



Ashby Hastings Primary School

Headteacher - Mrs Rachel Mckeown

Senior Teacher – Mrs Amy Foster

“Inspiring minds to foster confidence”

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Newsletter Summer Term 2 2024/2025

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, I am delighted to share with you some of the exciting achievements and experiences that have taken place this year.

It has been lovely to see so many of you in school this term during our sports days, class assemblies, Reading Buddy sessions and Dads to school. A calendar of events that will be taking place next year will be sent to you at the beginning of the Autumn Term in August.

There was a lovely buzz in school on our recent transition day. All children were able to visit their new classrooms and spend the day with their new teachers. It was great to welcome our new cohort of EYFS too, and we can't wait for them to start with us in August. A new full intake of 30 children will take us to 149 pupils on roll. It is wonderful to watch our school continue to grow.

We look forward to next year where we will continue to strive to give our children the best possible school experience. The new academic year will see plenty of fun and exciting extra-curricular opportunities being offered, including our first school residential trip to Beaumanor Hall for our Class 4 children!

A big thank you to our amazing children, staff, governors and parents who help make our school the happy place that it is.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and we look forward to welcoming children back to school on Tuesday 26th August.

Best wishes,
Rachel Mckeown
Headteacher

EYFS

Foundation Stage have had an exciting final term. We have loved exploring the world around us, looking for minibeasts and finding out about how we can care for our environment. We enjoyed looking after our pet caterpillars and watching them metamorphosise into butterflies! The vegetables in our allotment have been some of the best looked after crops in Ashby! We have dutifully watered them every day and have loved harvesting our carrots and potatoes!



EYFS Visit to Rosliston Forestry Centre

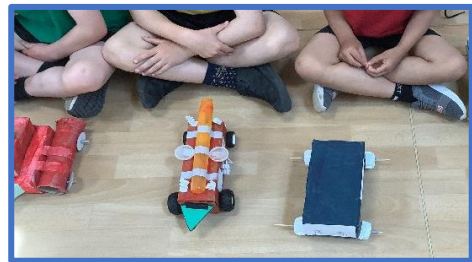
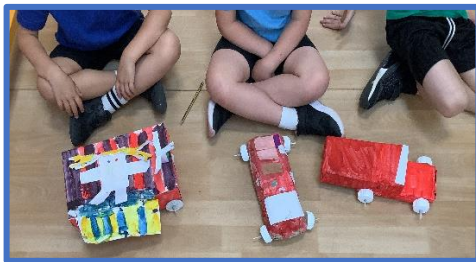
Foundation Stage loved showing off their minibeast knowledge on our visit to Rosliston Forestry Centre. The children were fabulous bug hunters and had great fun playing together on the park too. It was lovely to receive positive comments about the children's behaviour and enthusiasm during our visit!



Class 1

Class 1 have had a busy Summer Term. In maths, we have been working on recognising numbers within 100, recognising and counting coins and notes as well as learning to tell the time to the nearest half an hour. In our English sessions, we have been looking at writing a report about a new bike for Mrs Armitage as well as writing some descriptions for different characters and settings.

Our favourite task this half term has been designing, making and then testing out our Wacky Races vehicles! We had some great help from the adults who joined us for the "Dads to School" morning, and this helped the children to create some incredible designs. They really enjoyed testing their vehicles out and they did far better than they thought they would.



It was great to see Class 1's interest and engagement flourish on our trip to Twycross Zoo. Despite it being an incredibly hot day, we got to see a wide range of animals up close as well as completing a workshop looking at the different animal groups that the animals at the zoo belong to. Our favourites were the penguins, the giraffes and the gibbons.

Class 1 also did an incredible job with the Phonics Screening Check and we are really proud of the efforts that all children put in!



We have also enjoyed our tennis sessions with Tobey from Ashby Castle Tennis over the past few weeks. It has been great to see their skills develop as they learn the basic techniques and they have been able to strike the ball with greater accuracy and speed.



Mr Cooper and Mrs Hart have been blown away by the hard-working attitude and enthusiasm for learning that Class 1 have shown this year! They have been a great class, and we couldn't be prouder to see what they have achieved. Well done everyone.

Class 2

The Summer Term has been a fantastic conclusion to a wonderful year in Class 2. A highlight of this term was our exciting trip to Twycross Zoo, as well as our enjoyable sessions in the school forest area, where the children engaged with nature and explored creatively.

We began this half-term by welcoming our adults into school for a fun and engaging STEM challenge during our "Dads to School" morning. It was brilliant to see the enthusiasm and friendly competitiveness as families worked together to build the tallest free-standing structure using only marshmallows and spaghetti. Mr Grice was very impressed with the results!

