



Friday February 14th 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've reached the halfway stage of the academic year and it really does seem like it has breezed by. January can often seem like a bleak time of year after all the excitement at Christmas but we've had a really lovely term in school with some enjoyable events that the children have been able to take part in.

Curry Day to celebrate Ramadan

On Tuesday, the wonderfully kind Aishah and Syad from Poppadoms and Aishah's Pantry gave the children and staff at Ashcombe an incredible lunchtime feast completely free of charge. I am once again blown away by the generosity we have experienced, especially given the size of our school. "Food brings people together on many different levels. It's nourishment of the soul and body; it's truly love." - Giada De Laurentiis. Syad and Aishah - thank you for sharing your kindness, heart and effort with Ashcombe.



Sports Events



Over the last term, children have been taking part in a range of sporting events in school alongside competing outside of school.

Pupils in year 2 and 3 received an afternoon of sport provided by North Somerset PE association. The children got to experience a target throwing game, Molky, Cornhole and Toad in the Hole, the children enjoyed learning some new games with an element of competition too. Special thanks to North Somerset PE association for running such fun afternoons.



Five children from year 2 represented Ashcombe at a multi-sport event organised

by Becket Primary School. The children got to play in team games against our other MAT schools. They played in target throwing games plus indoor archery and javelin. A special well done to our year 2 team of children for going out on their first trip to compete in a sports event, they were a credit to our school and showed great team spirit



18 children from year 5 were chosen to take part in a North Somerset Primary Sportshall Athletics competition at the beginning of term. They competed across both track and field events including relays, soft javelin, standing triple jump and speed bounce. We were proud of their



effort and team spirit; they were extremely supportive of each other and tried their best in every event.



A team of 10 year 5 and 6 pupils attended The North Somerset swimming gala this week. This event is highly competitive with 16 schools entered. The children swam a selection of races including freestyle, breaststroke and various relay events. The children represented Ashcombe fantastically.

Y3 Presentation

At Ashcombe, every year group gets to take part in a presentation or performance to parents/carers. This week our Y3s performed for parents and carers a retelling of some Tudor history and in particular, the invasion of the Spanish Armada. I was blown away by the children's performances and the production values the Y3 team had put on. There was an actual naval battle! With actual ships! It was a really special performance - it had laughs, drama and left the audience feeling so proud of the children. Well done year 3!



Y1 Parent workshop

It was lovely to see so many parents come and join us for our year one parent event. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their work and remembering all of the activities we have done so far this academic year. Getting to make a parrot to take home was also lots of fun and enjoyed by all, this linked to our class shared text 'Grandad's Island' which we have used for lots of our English work this term.

Reading at home with your child

Reading is the single most important skill to develop at school. It is the master skill because it unlocks the rest of the school curriculum as well as opens doors to understanding and knowing the world that we live in. In school, through the support of the EIS Project over the last three years we have worked on building a reading programme which we are really proud of. We also have our literacy hub, home to a broad range of exciting and interesting books.



This isn't enough though – to give your children the best chance at being a skilled reader, they need to practice at home.

Parents and carers have often asked me what they can do to support their child's learning. My answer is always the same – read with your child. Read out loud to them, listen to them read to you. Ask them about what you have read together. Talk through the words you've read together to build their vocabulary.

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



Adult reading support

Do you or someone you know lack confidence with reading?

Read Easy UK has experienced volunteer coaches who can help adults learn to read in their community.

Learners use the Turning Pages manuals (published by the Shannon Trust) which have been designed especially for adults. The reading coaching is confidential (so nobody needs to know you are having coaching), one-to-one (so you can learn comfortably at your own pace) and **absolutely free!** You need to commit to two 30 minute sessions per week at a venue such as a public library or children's centre.

[Vicky's Story](#)



If you are interested in finding out more you can contact:

Sue Neville (Local Coordinator)

Tel: 07383191781

Mail: nosocoordinator4@readeasy.org.uk

Alternatively: call/message or come into the School Office and ask to speak to one of the Learning Mentors who will be happy to help you make the first contact.



