



# Ashby Hastings Primary School

*Headteacher – Mrs Rachel Mckeown*

*Senior Teacher – Mrs Amy Foster*

***“Inspiring minds to foster confidence”***

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## Newsletter

### Spring Term 2 2024/2025

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, it has been wonderful to reflect on the experiences and achievements that have taken place at our school recently. Our pupils continue to make us proud. It is a privilege to watch them grow and develop, both academically and personally.

We are delighted to welcome Ms Oliver and Miss Smith to our lunchtime team. They have joined at the perfect time in our OPAL journey. A big thank you for all of the donations that you have sent in so far! We are very excited to get started. There is a lovely buzz from the children as we come closer to our launch date on May 8th. More information about OPAL has been sent to you through Weduc recently, but please do speak to school staff if you would like to know more.

Our Forest school area is now in full use and is being enjoyed by all children. The excitement and engagement shown by our children during their forest school days has been wonderful.

It has been a pleasure to welcome so many of you into school recently. The children really do enjoy sharing their classroom with you. These links between home and school are invaluable in creating a strong, supportive community for our children. Please see the Diary Dates at the end of this Newsletter for all of our upcoming events during the Summer Term.

Thank you to all parents who attended our recent Parents' Evenings. As always, we are grateful for your continuing support.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Easter break and we look forward to welcoming children back to school, ready for the Summer Term, on Monday 28th April.

Best wishes,

Rachel Mckeown  
Headteacher

# Safety around School

It's great to see so many families travelling to and from school in an active way. However, as our school continues to grow and pedestrian traffic around school increases at drop-off and pick-up times, **please remember that all children should push their bikes and scooters once they are onsite**, to help keep everyone safe.

When moving around the school grounds, please ensure that you stay on the footpaths (particularly at the front of the school), as vehicles may be moving, even when the car park gates are closed.

Children should be supervised at all times until they have entered their classrooms, and when leaving at the end of the day.

When parking around the school grounds at drop-off and pick-up times, please do be courteous to our neighbours and park safely, taking care not to block pavements, driveways or other access points.

Many thanks for your support.

## EYFS

This term, we have been finding out about different animals and some of the habitats that they live in. We have explored grouping animals in different ways, looked closely at the patterns on their fur and skin and also found out how to care for animals.

During British Science Week, we investigated how to grow plants. We are currently looking after our potato crop and can't wait for them to grow! We also loved our visit from Curious Creatures and we all showed bravery and confidence by stroking the snakes, lizards and dragons!

We have finished our term by finding out how to look after our environment. The children have loved becoming 'Environmental Warriors'.



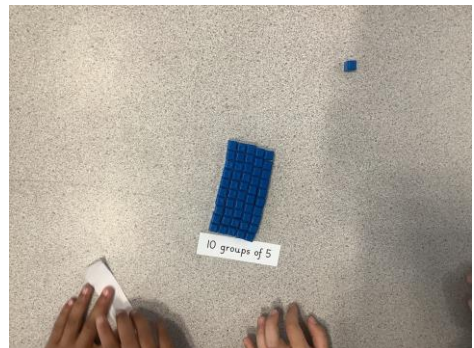
# Class 1

Class 1 have been busy this half term! Our main focus has been looking at Our Country; during our Geography lessons, we have been looking at naming the four countries of the UK, as well as their capital cities and even some facts about each city. In Science, we have been looking at how the weather is changing now that we are in Spring and how this season is all about new life. Our spring walk allowed us to observe how the world around us is changing all of the time.

In Maths, the children have had their first look at multiplication. We have looked at making and adding equal groups, which has also allowed us to practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10. In English, we have written our own descriptions of the Bog Baby; writing a letter from George, the Smartest Giant in Town as well as writing a non-chronological report about Emperor Penguins. The children thoroughly enjoyed researching and learning facts about these interesting animals.

We have also been researching different types of puppets in DT, how we can join them together and then designing our own. We looked at making our own hand puppet, and embellishing these with buttons, wool and other items to make it look like a character from a story. Class 1 showed a lot of resilience when creating their puppets!

They continue to develop their independence when working across all subjects and it has been great to see them making some incredible progress! Well done Class 1 for another super half term!



# Class 2

Spring 2 has been a busy half-term full of fun and learning! We have had the excitement of British Science Week, visiting reptiles from Curious Creatures and maths-battling on TT Rockstars!

