



The Ashbeach News

Learning for life – to be the best we can possibly be.

Website: www.ashbeachprimary.co.uk
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May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The sun is finally out and the busy summer term is well under way. It is time to remember to apply sun cream before school and make sure your child has a hat and water bottle in school each day.



Behaviour Curriculum and School Values

Each week we work on our school values and practice positive behaviours. Last week, we were 'cleaning up after ourselves'. The children worked hard on this throughout the week and particularly in the dinner hall. We linked this behaviour to our 'Evolve' value. Through practicing these good habits, they will evolve and this will transfer to them cleaning up after themselves at home too!



This week, we are learning to 'be patient'.

Year 6 SATs

This week has been a big week for our year 6 children. They have been taking their SATs test from Monday to Thursday. They have worked hard all year and this is their chance to show off what they know. They have been having breakfasts each morning and some relaxation activities so that they started the test with a smile on their faces. We are very proud of how hard they have worked!



Smart Watches

A few children have been coming into school wearing smart watches. Children are permitted to wear watches. However, if your child's smart watch has a camera or access to the internet, please ensure that they do not wear them in school.



Homework

The children are required to read daily, practice their times tables (TTRS) and practice their spellings (spelling shed). This is their homework. However, we have noticed a number of children are not accessing these platforms and therefore not completing their homework. If you are unable to use these platforms at home, please do let us know and we can provide you with a written alternative.



Accelerated reader (AR)

Our contract with accelerated reader has come to an end and we have decided not to continue with this program. In July 2023, a research based government document was released which gave guidance to schools on improving reading ability and increasing enjoyment for reading. The document identified the negative effects of restricting readers to 'bands' or 'levels' and warned of the detrimental effects that

test or quiz based approaches can have on a child's desire to read.

We understand there will be a period of adjustment but we are confident that new practices in school will have more impact and the children will soon be familiar with the new routines. Instead of selecting books within a 'band' the children will be encouraged to select a book that they want to read from the sections in the classroom and library. Children will be supported to select books that are suitable for them to read. The general idea is that books are organised as they are in book stores: sections on genre (mystery/ comedy etc) and sections on age/ ability ranges. In a book store, these would be called Age 5-7 or 'easy reads', however we will call these 'quick reads'.



They will be supported to choose a book that they are interested in. We will also encourage the children to read the first page of a book to determine if it will be the right level for them. They will hold up a finger for each word they cannot read or do not know the meaning of.

0-1 fingers up – This book will be easy to read for you.

2-3 fingers up – This book is just the right challenge.

4-5 fingers up – This book is too hard. Try something different.

BEDTIME STORIES

With lives becoming busier and busier, more children are missing out on bedtime stories or time to read at home. Reading to your child and encouraging them to read has so many benefits for them that goes beyond improving their reading ability. Book Trust have an interesting article identifying the benefits of reading:



- ✓ **Children who read are more likely to overcome disadvantage caused by inequalities.**
- ✓ Children who read are more likely to be happier, healthier, and experience better mental wellbeing and self-esteem.
- ✓ **They feel more secure and develop deep bonds with parents and carers.**
- ✓ They have better sleep and lead healthier lifestyles.
- ✓ **They have a better foundation for healthy social-emotional development.**
- ✓ They have better mental wellbeing and self-esteem.
- ✓ **Children who read are more likely to do better at school and make more progress across the curriculum.**
- ✓ They have better brain development, attentional and cognitive ability.
- ✓ **They have better knowledge about the world and are more ready for learning.**
- ✓ They have better language development and literacy skills.
- ✓ **Children who read are more likely to develop empathy and creativity. Empathy refers to the ability to value, feel, understand and respect other people's experiences.**
- ✓ They are more imaginative and creative.

To read the full article please see : [The benefits of reading | BookTrust](#)



BookTrust
INSPIRING KIDS' PASSION FOR READING

Morning routine

Just a reminder that as we now have a lovely new carpark, we have returned to the previous routine on arrival. KS1 children, please line up on the path in front of the school building with your children. KS2 children can line up on the other side of the gate. KS2 will be let through first to make space for

the arrival of the bus children. KS1 children will then be let through. This is just to ensure the entrance into school is not too busy as this can be overwhelming for some children.



