



Ashby Hastings Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Rachel Mckeown

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“Inspiring minds to foster confidence”

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Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2024 / 2025

How are we already nearly halfway through this school year?! And what a jam-packed half-term we have had since Christmas! The children have been very busy with lots of excellent learning and engaging topics. It is great to see their independence and confidence grow.

This term we have had lots of exciting things happening both in and out of school. It has been fantastic to see the positive uptake for our extra-curricular clubs, with children having enjoyed Gym Club and Harry Potter Club so far, with Art Club still to come next term, and Forest School Fun in the Summer Term.

This week, Class 3 attended our first school trip of the year, visiting the Think Tank in Birmingham. There were lots of smiling (tired!) faces on their return – it was clear a lot of fun had been had! EYFS, Class 1 and Class 2 all have their trips to look forward to over the coming months – please see the Diary Dates at the end of the Newsletter for more information.

I would like to say a big well done to all of our cross-country runners who have represented Ashby Hastings this year. They did us proud! We look forward to welcoming more of our children to these fantastic cross-country events next year. Our Level 1 gymnastics team also did brilliantly at the North West Leicestershire Level 1 Gymnastics competition this week.

It has been wonderful to see our Forest School area in action. Class 2 have had a fabulous day exploring and getting muddy there! Please see the “Diary Dates” at the end of this Newsletter to see when EYFS, Class 1 and Class 3 will be having their Forest School Days. More information will be sent through Weduc nearer the time.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey with you at our upcoming Parents' Evenings in March. More information about how to book a time slot has been sent to you through Weduc.

I would like to say a big thank you to our children, staff and whole school community who really do help to make Ashby Hastings the wonderful place it is.

Have a fabulous half term break, and I'll look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 24th February 2025.

Best wishes,
Rachel Mckeown
Headteacher

EYFS

We have loved exploring the world around us this term! We have noticed how our environment has changed from autumn to winter and found out about how some animals hibernate during this time of the year.

We have learned about some of the animals that live in the Polar Regions, and made our own 'Arctic Picnic', after being inspired by reading the story of 'Poles Apart'.

The children showed amazing teamwork when creating and performing our dragon dance as part of our celebrations of Lunar New Year.

We continue to love our Kimble's sessions each week, where we are developing our core strength, gross motor control and listening skills. Well done Foundation Stage for another busy and fun term!



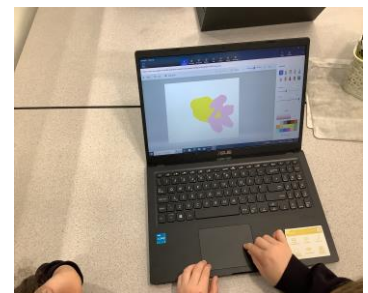
Class 1

It has been a busy half-term for Class 1! We have been learning about the story of Handa's Surprise in English. We have retold the story, written a poem about different zoo animals and written instructions for making fruit kebabs, all linked to the story. The fruit kebabs were great fun to make and delicious to eat!

In Maths, we have been developing our numbers within 50 and continuing to develop our knowledge of tens and ones. Exploring Clarice Cliff's work has been our focus in art, and we have applied our knowledge of primary and secondary colours to create our own plate in the style of this British artist.

We have been learning about some famous nurses from history over the past few weeks too; Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell. We know that they had to work really hard to make the changes in the hospitals whilst risking their own lives during the Crimean and First World War.

Class 1 have worked incredibly hard, and they continue to develop their independence as well as confidence in all areas. We hope you enjoyed our Class Assembly too.



Class 2

We have had an exciting half-term in Class 2! In science we have been busy exploring animals and their habitats and have been using Atlases in Geography to locate continents around the world. The children have particularly enjoyed playing 'beat the geographer' to help develop their geography skills.

Our main focus in English has been 'Molly McDrew – An Adventure around the World', which saw the children using their imagination to create a second adventure! It was great to read where they thought Molly might explore next.

In Maths, we have been exploring multiplication and division and had a brilliant time at our TT Rockstar Day! It was wonderful to see so many children dressed up and joining in with all the fun!



Class 3

What a busy half term it has been for Class 3! We started the term by cooking seasonal fruit tarts in DT and performing poetry in English. Class 3 successfully wrote their own versions of 'The Sound Collector', 'Please Mrs Butler' and a selection of funny limericks. Since then they have fully immersed themselves in the history of the Romans in Britain, where they have analysed artefacts and realised how much of a legacy the Romans have left us today.