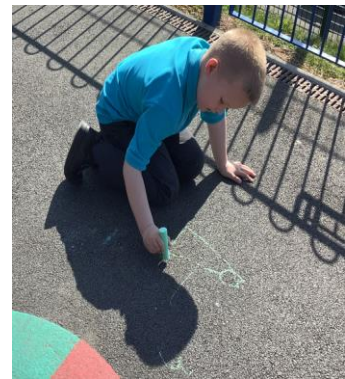
Over the last half-term, we have been learning all about pitch in Music. This has seen us develop our singing voices. It has been so lovely to hear so many children singing so beautifully.



beautifully.

In science, we have been considering which animals give birth to live young, which animals lay eggs and have also considered what all living things need to survive. Learning all about direction and shape has been our main focus in Maths. The children really enjoyed taking chalk outside to draw 2D shapes; some children even challenged themselves to write how many vertices and sides the shapes had, before we explored this in the classroom.

In English, we have continued with our theme of animals, and have read Meerkat Mail – the children have thoroughly enjoyed creating their own character and writing about their adventure. This also included the children drawing and writing their own postcards that they could send back to their relatives.



## Class 3

Class 3 have worked extremely hard this half term. In science they have been physicists and botanists, testing the strength of magnetic materials and growing their own plants! They have also worked extremely hard in geography to develop their knowledge of tectonic plates, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Their main focus in English has been the story 'Escape from Pompeii' and they have blown Miss Frances away with their excellent use of inference, adverbials and direct speech.

In Maths, they continue to be times table champions, challenging themselves to learn more and apply their knowledge faster each week.

Class 3 have taken part in lots of hands-on learning too with a beautiful day spent in our Forest School; building dens and making potions. They have also made their own mosaics, dabbled in some pottery, printed repeating patterns onto fabric and then designed and constructed magnetic board games. Well done, Class 3!



# School Clubs

## Art Club

The children had a few busy weeks at Afterschool Art Club this half term. Each week had a different focus artist and an activity that linked to them. We also explored different art skills within each session. We looked at the work of Monet, Magritte as well as some Easter Pop Art. The children produced some fabulous pieces of art, and it was great to see them take care over their work! Well done everyone!



## **\*NEW CLUB ALERT!\***

### **School Choir – Thursday lunchtimes 12.30pm – 1pm – Class 1, 2 and 3**

After Easter, children in Class 1, 2 and 3 are invited to join the Ashby Hastings Choir. We will meet every week during a Thursday lunchtime from 12:30pm - 1:00pm and we will learn a range of songs. If you think this is something that your child would be interested in, please speak to them about it. It is not compulsory, just a time for us to sing songs together, in addition to the songs we have in assembly.

I look forward to singing together and, in time, preparing for singing at school events!

Mr Cooper



## Sun Safe



Please ensure your child comes to school with a named water bottle and a named sun hat each day after the Easter holidays.

Sun cream is to be applied before school. If sun cream is sent in to school to be reapplied, it will be for your child to apply themselves (with suitable support and supervision). Please ensure sun cream sent into school is named. No sun cream will be shared between children.

# World Book Day 2025



We had a wonderful day celebrating World Book Day 2025 back in March. The children loved sharing their favourite stories, while wearing their PJs and drinking a hot chocolate!

And, thank you to everyone who sponsored the children to take part in our Reading Star Challenge! We're delighted to confirm that you helped to raise £475 which we will put towards resources for our library!



## Dates for your Diary

**16<sup>th</sup> April** – National Offer Day for Foundation Stage children starting in August 2025

**28<sup>th</sup> April** – School Re-Opens after the Easter Holidays

**5<sup>th</sup> May** – May Day Bank Holiday (School Closed)

**7<sup>th</sup> May** – Cricket Engagement Day (Whole School)

**16<sup>th</sup> May** – Class 2 Assembly - **9:10am start**

**20<sup>th</sup> May** – Class Photographs

**23<sup>rd</sup> May** – EYFS Class Assembly – **9:10am start**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May** – End of Summer Term 1

**2<sup>nd</sup> June** – School Re-Opens

**12<sup>th</sup> June** – EYFS School Trip

**13<sup>th</sup> June** – 'Dads' to school – **(Whole School) - 9am – 10:15am**

**19<sup>th</sup> June** – Class 1 and Class 2 School Trip

**20<sup>th</sup> June** – Class 3 Assembly – **9:10am start**

**25<sup>th</sup> June** – Sports Day – **EYFS and Class 1 - 9:00am start**

**25<sup>th</sup> June** – Sports Day – **Class 2 and Class 3 - 1:45pm start**

**8<sup>th</sup> July** – End of Summer Term 2

*Please note that all dates may be subject to change.*