Ashbeach Common Gardening Day at School

We made a fantastic start on the renovations of our Ashbeach Common in March. Huge thanks to all the parents, children, Governors, church friends, members of the Rotary club, staff and volunteers who helped on the day – it was amazing!! Special thanks to Richard, David, Tim, Michael, Stephen and Cam who were able to bring their heavy-duty machinery to really get the project off the ground.



Now we are into stage 2 of development and would like to ask for your help for just a few hours on **Saturday morning, 8th June any time between 9 – 12pm**. Roatary club have asked for helpers who have talents in carpentry, gardening, tree clearing, weeding and planting. All hands are useful and very much appreciated when joined together to help!

Please let the office know if you can join us?



Baby on the way!

We have some happy news! Miss Katie Abbott, our year 6 teaching assistant, is due to have her baby in the summer. We are happy to say that she will be with us until the end of term before she begins her maternity leave in August. Miss Abbott and her family are all very excited to welcome in the new member of their family.



ASHBEACH SCHOOL VALUES

HONESTY

- We have integrity
- We are truthful
- We are true to ourselves
- We ask for help when we need it



EVOLVE

- We value change
- We grow and learn
- We mature
- We improve



ASPIRE

- We challenge ourselves
- We aim to be the best we can possibly be
- We want to learn
- We push ourselves to improve



RESILIENCE

- We have a growth mindset
- We learn from our 'mistakes'
- We keep trying
- We use our tools to help us 'get out of the pit'



TEAM

- We work together
- We celebrate that we are all different
- We are one family
- We support each other and are kind to one another



Diary Dates

2024

- 16 May Favourites for lunch day
- 20 May Vancols Class photos 9am
- 21 May Library Bus visit – yr2 & 3
- 24 May LEGO masterclass for Dolphin & Bear classes
- 24 May FOA Bake Sale (donations requested)
- 27 – 31 May Half term
- 04 Jun KS2 Greek Day
- 08 Jun Common Morning , volunteers needed between 9am - 12pm
- 11 Jun Fathers Day gift sale
- 12 Jun Fathers Day gift sale
- 12 Jun **NEW** EYFS Parents and children stay& play visit 4-5pm
- 14 Jun Gents in School morning 9 – 10.15am
- 18 Jun Library Bus visit – yr2 & 3
- 27 & 28 Jun Abbey College transition days
- 1 – 5 Jul Bikeability for yr5 & 6
- 03 Jul **NEW** EYFS Parents Meeting 6-7pm
- 05 Jul FOA Afterschool Lolly Sale
- 08 Jul Charity Sports Day & picnic lunch
- 9-10 Jul Sir Harry Smith transition days
- 11 – 12 Jul Yr 5 & 6 Residential trip
- 12 Jul FOA Afterschool Lolly Sale
- 13 Jul Ashbeach at Ramsey Carnival
- 15 Jul School Reports come home
- 16 Jul Library Bus visit – yr2 & 3
- 17 Jul Yr6 Leavers assembly & Graduation celebration 9.45am – 12pm
- 18 Jul FOA Outside School Disco
- 19 Jul Last Day of Term & FOA Afterschool Lolly Sale
- Summer holidays
- 3 – 4 Sep Teacher Training Days
- 05 Sep Start of Autumn Term
- 28 Oct -01 Nov Half Term Break
- 04 Nov School term starts
- 20 Dec End of Term



Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs & Northants The Great Fen

Share your pics
wildlifebcn

The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants

Half Term in the Great Fen

Youth Rangers of the Fens
For young people age 11-17 to take action for wildlife and learn practical conservation skills. At this session learn to perform plant surveys at Upwood Meadows nature reserve.
Tuesday 28th May, 1 - 4pm. Free to attend.

