into this new role has given me a renewed sense of excitement and responsibility. I feel incredibly proud to lead a school where our values of **Integrity, Determination, and Community** shine through in everything we do.

This week, I've enjoyed visiting classrooms, talking with pupils, and reconnecting with families. It has been inspiring to see our children living out our mission to **Be the best we can be** in their learning and in the way they support one another. These moments remind me why our shared commitment to excellence and care makes Ashford Hill such a special place.

Thank you for your warm encouragement as I begin this new chapter. Together, we will continue to nurture an environment where every child feels valued, challenged, and supported to reach their full potential.

Have a wonderful weekend.

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
99	99.6	100	100	98	97.3	98.8	100

Above the whole school target again. Well done, Y1, Y2 and Y6 for 100% attendance.

Good punctuality is essential for a successful start to the school day. Children should be in school by 08:45, ready to learn. As soon as they arrive, children complete early morning work, which helps them settle into the mindset for learning.

Recently, there have been occasions when children have entered through the gate after **08:55** and have not reached their classroom in time for the register. This means they need to go to the office to sign in and then return to class after lessons have already begun—resulting in lost learning time.

To prevent this, **the gate will now close promptly at 08:55**. If your child arrives after this time, they will need to enter via the main entrance and sign in at the office.

Thank you for supporting us in ensuring every child starts their day ready to learn.

Homework:

We're excited to begin another term of learning and growth with your children. To help them succeed, we've outlined our homework expectations again. We believe that a consistent routine at home, with your support, is key to building good habits and reinforcing classroom learning.

Reading

Reading is the most important homework task for your child. It should be done every school night, from Monday to Friday. Your child has a reading record which should be completed daily and kept in the plastic school bag. Please refer to the expectations set out below.

YR, Y1 & Y2

- Your child will have a RWI phonics book and a RWI book bag book sent home weekly. YR will be sent their first book once they are able to blend sounds together to make words.
- Your child should read these books 3 times. The first read focuses on decoding sounds and words, the second on reading with speed and accuracy, and the third on expression and understanding the story's meaning.
- Children will also bring home a reading for pleasure book from the library. Please enjoy this book together.
- Every time you hear your child read or you read together, please complete the reading record.

Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6

- Reading Log: Please ensure your child records what they've read and adds a comment about it each night.
- Parent Comment: At least one of these weekly comments should be made by a parent. This helps us see your child's progress and your engagement with their reading journey.
- Book Choice: Children should read their assigned AR (Accelerated Reader) book. They can also read another book of their choice if they wish to. The reading log can be used for either book.

Numbots (YR – Y2) and Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) (Y3 – Y6)

Regular practice of number bonds and times tables is essential for developing quick recall and fluency, which is a foundational skill in mathematics.

- Frequency: Your child should practice on Numbots/Times Tables Rock Stars at least three times a week. If they can do it every night, that's even better.
- Goal: The goal is to build speed and accuracy with their number/multiplication facts.

Spelling (Y1 – Y6)

Spelling practice helps children improve their writing and vocabulary.

Y1 & Y2

- Statutory Words: We've provided a list of the statutory spelling words for Years 1 – 6. Please stick this list somewhere visible at home. Encourage your child to practice 3 or 4 of these words each week throughout the year to master them.

Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6

- Weekly Words: Each week, your child will bring home a list of new spelling words in their Spelling Log. They should check this log daily and practice the words as often as they can.

We truly appreciate your support in helping your child establish these routines. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher.

Contacting Teachers

Sometimes you may need to contact a teacher regarding your child or to ask a question – please ensure that all questions or communication for teachers is done through our admin email address admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk. We will ensure that all

emails are directed accordingly and that you will get a timely response (within two working days). Please **do not** contact teachers' school email addresses. Emails sent to teachers' school email addresses will not be answered.

Please also be aware that although drop off is a good time to update a teacher with brief information, longer questions, concerns will require a meeting to be arranged. The start and end of the day are a very busy time for the staff team. If you do require a meeting with myself or a member of staff, please contact the school office who will book in an appropriate time for both parties.

Please can I remind you of our [Parent Code of Conduct](#). Our team will always endeavour to respond to general communications within two working days.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to growing our school community to be the best that it can be.

Parent Pay & School Lunches – January – UPDATE:

Half of our parent population have activated their parent pay accounts. Please can we ask that everyone activate their accounts this month, even for those with younger children who do not pay for school meals. Parent pay is now being used for school trip payments also. If you need your activation details re-sending, please contact the school office.

All School Money (old system) accounts have now been closed, and any debt or credit has been carried over to ParentPay. Please note, if a debt has been carried over, this will need to be cleared as soon as possible.

From the week commencing 26th January, once we have been through one complete cycle of the new 3-week menus, we will be asking parents to pre-book and pay for their children's school meals using the ParentPay app. More details about this transition will be sent out via email in the next week or so.

Thank you in advance for your smooth transition over to ParentPay.

Presentation Expectations

Just a gentle reminder about presentation expectations. To maintain a smart and consistent appearance across our school community, please ensure the following:

- **No nail varnish**
- **No trainers** (except for PE days)
- **Only small stud earrings** (no hoops or dangly earrings)
- **No necklaces or bracelets**

Thank you for supporting us in upholding these standards, which help promote a sense of pride and belonging at Ashford Hill Primary.

