

Ashcombe Primary School

Headteacher: Chris Penny

Deputy Headteacher: Kerry Evans

Assistant Headteacher: Steve Burditt

Know yourself and your world. Be part of the world. Change the world.

We Are Ashcombe



Friday 3rd October

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are over the half way stage of term 1 now and only 3 weeks away from the Autumn half term. I know my own children are starting to feel a bit tired and I've heard the same from a few of you at the gate when we've chatted. The leaves are starting to drop and there is a bit more of a chill in the air now but we have been lucky enough to enjoy some sunny weather so far. I'm so sorry that we've had to postpone our OPAL Stay and Play afternoon – we will look at the diary and get another date out for you soon. We had a lovely time in school last week celebrating European Languages Day and it was great to see the children learning languages, dancing, doing art and cooking!



Communication

Ashcombe is a big school so it's important to know the different ways we communicate:

- **School Ping** is our main form of communication at school so please make sure you are signed up to the app and logged on – please contact the school office if you struggle logging on.
- **Facebook** – The Ashcombe Primary Facebook page is our 'window to the school' we use this to share photos and reminders upcoming events.
- **School website** – The website has key information, links to important information and you can download most of the forms available from the office.
- **School Office** – If you have a general query or need a message passing on to a member of staff please email office@ashcombepimary.co.uk or call 01934 620 141
- **Face to face** – Senior Leaders are on duty at the gate each day and can usually answer most queries or can direct you to the right person.



Foodbank Donations

Please remember that we're collecting donations for the Weston-super-Mare foodbank on the 10th of October. We would be hugely grateful for any contributions you can make – if you are able. Items such as tinned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, long-life milk, and toiletries are always in high demand. Every donation, big or small, makes a real difference to families in our community. Please drop off your items to the year 1 covered area in the morning. Thank you for your kindness and support.



Keeping Your Personal Details Up to Date

It's important that we have accurate and up-to-date personal information for all members of our school community. If you've recently moved house, changed your phone number, or updated your emergency contact details, please let us know as soon as possible. Having the correct information ensures we can reach you quickly in case of emergencies, send important communications without delay, and support your child effectively. You can update your details by contacting the school office on office@ashcombepimary.co.uk or telephoning 01934 620 141.



Staffing Update

I'm sad to share that we'll be saying goodbye to Mrs Bond in the new year. Mrs Bond will be taking on an Assistant Head post at another school from January 2026 and her new school are lucky to have her. Mrs Bond has given 24 years of service and leadership to Ashcombe during which time, she co-ordinated the EIS Project which brought huge investment in the school. She can be incredibly proud of the difference she's made here to children, parents and colleagues. I'm hugely excited for Mrs Bond but we'll be very sad to see her go. An advert has gone out already for recruiting into the vacant position. This will take place before half term I will be updating parents and carers in her class when this recruitment is complete.

Attendance – Absences during term time



I need to remind all parents and carers that the government introduced new guidelines around attendance in August 2024 designed to improve attendance across the country. Being late to school not only affects your child's learning but can also add up over time. If a child is late **10 times or more in a 10-week** period without a valid reason, it could lead to a penalty notice being issued. These are rules that all schools must follow and are monitored by the Local Authority and Ofsted. Absences during term time can disrupt progress and are only authorised in the following exceptional circumstances:

Authorised Absences May Include:

- **Illness:** When a child is too unwell to attend school.
- **Medical or dental appointments:** If they cannot be scheduled outside school hours.
- **Religious observance:** For recognised religious festivals.
- **Bereavement:** Especially involving close family members.
- **Funerals:** Attendance at the funeral of a close relative.
- **Respite care:** For looked-after children or those with complex needs.
- **Family emergencies or crises:** Such as a housing crisis or serious family trauma.
- **Exceptional family events:** For example, an immediate relative's wedding
- **Health-related absences:** Where long-term illness or treatment prevents attendance, with medical evidence.

- **Family holidays** during term time are **not** considered exceptional and are usually unauthorised.

If children are absent for 10 or more unauthorised sessions (a session is half a day) then the following penalties may be imposed. **Schools do not receive any money from penalty notices – this money is paid to the Local Authority.**

- **Initial Fine:** £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- **Late Payment:** £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days.
- **Limit:** Each parent can receive **up to two fines per child** within a **three-year period**.

- If a parent receives **more than two fines** for the same child in three years, **no further fines will be issued**.
- Instead, the local authority may pursue **legal action**, which can include:
 - A **Parenting Order** (requiring attendance at parenting classes).
 - An **Education Supervision Order** (appointing a supervisor to support school attendance).
 - A **School Attendance Order** (requiring proof of education provision).
 - **Prosecution in court**, which could result in:
 - A fine of up to **£2,500**.
 - A **community order**.
 - A **custodial sentence** of up to **3 months**.

If you need to request leave for your child, please contact the school office in advance and complete the necessary absence request form. We appreciate your support in ensuring children are in school and learning every day.

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Ashcombe Friends Association – AGM



The AFA will be holding their AGM on **Monday 6th October in school at 7pm**. During this meeting, there will be an election for this year's Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The AFA cannot run without volunteers so it would be lovely to see some new and some returning faces for the meeting. The AFA put on incredible events for the community like our Christmas, Easter and Summer Fayres along with many other events. All the money they raise goes towards the school. Please come along if you can.

