

Ashcombe Primary School

Headteacher: Chris Penny

Deputy Headteacher: Kerry Evans

Assistant Headteacher: Steve Burditt

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We Are Ashcombe



Wednesday 10th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a spectacularly hot half term, we've had a really wet week last week and another one ahead of us now. Despite the damp start back, we've had a lot going on already in a term that's going to be very busy. During our INSET day, staff worked on some priorities following our recent Ofsted inspection alongside preparing transition for children up into their new year groups and new schools. Most of year 3 took part in their visit to Weston museum and Year 6 have continued the adventure days by visiting Front Room and will be going to laser quest shortly.

Post Ofsted – Next steps

I would like to update parents and carers on school leadership plans following our inspection in March and the publication of our report just before half term. Schools are graded as needs attention if inspectors are confident that the school leadership team has the capacity to make the necessary improvements. The next steps which inspectors identified are already areas of school the leadership team are working on and we expect these to be in place soon.



Needs attention areas:

Inspection area	Ofsted next steps	Actions in place/ planned for next year:
Leadership and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- More swift and precise actions for school improvement- More rigorous monitoring of actions to measure their impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Restructuring of school leadership team to ensure actions can be introduced rapidly and comprehensively monitored.- Working with Trust and other schools in local area to learn from strong practice.
Curriculum and Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure work is well matched to ability- Ensure teachers address misconceptions quickly- Improve the quality of pupil handwriting- Improve the accuracy of pupil work in spelling, punctuation and grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Training staff in the Unlocking Letters and Sounds Phonics scheme – this includes an embedded programme for handwriting and spelling.- Training for staff in whole school oracy approach through Voice 21 membership- Training for staff in tailoring work to ability more effectively.- Instructional coaching for teacher development alongside regular monitoring
Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Set ambitious work which challenges high attaining pupils- Ensure pupils remember what they have been taught- Use assessment to inform future learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Revised approach for monitoring pupil progress and leadership restructure to support raising attainment next year.- Revision of teaching for memory approach- Staff training on setting challenging work- Trust Leaders are working with the school on improving attainment.



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Sports Days

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

Next week, we'll be starting our first Sports Day for Reception and year 1. Sports Days are always a special part of the school year and we want everybody to enjoy themselves and whatever the day brings. All Sports Days will be taking place on the school field. Children will all take part in a rotation of activities before moving onto track events. Parents and Carers are welcome to spectate around the edge of the activity area – I will be on hand to direct parents where to go.

Can I please advise the following to parents and carers to help the day run smoothly:

- Events may need to be postponed in the event of unsuitable weather e.g. heavy rain or extreme heat. In this event, we'll rearrange to the reserve date or another if there is still time.
- Please make sure children arrive into school in their sports kit, with a water bottle.
- Please monitor the weather and apply children with sunscreen before school where needed.
- **No photos or videos should be taken of any events** or any races due to the number of children with restrictions of pictures.
- Please stay in areas allocated for parents/carers unless invited to come over by school staff.
- Please encourage children during all the events – sports days can be spoiled when it becomes overly competitive. We want all children taking part to be supported and celebrated.
- Please be aware that some children with additional learning needs may find the event overwhelming – we will do everything we can to support our pupils but I would ask that parents and carers all show compassion and understanding to pupils in this situation.

Staffing Update

We are pleased to share that Miss Walcott will be re-joining us on a permanent basis from September, and that Miss Morcom has also secured a permanent contract and will also be continuing with us.

Sadly, Miss Leeks will be leaving us at the end of this academic year to take up a role at another school. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication during her time here, and we wish her every success in her new position.



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Parents and Carers' Evenings



The office will be writing to parents/carers shortly with invitations to sign up for our parents & carers evenings which will be taking place on the following dates and times:

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

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

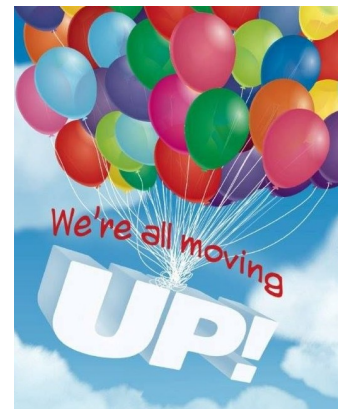
These end of year meetings are an opportunity for you to meet with teachers and find out how your children have achieved in their final assessments. This is in place of an end of year report as we now send out our reports in the middle of the year. Teachers will be able to share the outcomes from statutory assessments in the following year groups:

- Reception – EYFS Profile
- Year 1 – Achievement in the Phonics Check – Raw score and pass/fail result
- Year 4 – Achievement in the Multiplication Check – Raw Score
- Year 6 – Outcomes from KS2 Tests and Writing Teacher Assessment

In all other year groups, teachers will be able to share their end of year assessments with parents and carers. Children are not expected to sit with you for the meetings unless you wish for them to do so. Senior leaders will be on hand for further conversations if you wish to speak further.

