



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 2025/2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a busy term we had in the run up to the Easter holidays!

I would like to begin with a big thank you for your patience and understanding on the last day of last term when we experienced the power cut. We understand that these unexpected situations can be disruptive; however, your support made it much easier for us to manage the day smoothly.

The winners of the Easter Hair/Headwear competition will be announced in school today (Monday) by the class teachers. As always, we were blown away by the effort and support for these events – there were some wonderfully creative entries.

It has been great to see so much happening across the school recently. Class 1 and 2 showcased their fantastic assemblies last half-term; it was lovely to see the children sharing what they had been learning and watching their growing confidence as they performed.

Our Mums to School event was wonderful too. It's always great to have parents in school, spending time with the children and getting a real sense of what happens in the classroom. These connections between home and school are so valuable.

I would also like to give a big thank you to everyone who supported our recent parent OPAL play day. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! When parents understand and champion what we're trying to achieve with play it strengthens our whole approach. Play is such an important part of childhood and we are committed to making sure every child gets the most from their lunchtime play here at Ashby Hastings. Please don't forget about our upcoming OPAL Build Day on Saturday 25th April; if you are able to help out, and haven't let us know yet, please do just send the office a message or give them a call.

As we move through the summer term, we have lots to look forward to. Thank you again for everything you do to support Ashby Hastings Primary School.

Best wishes,

Rachel Mckeown
Headteacher

Safety around School

Please remember that all children should push their bikes and scooters once they are on the school site, to help keep everyone safe. This includes pre-school children.

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, Foundation Stage have been finding out about different animals and some of the habitats they live in. We have been learning the names of animals and their young and talking about how to care for animals and our environment. We have loved spotting signs of spring in our forest area too.

During British Science Week, we found out where some of our food comes from. We have planted our own vegetables and can't wait to watch them grow!

We have talked about different days out that we have had with our families and how we have followed maps to help us find our way a farm or zoo. We were inspired to create our own farm map, showing fabulous team work and creativity!

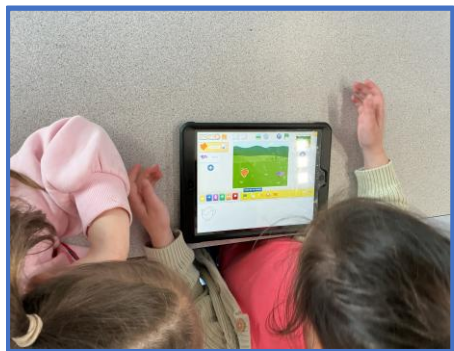


Class 1

Class 1 have had another busy half-term! They continue to develop their independence when working across all subjects and it has been great to see them making some incredible progress. Our main focus has been looking at Our Country. During our Geography lessons, we have been 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.



In Maths, the children have been exploring measurements in lots of different ways. We have been looking at measuring length and height in cm, comparing the mass of different objects using the weighing scales and then exploring volume and capacity and comparing different containers and the amount of liquid that they can hold. In English, we have been learning about instructions. We started off by writing instructions for how to beat the Dirty Dishcloth, based on the book "Traction Man" by Mini Grey. We have then been looking at writing instructions for making a fruit smoothie as this links to our work in Design Technology.



In Computing, the children have really enjoyed our recent work on using the Beebots as well as beginning our unit using ScratchJr. They have enjoyed exploring this app and getting to grips with debugging and fixing their code if it hasn't worked in a way that they wanted; lots of perseverance and teamwork shown in these sessions.



Class 2

What a jam-packed term it has been in Class 2! This half-term we have really enjoyed learning about World War 1 in our War and Remembrance topic in History. We have learnt about what life was like for soldiers, including important historical figures like Walter Tull.

In Maths, we have begun our measurement topic and have enjoyed finding objects around school to measure in centimetres, metres, grams and kilograms.

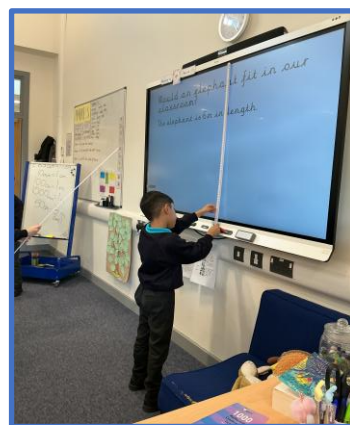
In English, we have written a diary entry based on 'Lila and the Secret of Rain'. The children did a brilliant job at conveying the emotions of the characters using exclamative sentences.

Over the past few weeks, we have spent our science lessons outside to help with our learning about living things and their habitats. We have searched the forest area looking for animals, plants and minibeasts to discover what their habitats are like and how they help them to survive.

In PE, we have enjoyed learning the skills of kwik-cricket. We have practiced our underarm throwing, catching and batting. It was great to show off our skills during the cricket engagement day!

Class 2 did a brilliant job at showcasing our learning in our 'Class 2 Museum' for our Class Assembly. It was lovely to see the children talk about the things we have learnt with confidence and enthusiasm.

