

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



Monday 2nd September

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that all of you have managed to have some time with your children over the summer break. We're looking forward to welcoming back your children and to soon be welcoming in our new Reception starters as they begin their Ashcombe journey. There may be some mixed feelings about returning to school – some children will be keen to get back into routines and see their friends while inevitably some may be feeling more nervous about changes of classes, teachers and year groups. We will do our very best to support them all in their return to school over the coming weeks. Don't be surprised if they come back a little tired over the next few weeks as they adjust back to routines.

Building Works

I'm pleased to say that John Perkins were able to complete almost all of the building work over the summer holidays. There are one or two parts of the build which will be finished off in the following weeks but the building is now ours to operate in and we've been busy setting up classrooms and offices ready for the children to return this week. Unfortunately, some of the plans for the outside space which we thought we had funding for have had to be put on hold as some of the funding from the Department for Education has been scaled back. While this is frustrating for us all, we'll be working on a plan to redevelop the outside area step by step over the next few years. This will inevitably come at a cost, and therefore we'll be looking to raise money to achieve this through a variety of means. I'd like to put on record my thanks to the team at John Perkins who have worked with the school over the last 18 months on this project and delivered a building we can be proud of and will serve us all for years to come.



New Reception



The old entrance for school Reception will no-longer be in operation – the main office has moved to the extension of the building and is through the car park. Please note that children should not be dropped off through this entrance and should be taken directly to their classroom. Children arriving late should still go to their classroom unless arriving after 9am when they should be signed in through Reception.

Unfortunately there are **no toilets immediately off the new Reception lobby** – please don't assume that you can nip in to use the toilet as this will require a staff member to walk you to the toilet area and a staff member may not be available. All forms for requesting an absence, medical forms, etc are available on the school website so if you need anything, please check here: <https://www.ashcombepriamry.com/forms-and-documents/>



Dropping off and picking up at the end of the day

School gates open at the Earlham Grove and Children Centre entrance at 8:35am. Families can now walk around the entirety of the building to get to their classrooms. Children in years R to year 4 should be supervised up until 8:45 when classroom doors will open. The gates will again be opened at 3:05 ready for collection from classrooms at 3:15. Children should not be walking to and from school unsupervised until they reach year 5 and only with permission sent through to the school office and agreed by the Headteacher. Letters were sent out to parents/carers of children in year 4 at the end of last term. Thanks everyone who returned these promptly.



Parents and Carers' Evenings and School Reports

This year we'll be changing the timing and order in which we hold parents' evenings and sending home school reports. This will be trial in line with a common approach being tried out in our partner Trust schools. We'll be sharing invitations to our first set of parents and carer's evenings shortly with you all and sign up will be made via School Ping. Reports will then be sent home at the end of the Spring Term with targets for pupils to work towards by the end of the year. We'll hold a final round of parents and carers' evenings to round out the year in term 6.

Parents and Carers' Evening (Years 1-6) – Tuesday 17th September 4:00-7pm

Parents and Carers' Evening (Years 1-6) – Thursday 19th September 3:30-6:00pm

Reception Parents and Carers' Evening 1 – Tuesday 19th November 3:30-6pm

Reception Parents and Carers' Evening 2 – Thursday 21st November 3:30-6pm

Mid-year School Reports sent out - 28th March

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

Parents and Carers' Evening – Thursday 10th July 3:30-6:00pm

Attendance Changes

I forwarded a letter from Kaleidoscope CEO Simon Marriot last term via School Ping, informing families about impending changes to how schools manage attendance which came into effect from August this year. These changes are national guidelines from the Department of Education. The school is responsible for upholding these changes and I want to make sure that all families are aware of them.



Children may have an **authorised absence** from school if they have an illness, an appointment or a pre-arranged exceptional circumstance.