Introduction to Ecology Workshop for Teens
Calling all ecologists of the future! Do you have a passion for wildlife but not sure where to start? Then join our Chief Executive, Brian Eversham, at this new workshop. Learn how to identify different habitats, their importance and how to monitor them in the context of our changing world.
Wednesday 29th May, 10am - 4pm, £10pp age 13+

Owl Pellet Dissection
Discover who our local owls have been hunting by dissecting an owl pellet. We will carefully break up the pellet, clean and compile the skeletons inside and identify which species they belong to.
Friday 31st May, 10.30am - 12.00pm, £5/7.50pp under 18.

Location: Ramsey Heights Nature Reserve, Chapel Road, PE26 2RS.
The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, The Manor House, 33-35 Street, Cambois, CB23 6BT | Tel: 01753 755000 Email: cambridgeshire@wildlifetrust.org Registered charity No. 1030912

Book online: wildlifebcn.org/events

BOOK NOW! for great discounts!

Trustpilot Office Online

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CHILDCARE EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL DISCOUNT!

USE CODE: **SCHOOL20**

LOCAL CAMP AVAILABLE! Use code for an **EXTRA £20 off** your booking! *Minimum of 2 days!

Visit barracudas.co.uk or call 01480 467 567

BARRACUDAS Holiday Daycare

SCAN ME & LEARN MORE!

St Thomas a Becket Church

Lego Café

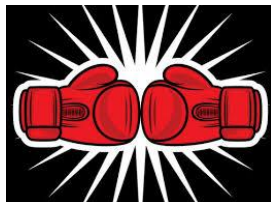
Come and get creative and enjoy a snack and a drink

3rd Saturday of every month 2.30-4pm in the Scout Hut

No need to book, just drop in!
Entry free :)
Small cost for refreshments

Afterschool Clubs

Summer Term B clubs are now open to take bookings, please let Yvonne know if your child would like to be registered in any of them. It is important to let her know by the **17th May** so that we have enough time to decide whether clubs will be able to continue running. This term we have a huge variety from cooking, cheerleading and Boxercise with SYL Sports & Wellness to Multi-sports and Dodgeball with One Leisure. Choir with Mrs Goater, 3in1 with Mrs Challinor, Forest School with members from the Countryside Classroom, Cricket and Band club!!



ARTIKIDS The Fabulously Creative After School Club!

ARTIKIDS is coming to your school!
Sign up for an exciting programme of art clubs where you will paint, collage, sculpt and more with a thrilling interschool competition every week!

£4.99 + VAT (per child per session)

To find out more and book tickets... www.artikids.co.uk

Follow us on social media to see all of the amazing work created in schools across England and Wales!

- ArtikidsUK
- Artikids
- artikidsclub



VT Music Services
SING. PLAY. PERFORM

Join us this term after school for some great, musical fun!

Two clubs to choose from:

- Strings Club - Learn to play fun tunes on the ukulele
- Percussion Club - Learn to play fun rhythms on different types of drums

£3.50 per child per session

To express an interest, please email: Vicky.scrase@vickystunes.com

School holiday and term dates

2023/2024 academic year		
	Starts	Ends
Autumn term begins	Monday 4 th September 2023	Friday 20 th October 2023
Autumn half term	Monday 23 rd October 2023	Friday 27 th October 2023
Autumn term continues	Tuesday 31 st October 2023	Wednesday 20 th December 2023
Christmas holiday	Thursday 21 st December 2023	Wednesday 3 rd January 2024
Spring term begins	Friday 5 th January 2024	Friday 16 th February 2024
Spring half term	Monday 19 th February 2024	Friday 23 rd February 2024
Spring term continues	Monday 26 th February 2024	Thursday 28 th March 2024
Easter holiday	Friday 29 th March 2024	Friday 12 th April 2024
Summer term begins	Tuesday 16 th April 2024	Friday 24 th May 2024
Summer half term	Monday 27 th May 2024	Friday 31 st May 2024
Summer term continues	Monday 3 rd June 2024	Friday 19 th July 2024
Summer holiday	Monday 22 nd July 2024	2024/25 dates to be confirmed

Professional Days

Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 30th October 2023

Thursday 4th January 2024

Monday 15th April 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Bank Holidays

Monday 6th May 2024