

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 22nd September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of this week we'll be hitting the half way point of term 1 – time is already racing away. The children have settled really well now and it's been a pleasure to drop into classes and see the hard work children are putting into their learning right the way across the curriculum. We've had some bracing winds and huge downpours but we've been fortunate to get outside and enjoy our playtimes every day so far. I can definitely feel the weather changing though – Autumn is here and winter won't be too far behind it.



Waterproof and warm clothing



Please remember that we will be playing outside every break and lunchtime apart from in exceptionally poor weather. This means that all children should come into school with a warm, waterproof coat. I would also recommend that your child brings wellies into school which they can change into for break and lunch times if it is wet. 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 would be worth sending your child in with a spare set of clothes to change into in case they get very messy. As children do not need to get changed for PE, this can be stored in school in the cloakroom.

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.

Foodbank Donations

Help us support local families in need.

We're collecting donations for the Weston-super-Mare foodbank on the 10th of October. Frederique Wigmore, who manages the centre will be coming into school to speak to the children during assemblies so that they can understand the work the foodbank does. 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.



OPAL Play – KS2 stay and Play

We would like to invite parents and carers of children in KS2 into school for a 'stay and play' so that you can get a feel for how OPAL play works at Ashcombe. This is taking place on Friday 3rd of October in the Turner Hall. Parents are welcome on site from 1:30 for a presentation and talk from Nancy Low who has been supporting the school on our OPAL Play journey. After this finishes, parents and carers can head outside to join their children in exploring the grounds and taking part in play themselves. We'd love to see lots of you join us. We are asking students to bring in an item of play to donate to our OPAL play collection, please see the list below of examples of the type of things your child could bring in.



This is your ticket to play!

Every student is asked to bring in 1 item for play to the OPAL playday to help build our collection of loose parts for the OPAL Primary Programme. KS2 children are invited to play with their Parent and Carers on Friday 3rd October. Parents and Carers can attend the OPAL meeting at 1:30pm and then take part in an OPAL play session from 2-3pm in the school grounds!

Here are some examples of loose parts that your child could bring in:

- Baby dolls or Barbies
- Toy cars
- Large empty spools (used for wire, chain, rope, etc)
- Large buckets and containers
- Wood scraps
- Thick rope
- Plastic pipes, tubes, or hoses
- Plastic animals, figures and dinosaurs
- Old kitchen utensils, baskets, pots, and pans
- Tarps
- Fabric scraps (the bigger the better!)
- Milk crates
- Crutches
- Ride on toys
- Old wagons and push chairs

The importance of arriving on time

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time and ready to learn.

The school day starts at **8:45am**, and learning begins immediately with maths or reading practice. Even being **5 minutes late each day** adds up to **2.5 days of lost learning** over the year. **10 minutes late daily** equals **5 full days missed**.

This early learning time is crucial, and arriving late puts children at a disadvantage. This isn't about blame—it's about helping every child start their day positively and keep up with their peers.



Attendance – Every Day matters



When children miss school, they miss out on valuable learning, routines, and social time with their peers. Even just **one day off a fortnight** adds up to **nearly four weeks of missed learning** over the school year. Regular attendance helps children build confidence, keep up with their classmates, and make the most of every opportunity.

We understand that illness happens, but wherever possible, please aim for full attendance—it really does make a difference. If you are unsure if your child is too poorly for school, please check this website: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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Year group presentations

I'm pleased to announce the dates for our year group presentations detailed in the **important dates** below. Please add these to your diary. Year group presentations are an opportunity for the children to sing, dance, act and perform to parents and carers. We take the opportunity to perform in every year group – allowing the children the opportunity to do this each year is a really important part of their personal development at Ashcombe and something we're all proud of. We'd love to see you come along!

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:

International Languages Day – Friday 26th September

Parents Evening 1 – Tuesday 30th September 4:00-7pm

Parents Evening 2 – Thursday 2nd October 3:30-6:00pm

Opal Play; KS2 Parent Stay & Play session – Friday 3rd October PM

Nasal Flu Immunisations – Monday 6th October

Harvest Assembly – Monday 6th October

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 a yellow or spotty item of clothing, please make donations via ParentPay)

AFA Drop and Shop - Thursday 27th November TBC

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

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

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

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KALEIDOSCOPE
Multi Academy Trust

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