



Ashby Hastings Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Rachel Mckeown

Senior Teacher – Mrs Amy Foster

"Inspiring minds to foster confidence"

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Newsletter 2024/2025 Autumn Term 2

Dear Parents,

What a busy term we have had! There has been a lovely buzz around school with the excitement of Christmas approaching.

This festive season has brought lots of festivity to our school over the past few weeks. Our EYFS children delighted us with their Christmas nativity, 'Barmy Bethlehem', Class 1 and Class 2 impressed us with their performance of the 'Fleece Force' and Class 3 started our school tradition of performing at Holy Trinity Church. The confidence displayed by all our children was truly amazing.

I would like to say a big thank you to our PTA for the wonderful Christmas tree that has taken pride of place in our school hall for the last few weeks. The PTA have been very busy this term treating us to a cake sale (a big thank you for everyone's yummy donations), and the two excellent Christmas discos that were thoroughly enjoyed by our children.

It has been great to get out and about in our local community this term. As always, our children are wonderful ambassadors for our school. Our school council did us proud, representing our whole school community in Ashby's Remembrance Parade and Service. We also had a good turnout for the first cross-country event of the season – a big well done to all of our runners. Keep a look out for information in the new year about the next cross-country event.

Thank you all for your continued support. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Rachel Mckeown
Headteacher

Scooters and bikes – A reminder

It is fantastic to see so many children coming to school on bikes and scooters. **Please can we remind everyone that bikes and scooters are to be pushed, not ridden, in the school grounds.** This is to make sure everyone is safe.

EYFS

This term, we have been finding out about people in our community and the jobs that they do to help us. We have enjoyed visits from police officers, fire fighters, dental nurses and an audiologist.

We have enjoyed our role as 'weather watchers' - watching the seasons change from autumn to winter and noticing how our environment has changed over the term.

The children have enjoyed our festive activities and were all shining stars in our Christmas performance. We were so proud of all of them.



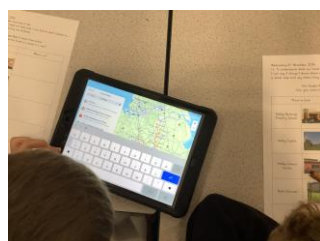
Class 1

Class 1 have been very busy and have enjoyed our topic: Where will my wellies take me? We have been learning about where we live and the local landmarks in Ashby. We enjoyed our Autumn walk where we had to spot signs of Autumn such as brown/yellow leaves. We were also looking out for buildings so that we could plot them on our map. The children were brilliant on our walk, following all of the road safety rules that we had spoken about.

The children are doing a fantastic job recognising the new sounds we are learning, in their reading books. We are so impressed by how much everyone is reading at home. Just 5 minutes each day is really helpful, and we can see that it is paying off with how confident the children are becoming from week to week. In our English lessons, we have rewritten our own version of "Room on the Broom" and more recently a letter back to Goldilocks in role as Baby Bear! We are now waiting to hear from Goldilocks to see what she has to say.

A highlight has been designing and making windmills for a mouse. The children spent time researching into different windmills, then added their own designs before connecting the elements together. It was great to see the children showing a lot of teamwork and resilience when getting their windmills fixed together.

The children did a super job in their Nativity this year and it has been a pleasure to practice the songs in preparation for their final performance. Overall, another super half term with some fantastic pieces of work being completed. Well Done Class 1 - I hope you all have a lovely Christmas.



Class 2

Over the last half-term Class 2 have been busy becoming designers, musicians, fantastic nativity performers and forest enthusiasts! We have been designing a moving monster toy in DT - exploring levers and linkages! We thought carefully about our target audience and how we could make sure the toy was appealing to children.

We have been developing our skills with the recorders, playing the notes 'b', 'a' and 'g' and have created some lovely pieces of music. The children particularly enjoyed performing the piece called 'fire'. On a similar theme, in History we have been exploring 'The Great Fire of London'. The children have been comparing London in the past to the present day and have been using different sources of information to construct their own timeline of events.