Well done Class 2! I wish you all a Happy Easter and a relaxing break!



OPAL Stay and Play

Thank you to all the families who attended our first OPAL Stay and Play session. We hope you found it just as enjoyable as the children did—despite the weather!



OPAL has already transformed our lunchtimes into a more exciting and engaging experience, and we hope you were able to see and feel that during your visit. We are really excited about continuing to develop our outdoor play provision and truly appreciate your ongoing support in making it such a success.

Our next OPAL Build Day will take place on **Saturday 25th April from 8:30am to 12:30pm.** We are planning to build a mud kitchen, create a stage area, and further develop our water play space. If you have any building skills and would like to volunteer your time, we would love for you to join us! Please just let the office know.

If you are planning a 'spring clean' over the holidays, we would greatly appreciate any donations of unwanted items to continue to support our OPAL play.

Class 3

This half-term has been a very creative one in Class 3. The children have made fruit pies, pneumatic creatures, birds' nests and magnetic board games in various DT and Science projects.

In English they have successfully written explanation texts about why volcanoes erupt. In Maths they have been learning to compare different units of measurement and measure the perimeter of quadrilaterals. In PE, dodgeball has been very popular with some excellent sportsmanship and teamwork being demonstrated!

A great half-term, Class 3 – well done! Have a lovely Easter break!



Class 4

Class 4 have had a busy and exciting few weeks! We took part in a fantastic cricket workshop where we developed our batting and fielding skills, while also learning the importance of teamwork and communication.

Our Year 5 pupils had a memorable experience using virtual reality headsets to explore how mobile phones are used safely, delivered in partnership with Leicestershire Police.

In Design and Technology, we have been getting hands-on with electrical circuits, designing and creating our very own torches. In English, we have been working hard on writing balanced arguments, exploring the thought-provoking question, "Should zoos exist?" and considering both sides of the debate. We also thoroughly enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, where we learned all about how illustrations help to bring stories to life and develop books. During British Science Week, we took part in a fun investigation by planting seeds, and we are now eagerly waiting and wondering... what will grow?

Have a great Easter, Class 4!



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.

Free Community Event



PAPAYA

Let's talk about our kids and their tech

A FREE COMMUNITY TALK
FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & CARERS (16+ ONLY)

Tuesday 19th May at 19:30
Ashby School (theatre) LE65 1DT

See below for information about
how to book your free ticket.



Hosted by
Dr Laura Spells

Dr Laura Spells works as a Specialty Doctor in CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health).

Laura has seen first hand, as a parent and through her job - the complex issues surrounding smartphone usage in children. Laura is a passionate leader in the Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign and is eager to help families navigate this complex world.

Topics covered

- The link between mental health & wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone (incl. alternative options)
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology

We are pleased to share details of an upcoming free local parent/grandparent/carers (16+) talk focused on supporting children in today's increasingly digital world.

As part of a growing community initiative across Ashby and the surrounding area, Smartphone Free Childhood, together with Papaya, is hosting an informative and supportive session led by Dr Laura Spells, an adolescent mental health specialist.

Event details:

Date: Tuesday 19th May 2026

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Ashby School (Theatre)

This engaging session will explore:

- The realities young people are facing online
- Understanding risks in a balanced and non-judgemental way
- Practical strategies to support children's wellbeing and development

This event is part of a wider national effort bringing together parents, schools, and local leaders who share a common goal: helping children grow up safely and confidently in a digital age.

Tickets are free but limited, so early booking is recommended:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-about-our-kids-and-their-tech-tickets-1985448743639?aff=oddtcreator>

After School Choir Club (Years 2, 3 and 4)

The children have been having a great time at our after-school choir club! Each week has been full of energy as they learn new songs, sing together, and build confidence. It has been lovely to see them encouraging one another and making new friends along the way. This half term, we have been learning a few medleys, our favourites being a Wicked Medley and a Matilda Medley as well as learning 'Shine a Light' by McFly and Taio Cruz.

Choir club has quickly become one of our favourite parts of the week, and we're really proud of their enthusiasm and smiles.

Message from the Chair of Governors

As we come to the end of another busy term, I'd like to thank our staff, PTA, pupils and families for all their hard work and support. We are looking forward to attending more of the upcoming school events and continuing to be part of the school community. On behalf of the governing body, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy and restful Easter break.

Charlotte Owen
Chair of Governors

Dates for your Diary

6th – 8th May – Class 4 Residential

15th May – EYFS Class Assembly – 9.10am start

12th June – EYFS School Trip (More info to follow)

17th June – Class 1 and Class 2 School Trip (More info to follow)

19th June – 'Dads' to school – (Whole School) - 9am – 10.15am

24th June – Sports Day – EYFS, Class 1 and Class 2 – 10.30am start

24th June – Sports Day – Class 3 and Class 4 – 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.

Ashby Hastings is committed to safeguarding for all. We fully support the Operation Encompass initiative to ensure domestic violence is eliminated.