Transition Arrangements

Staff have met to organise classes ahead of September, taking into account the preferences shared by children. During staff meeting time, teachers are also handing over key information to support a smooth transition for all children. On **Friday 26th June**, we will share details of your child's new teacher for the next academic year. Then on **Wednesday 1st July**, we will be holding our transition morning where we will welcome our new Reception starters. During this time all other children will spend the morning with their new class teacher and classmates. During this same week most Year 6 children will be taking part in transition visits to their new secondary schools.



Sun Safety Reminder

With the warmer weather hopefully upon us soon, we would like to remind families to ensure children come to school prepared for sunny conditions. Please send your child in with a named water bottle each day and either apply all-day sun cream before school or provide sun cream that they can apply themselves. We also recommend light, airy clothing in line with our uniform policy, along with a sun hat where possible.



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Updates from the AFA

With the support of the AFA we recently welcomed the **Travelling Book Fair** to school. Thank you to the volunteers who helped and everyone who attended and supported the event. We achieved total sales of £779.07, which generated £311.63 in book vouchers for the school. As our main library has recently been enhanced, these vouchers were gifted to our EYFS team, who have used them to purchase a wonderful selection of new books for the Reception reading library. The children have already enjoyed exploring these and will no doubt love having them read aloud in the coming weeks.



Looking ahead, the next exciting event organised by the AFA is our **Colour Run on Thursday 18th June**. We have had almost 300 pupils sign up, which is fantastic! We encourage families to gather sponsorship for their child to help raise valuable funds towards enrichment opportunities for all Ashcombe pupils. This is the first time we have run a Colour Run at our school, and we are incredibly excited – we hope it will become a much-loved annual event. Further details about timings and the running order will be shared shortly. As always, we will be keeping a close eye on the weather and, in the event of extreme conditions, the event may need to be rescheduled. We will give as much notice as possible should this be necessary.

The AFA have also been working extremely hard to prepare for the **Summer Fayre taking place on Saturday 11th July**. This includes planning new games, securing exciting raffle prizes from local businesses (tickets will be sent home this week), and organising a range of external stalls. This is a huge event to coordinate, and we hope as many families as possible will come along to support both the AFA and Ashcombe Primary School. After last year's disappointing weather, we are hoping for sunshine this time! There will be lots of fun, games and prizes, along with a BBQ, pizza van, Fabulous PJ's ice cream, and a bar. Seating will be available, but families are very welcome to bring along chairs or picnic blankets and stay to enjoy the day together.



AFA Upcoming Dates

- **Thursday 18th June** – Colour Run
- **Wednesday 24th June @ 6:30pm** – AFA Meeting (final Summer Fayre planning)
- **Friday 3rd July** – Non-uniform day (in exchange for donations towards the Summer Fayre)
- **Saturday 11th July (12-3pm)** – Summer Fayre



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Say Thank You to a Member of Staff



As we approach the end of the school year, we would love to invite parents and carers to take a moment to recognise a member of staff who has made a difference to your child.

The national **“Thank a Teacher”** initiative makes it easy to send a free personalised message of appreciation to any member of school staff – from teachers and teaching assistants to office staff, lunchtime supervisors and site team. A few kind words can make a real difference and help staff feel valued for the important work they do every day supporting and inspiring our children. Messages can be sent at any time, and you can even choose to send them anonymously.

To send a message please visit 🖱️ <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>

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 will aim to give families as much notice as possible for this though.

Term 6:

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

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

Y3 Weston Museum Trip (3RH) – Thursday 11th June

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

Ashcombe Colour run – Thursday 18th June

Parent Forum Meeting 5 – Friday 26th June (9:00-10:00am) – Community

School Choir, Bristol Beacon Trip – Tuesday 30th June

Moving up day – Wednesday 1st July

Autism Awareness Day – Monday 6th July

Y2 Noah’s Ark Zoo Farm Trip – Wednesday 8th July

AFA Summer Fayre – Saturday 11th July

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)

Y5 Beach Trip – Tuesday 14th July

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