Our writing this term was inspired by 'Shen and the Magic Paintbrush'. The children produced some outstanding narratives, showcasing their creativity and imagination through thoughtful and expressive storytelling.

Sports Day was another memorable event, filled with energy and team spirit. The children were proud to demonstrate the skills and determination they had developed throughout the year, with the water race being a particular favourite!

Class 2, thank you for making this such a special second year at Ashby Hastings. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break!



Class 3

What a busy Summer Term Class 3 have had! In science, they have been learning about the skeletons of humans and animals. They have constructed their own model hand which bends in the same places as a human hand. They have also built 3D abstract sculptures of Ashby Castle by joining different 2D shapes.

In Maths, they have mastered adding and subtracting money, budgeting and giving change. These skills came in handy when Class 3 visited our local Co-Op to plan a day's worth of food for a family of four with a budget of £20. They also scanned the food on the tills themselves, which was a highlight for lots of them.

In English, the class have been working on their persuasive techniques and they have been writing letters to suggest the benefits of a four-day school week for children.

Class 3 worked extremely hard on their Roman themed class assembly and brought everyone (including Miss Frances) to tears with their beautiful singing and Makaton signing to 'The Climb' by Miley Cyrus. They finished off their term with excellent enthusiasm and sportsmanship at Sports Day and a session of Forest School.

Well done, Class 3, and have a great summer!



Message from the PTA

Thank you so much for all of your support at the Summer Fair, which was a huge success. It was lovely to see all the children and adults having fun and taking part in the activities. The feedback from the event has been very positive, but if you have any suggestions for next year's fair please do let us know. The total raised at the Fair was a whopping £850.19!

In total this year, we have raised more than £3,000. And in total, since starting the PTA two years ago, we have raised over £5,600!

This year, we've been able to buy over £2,000 worth of Opal storage, a massive Christmas tree, and even some bulbs for the allotments. We're looking forward to getting more resources for our school over the coming year.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our AGM in September – we'll send out the date after the summer holidays. In the meantime, have a good summer and thank you so much for your continued support!

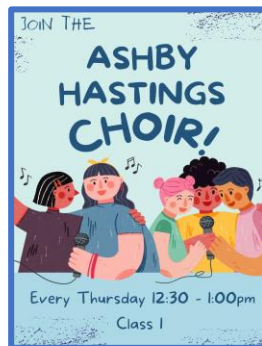
School Clubs

Ashby Hastings Choir

It has been a pleasure to sing with the children as part of Ashby Hastings Choir during Thursday lunchtimes. Initially, we have been learning and singing some familiar 'mash ups' of Matilda, Moana, as well as some Pop Medley tracks.

As we become more established, I will be looking at further ways that we can take part in community events and will be working with Leicestershire Music Hub to explore these links further.

Mr Cooper



Forest School Club

Forest School Club has been a truly enjoyable and enriching experience this term!

The children had so much fun exploring the outdoors, using their imagination and creativity in a variety of hands-on activities. From building impressive dens with teamwork and problem-solving, to crafting beautiful creations using natural materials, every session was filled with excitement.

One of the highlights was making clay faces, which brought so much personality and charm to our forest area. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged, confident, and inspired by nature - Forest School Club has certainly been a highlight of my year!

Mr Grice



OPAL

What a transformation OPAL has made to our children's lunchtime experience. It has been amazing to see all children engrossed in their play with big smiles on their faces. We look forward to continuing on our OPAL journey, where we will be introducing more play opportunities for the children, inviting parents into school for an OPAL play session and a 'build' day for our talented school community.

More information about events and donations will be sent out throughout the new school year.



Staff Structure 2024/2025

A quick reminder of the staff structure in school from August:

	Class Teacher	Class LSA
Foundation Stage	Mrs Foster	Mrs Thompson
Class 1	Mr Cooper	Miss Armstrong
Class 2	Miss Laing	Mrs Temple-Roberts
Class 3	Miss Frances	Mrs Buchan
Class 4	Mr Grice	Mrs Hart
SEND LSAs		
Mrs Blundy	Miss Woodhead	Mrs Gibbs
Miss Smith		Mrs Hart
Breakfast Club		
Mrs Buchan		Mrs Hart
Lunchtime Play Leaders		
Mrs Hart	Mrs Buchan	Miss Roach
Miss Smith	Ms Oliver	Mrs Thompson
Office/Admin Staff		
Mrs Rothwell		Mrs Temple-Roberts
Senior Leadership Team		
Mrs McKeown Headteacher	Mrs Foster Senior Leader	Mrs Riley-Lowndes School Business Manager

Online Safety

Now that the summer holidays are upon us, please visit the following website to find ways to support you to help keep your child safe online:

[Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters](#)

Have a wonderful break over the summer, and we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 26th August, ready for the new school year!