Class 3 has celebrated Lunar New Year with a Mandarin lesson, taken part in TT Rockstar Day, and finished the term with a fantastic trip to the Think Tank Museum in Birmingham. Well done, Class 3!



Cross Country 2024/2025



Our third North West Leicestershire Cross Country season has come to a close for this year, and we wanted to say a big thank you to all of our fantastic runners who took part, and to their families for helping them to get involved. We had 19 children from across the school take part in the races, and they all did brilliantly, demonstrating our school core values of confidence and teamwork in abundance. We are very proud of you all!

Gym Competition

We are so proud of our incredible gymnastics team who represented Ashby Hastings at the North West Leicestershire Level 1 Gymnastics competition! The commitment to practising their routines at school and at home was amazing and their performances at the competition were brilliant. Well done team!



British Science Week 2025



We are excited to be supporting British Science Week again this year, as it enters its fourth decade. This year's theme is "Change and Adapt" and we can't wait to see what fantastic poster creations the children come up with to fit this theme. Please see the Weduc message that was sent earlier this week for more information, and remember the deadline for entries is Thursday 13th March.

Harry Potter After School Club

Harry Potter club has been a roaring success this term. Over the course of the four weeks the children have sorted themselves into their Hogwarts' house with fortune tellers, encountered the basilisk and crafted their little hearts out. Their final session was spent making and enjoying 'Butterbeer' and taking part in an extremely competitive game of Quidditch. Mischief managed!



Reading Star Challenge 2025

This year's Reading Star Challenge came home with children this week; we can't wait to see the pictures of the children completing their challenges, and raising money for books for our school library along the way!



We're really looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. Children are invited to come into school in their pyjamas or something comfortable on this day, and bring their favourite bedtime story and a teddy bear if they wish.



Maths Information Evening

Thanks to all of our families who came along to the Maths Information Evening in January. It was great to share information about our maths curriculum with you, and to demonstrate some of the ways that you can support your child with their learning. We have sent round the slides from the classes' presentations, but please do speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Entering and Leaving School

We aim to make the way that children enter and leave the school buildings at the beginning and end of the school day as safe and harmonious an experience as possible.

Please be reminded that dogs are not allowed on school grounds and that any dogs should be securely tied, away from the school gates, before you enter the school grounds.

Please also remind your children to push their bikes or scooters once on school grounds, to help ensure no accidents or collisions occur with pedestrians making their way around the school site.

Our staff are always on the door at morning drop off and afternoon pick up, and are happy to talk to parents about minor queries or issues that can be addressed quite quickly. More serious or sensitive issues may need to be addressed by making a longer appointment with your child's class teacher or with the Headteacher. You are welcome to make an appointment by contacting the school office by telephone or by sending a Weduc message. All messages sent to the office are treated confidentially, and are always passed on to the relevant member of school staff.

Message from the PTA

✿ A Huge Thank You from Ashby Hastings PTA! ✿

We want to start by saying a massive THANK YOU for your ongoing support! Thanks to your generosity, we currently have a balance of over £2,000 ready to use to benefit the school - that's even after buying our amazing Christmas tree and planting lots of new hedging!!

We had a fantastic end to last year with our school disco, and we're excited for what's coming next!

 Upcoming Events:

? Quiz Night – Friday 28th February – Gather your teams for a fun-filled evening of trivia!

🐰 Easter Hunt – Friday 11th April (straight after school) – a little PTA treat for the children!

🎲 Bonkers Bingo – Friday 9th May – A night of fun, laughter, and prizes!

☀ Summer Fair – Friday 27th June – A highlight of the year, filled with stalls, games, and entertainment!

We always welcome extra hands to help make these events a success, so if you'd like to get involved (big or small!), we'd love to hear from you. Plus, if you have any great ideas for future fundraising, let us know!

Thanks again for being part of our amazing school community!

Ashby Hastings PTA

ashbyhastingspta@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

24th February – School Re-Opens

27th February – Specsavers' Sight Tests

28th February – Class 1 Forest School Day

6th March – World Book Day 2025

7th March – Class 3 Forest School Day

14th March – “Curious Creatures Workshop **(Whole School)**

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

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

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

10th April – EYFS Forest School Day

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 time.