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.

I have taken on the role as Designated Safeguarding Lead and am ably supported by Mrs Burridge and Mr Dixon.



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:

19 June 2026	Sports Day
9 July 2026	Annie Jr Haymarket Theatre – school show
23 October 2026	INSET Day – school closed to children

Community Notices:



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

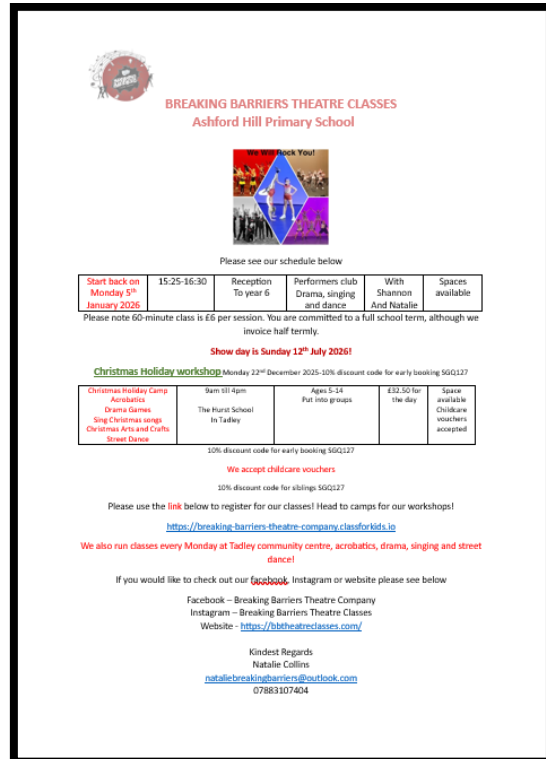
Spaces currently available

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

Contact us for more info
0118 9810 333

OFSTED RATED GOOD



BREAKING BARRIERS THEATRE CLASSES
Ashford Hill Primary School

Please see our schedule below

Start back on Monday 5 th January 2026	15:25-16:30	Reception To year 6	Performers club Drama, singing and dance	With Sharron And Natalie	Spaces available
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Please note 60-minute class is £6 per session. You are committed to a full school term, although we invoice half termly.

Show day is Sunday 12th July 2026!

Christmas Holiday workshop Monday 22nd December 2025-10% discount code for early booking 56Q127

Christmas Holiday Camp Acrobatics Drama Games Sing Christmas songs Christmas Arts and Crafts Street Dance	9am till 4pm The Pines School In Tisbury	Ages 5-14 Put into groups	£22.50 for the day	Space available Childcare vouchers accepted
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10% discount code for early booking 56Q127
We accept childcare vouchers
10% discount code for siblings 56Q217

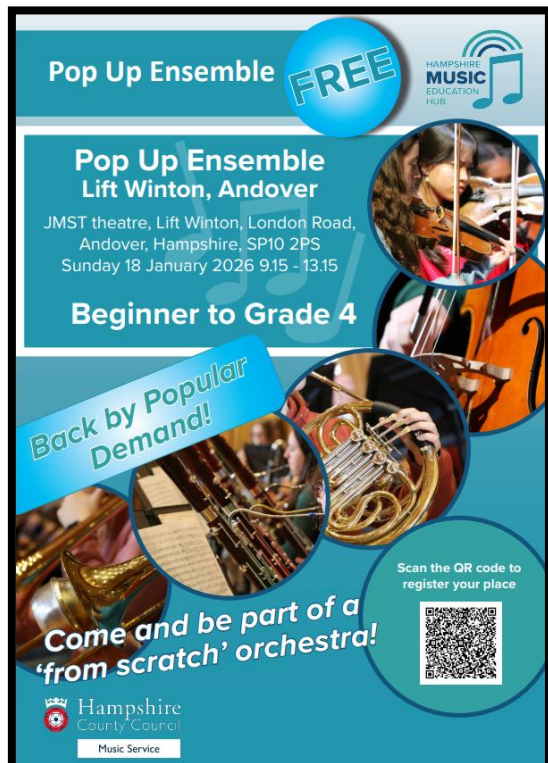
Please use the link below to register for our classes! Head to camps for our workshops!
<https://breaking-barriers-theatre-company.classforkids.io>

We also run classes every Monday at Tadley community centre, acrobatics, drama, singing and street dance!

If you would like to check out our Facebook Instagram or website please see below

Facebook – Breaking Barriers Theatre Company
Instagram – Breaking Barriers Theatre Classes
Website – <https://bbtheatreclasses.com/>

Kindest Regards
Natalie Collins
natalie@breakingbarriersdirect.co.uk
07883107404



Pop Up Ensemble **FREE**

Pop Up Ensemble
Lift Winton, Andover

JMST theatre, Lift Winton, London Road,
Andover, Hampshire, SP10 2PS
Sunday 18 January 2026 9.15 - 13.15

Beginner to Grade 4

Back by Popular Demand!

Come and be part of a 'from scratch' orchestra!

Scan the QR code to register your place

Hampshire County Council
Music Service