If children have 10 or more **unauthorised** sessions (1 school day = 2 sessions) next year, schools must consider:

- 1) Referring for a fine
- 2) Offer an attendance contract
- 3) Early Help support through a referral to Children's Social Care

- If a fine is issued by North Somerset, each fine is per child and can be per parent. This fine will be £80 if paid in 21 days or £160 after 21 days.
- If there is a further unauthorised absence of 10 sessions in the following 10 weeks, a second fine will be issued at the higher cost of £160 per parent.

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- There is a cap of 2 fines in a three year period but further unauthorised absence could lead to an 'Education Supervision Order' from family court or prosecution could lead to a fine, community order or a 3 month jail sentence.

OPAL Play



Last year, we began to pilot our move to a new way of playing at lunchtimes on Friday which involved mixing the different year groups and enhancing the different types of play on offer. I'd like to thank all of the community who made donations to the school for this last year. Now that the building work is complete, we'll be moving to OPAL Play for every lunchtime and making use of all of the school grounds from the field to our new playground. Most of the resources we'll be using for OPAL Play are being stored in our new sheds but you may start to see some material like tyres and pallet boards around school which the when the children have been trained to play safely with them. In the coming weeks, we'll aim to host a 'stay and play' afternoon so that parents and carers can see the types of activities the children are now

taking part in. If you would like to know more about OPAL Play, follow this link for more information: <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>

We will be playing outside every lunchtime apart from very exceptionally poor weather. This means that all children should come into school with a warm, waterproof coat. If you are concerned about your child getting their uniform dirty or even if you know your child likes to get involved in muddy play, it will be worth sending your child in with a spare set of clothes to change into.

ABC Breakfast Club & RASKOOLZ After School-Club

With the new building complete, we have slightly different drop off and collection arrangements in place for wraparound care. ABC dropped off through new hall and must be signed in. Children must be booked on through Parent Pay and sessions paid for before they are dropped off. RASKOOLZ children will be collected through new Reception - parents wait in the lobby and call RASKOOLZ mobile for collection.

Uniform policy

At Ashcombe, wearing uniform is a really important part of school life. I believe in a school uniform for three reasons:

1. It is a leveller for all pupils – there is no pressure to wear the 'right' clothes. We wear the same irrespective of our backgrounds.
2. Wearing uniform and the Ashcombe badge shows that we're part of something greater – we are a team and support one another. It goes right to the heart of our family ethos of 'We are Ashcombe'.
3. It teaches the children about presenting themselves formally and being respectful. Whatever work or role your children may end up in, there may be times they need to present themselves in this way.



Please ensure all uniform is labelled as it can be easily and quickly become lost.

Full details of our uniform policy can be seen on our website here:

<https://www.ashcombeprimary.com/uniform-information/>

If you would like to order branded school uniform, please mail the school office at office@ashcomebprimary.co.uk



I recognise that purchasing uniform with growing children can be a real challenge and my own son seems to use his polo shirts as a dinner plate most days so we can end up churning through lots of new uniform! I know that this is hard in the current climate when costs are increasing everywhere. If you are in this position, please let us know at office@ashcombeprimary.co.uk and we'll look into the support we can offer you.

For full details of our uniform – see the school website here:

<https://www.ashcombeprimary.com/uniform-information/>

Ashcombe Friends Association



This year should be a very exciting one for the school community because we'll finally be able to return to a full schedule of activities for the first time since before the pandemic. That means we're hoping to lay on Fayres at Christmas, Easter and Summer along with old favourites like the 'Shop and Drop' and school discos. The money raised by these events goes directly back to the school. However, these events will not be able to run

without the volunteer work from members of the AFA. If you have some time you can volunteer to either join the committee or support in running an event, please get in touch with the team by emailing: ashcombefriendsassociation@outlook.com

The AFA will be holding the Annual General Meeting on Monday 30th September at 7pm in school. Please come along if you would like to get involved!

Forever proud to serve you.
We Are Ashcombe.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Penny
Headteacher