SEND Support for parents

If you are a SEND parent, believe your child may have learning difficulties or you are struggling at home, please visit the SEND section of our website. Our SEND team have worked hard to gather links to a range of useful resources and websites which may support you. <https://www.ashcombeprimary.com/send/> If you need further support, you can contact the SEND team by emailing the school office: office@ashcombeprimary.co.uk



Road Safety and Helmet Use

I have been contacted by a parent who witnessed a child from our school falling off their bike on their way home – fortunately the child was ok in this instance but it could have been very different. Cycling offers numerous benefits, from improved health to reduced environmental impact, but it also carries inherent risks, particularly on busy roads. Research shows that helmets significantly reduce the likelihood of severe head injuries in the event of an accident.



Important Dates ahead

I will endeavour to keep these dates in place but on occasion we will need to make changes if circumstances change. I'll aim to give families as much notice as possible for this though.

Term 1:

Nasal Flu Immunisations – Monday 6th October

Harvest Assembly – Monday 6th October

AFA AGM meeting – Monday 6th October @ 7pm

Food Bank Collection – Friday 10th October

Year 3 Parent Presentation 1 – Wednesday 22nd October pm

Year 3 Parent Presentation 2 – Thursday 23rd October am

End of Term 1 – Thursday 23rd October

INSET Day – Friday 24th October 2025

Term 2:

Term 2 begins: Monday 3rd November 2025

Remembrance Day – Tuesday 11th November (Children who attend a scouting group can wear their scout uniforms)

Individual Photos – Thursday 13th November

Children in Need – Friday 14th November (Children can wear yellow/spotty clothing, please make donations via ParentPay)

AFA Drop and Shop - Thursday 27th November TBC

Reception Nativity - Tuesday 2nd December pm (More details to follow)

✉ Earham Grove, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 3JW

📧 office@ashcombeprimary.co.uk

☎ (01934) 620141



KALEIDOSCOPE
Multi Academy Trust

AFA Drop and Shop Tuesday 2nd December TBC

Reception Nativity - Wednesday 3rd December am (More details to follow)

Year 2 Christmas Presentation 1 – Monday 8th December pm

Year 2 Christmas Presentation 2 – Tuesday 9th December am

Christmas Dinner Day – Wednesday 10th December (Children can wear Christmas Jumpers)

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 11th December (Children can wear Christmas Jumpers)

AFA Christmas Fayre – Friday 12th December TBC

Christmas Parties for Reception, Years 1 and 2: Tuesday 16th December (Children can wear party clothes)

Christmas Parties for Years 3 and 4: Wednesday 17th December (Children can wear party clothes)

Christmas Parties for Years 5 and 6: Thursday 18th December (Children can wear party clothes)

End of term 2 – Friday 19th December

Term 3:

INSET Day – Monday 5th January 2026

Term 3 begins: Tuesday 6th January 2026

Art Day – Friday 16th January

Year 4 Presentation – Wednesday 11th February pm

Year 4 Presentation – Thursday 12th February am

End of Term 3: Friday 13th February

Term 4:

INSET Day – Monday 23rd February 2026

Term 4 begins: Tuesday 24th February 2026

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March (More details to follow)

Mid-year School Reports sent out – Friday 6th March

Year 5 Parent Presentation 1 – Wednesday 11th March pm

Year 5 Parent presentation 2 – Thursday 12th March am

Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March (Children wear something red. Suggested donation of £1 to be made via ParentPay)

Ashcombe's Got Talent Finals – Wednesday 1st April

AFA Easter Fayre – Thursday 2nd April TBC

End of Term 4 – Thursday 2nd April

Term 5:

Term 5 begins: Monday 20th April 2026

Class Photos YR and Y6 – Thursday 23rd April

Y5 Morfa Bay residential – Monday 27th April to Friday 1st May

KS2 Test week – Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May

Year 1 Parent Event/Performance 1 – Wednesday 20th May pm

Year 1 Parent Event/Performance 2 – Thursday 21st May am

Day of Sport and Kindness for Liam Shepherd Foundation - Friday 22nd May (Children come into school in PE kits)

End of Term 5 – Friday 22nd May

Term 6

INSET Day – Monday 1st June 2026

Term 6 begins: Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Y4 Multiplication Check Window Opens – Tuesday 2nd June to Friday 12th June

Y1 Phonics Screening Check week – Monday 8th June to Friday 12th June

Reception and Year 1 sports day – Wednesday 17th June (reserve day Friday 19th)

AFA Summer Fayre – Saturday 4th July TBC

Parents' Evening 1 – Tuesday 7th July 4:00-7pm

Parents' Evening 2 – Thursday 9th July 3:30-6:00pm

Year 4, 5 & 6 sports day – Wednesday 8th July (reserve day Friday 10th)

Year 2 & Year 3 sports day – Wednesday 15th July (reserve day Friday 17th)

Y6 Leavers Show, Parents Lunch and Service – Thursday 16th July am and pm

Y6 Guard of Honour Goodbye – 2:40pm Wednesday 22nd July

End of Term 6 – Wednesday 22nd July

Forever proud to serve you.

#We Are Ashcombe.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Penny

Headteacher