Flashing back to the start of our term - our forest day was a huge success. The children had so much fun getting muddy, painting rocks and exploring the outside space. We all cannot wait for our next day in the forest!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2025!



Class 3

Class 3 have had a very busy and productive term. They have learned about how the UK has changed over the years, studied 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin and improved their cooking skills in DT.

Class 3 also performed beautifully at Holy Trinity Church for their Christmas production. Their hard-work, dedication and enthusiasm made Miss Frances extremely proud. They definitely deserve a restful holiday.



A big thank you to everyone that supported our visiting book fair. Thanks to all of your purchases we will be able to stock up our library with almost £800 worth of books for our children.



Thank you to everyone who sponsored our children to take part in our annual Santa Fun Run. It was great fun, and we're delighted to say that we raised £800 for school funds!

Increasing Incidents of Illness In Children – A message from LCC Public Health

During the winter months, illnesses such as colds and flu are more common. The NHS continues to experience significant pressures this winter. There are a number of things you can do to help yourself to stay well, which includes getting your seasonal vaccinations, and adopting healthy habits.

Flu Vaccinations

The School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) is currently offering all children and young people in primary, secondary and special schools a free flu vaccine. It's important that vaccines are given on time for the best protection, but if your child has missed the school flu vaccine, the SAIS team will contact you about catch-up sessions. If you or your child have missed any other vaccine, contact your GP to catch up.

For more local information about vaccinations, please visit our [website](#).

Healthy Habits

Handwashing is one of the most effective ways to stop germs from spreading. Regularly washing hands in soap and warm water for 20 seconds can help you and your child to stay well and not pass on germs. Using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes helps to prevent the spread of germs. Make sure tissues are thrown in the bin after use.

Make Sure You Have Self-Care Essentials at Home

Consider keeping these essentials at home: thermometer, plasters, child-friendly paracetamol and ibuprofen, antiseptic cream, an ice-pack and antihistamines. Store medicines in a cool, dry, lockable cabinet, out of reach of children and always check the dates on medicines.

A message from the Governors

We would like to thank all staff, parents, grandparents, carers and volunteers for their continued support for our school. We look forward to continuing working alongside Mrs Mckeown and Mrs Riley-Lowndes when we return in the New Year.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our PTA here at Ashby Hastings. They have organised some fantastic events for the children and families to enjoy and have raised an incredible amount that will benefit all pupils. We are excited to see what they have in store for everyone next year!

On behalf of the governing board, we would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind Regards
Charlotte Owen
Chair of Governors

Attendance

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our families who consistently ensure their children's attendance and punctuality is good. Getting these important habits established early on in your child's life is paramount.

We encourage all pupils to have excellent levels of attendance of above 97%.

Outstanding	Attendance is 97% or higher.
Good	Attendance is 95% or higher.
Requires Improvement	Attendance is below 95%.
Cause for Concern	Attendance is below 90%.

Upcoming Diary Dates

29th January – Maths Information Evening for parents – **(Whole School)** – **6pm start**

12th February – Class 3 School Trip

14th February – Class 1 Assembly – **9:10am start**

28th March – 'Mums' to School – **(Whole School)** – **9am – 10:15am**

18th March – Parents' Evening – appointments between 3:30pm and 7:30pm

19th March – Parents' Evening – appointments between 3:30pm and 6:00pm

11th April – Easter Workshop – **(Whole School)** – **9am - 10:15am**

16th May – Class 2 Assembly – **9:10am start**

23rd May – EYFS Class Assembly – **9:10am start**

12th June – EYFS School Trip

13th June – 'Dads' to school – **(Whole School)** – **9am – 10:15am**

19th June – Class 1 and Class 2 School Trip

20th June – Class 3 Assembly – **9:10am start**

25th June – Sports Day – **EYFS and Class 1** – **9:00am start**

25th June – Sports Day – **Class 2 and Class 3** – **1:45pm start**

Please note that all dates may be subject to change.

More information regarding each event will be sent to you closer to the date.