Scooters/E-Scooters and Bikes in school

It's really positive to see how many children walk or ride to school each day. However, I am noticing an awful lot of children and parents/carers riding or wheeling in school. I have had to deal with near misses on a few occasions where pupils or adults have almost caused an accident.

Can I ask you to remind your children that scooters and bikes should not be ridden past the main school gates – they must be walked in and parked. Please can all parents and carers support me in this by modelling the same behaviours.

Currently in the UK, you can legally buy an e-scooter, but you cannot ride it on a public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place it can be used is on private land. The reason for this is that e-scooters are treated as motor vehicles by the Department of Transport and are subject to the same legal requirement as other vehicles, such as MOT, licencing, tax and insurance. Because they don't always have number plates, signalling ability or visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads. For this reason and the increased chance of an accident, e-scooters should not be ridden to school.



Term-Time Holidays and Penalty Notices

I would like to remind all parents and carers about attendance guidance which was brought in the government in August last year. As a school, we are obligated to follow these guidelines. I have had to issue several penalty notices this year and I would like to avoid being in this situation with the community.

Penalty Notices:

- **Threshold:** A penalty notice may be issued if a student accrues 10 or more sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period.
- **Fines:** As of August 2024, the fine is £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid between 22 and 28 days. For a second penalty notice issued within a three-year period for the same child, the fine is £160, with no reduction for early payment. A maximum of two fines can be issued per parent, per child, within a three-year period. Beyond this, North Somerset Council may consider further legal action, such as prosecution.
- **Consequences of Non-Payment:** Failure to pay the fine within 28 days may result in prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. This could lead to a fine of up to £2,500, a community order, or a jail sentence of up to three months, along with a criminal record.

Key dates for the year ahead

I've tried to look ahead so that you can get as many dates in the diary as possible. If we do need to change anything, I'll aim to get that information to you as soon as possible

Term 4:

Term 4 Begins: Monday 24th February

Mid-year School Reports sent out – Friday 28th February

World Book Day – Thursday 6th March – Little People, Big dreams theme

Year 5 – Parent Presentation Wednesday 12th March pm

Year 5 – Parent presentation Thursday 13th March am

Red Nose Day Friday 21st March – Children to bring in a suggested £1 donation – Children wear a red item of clothing.

AFA Non-uniform day – Friday March 28th – Bring in a donation for the Easter Fayre

Ashcombe's Got Talent Finals – Wednesday 2nd April

AFA Easter Fayre - Friday 4th April

End of Term 4 – 4th April

Term 5:

Term 5 Begins 22nd April

Class Photos – YR and Y6 24th April

Y5 Morfa Bay residential Monday 28th April to Friday 2nd May

KS2 Test week – 12th May – 15th May

Year 1 Parent Event/Performance – Wednesday 21st May pm

Year 1 Parent Event/Performance – Wednesday 22nd May am

Day of Sport and Kindness for Liam Shepherd Foundation - Friday 23rd May (Children wear sport clothes to school)

End of Term 6 Tuesday 22nd July

End of Term 5 – 23rd May

Term 6:

Term Begins: Monday 2nd June

INSET Monday 2nd June

Y4 Multiplication Check Window Opens - Monday 2nd June to Friday 13th June

Y1 Phonics Screening Check week – Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June

Reception and Year 1 sports day - Wednesday 18th June (reserve day Friday 20th)

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AFA Summer Fayre – Saturday 5th July.

Year 4, 5 & 6 sports day sports day Wednesday 9th July (reserve day Friday 11th)

Year 2 & Year 3– Wednesday 16th July (reserve day Friday 18th)

Parents' Evening 1 – Tuesday 8th July 4:00-7pm

Parents' Evening 2 – Thursday 10th July September 3:30-6:00pm

Y6 Leavers Show, Parents Lunch and Leavers' Service Thursday 17th July am and pm

Wrong Trousers Day for Grand Appeal – Monday 21st July – (Children can come into school wearing unusual trousers, shorts or skirts)

Have a wonderful half term everyone.

Forever proud to serve you.

We Are Ashcombe.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Penny
Headteacher

