

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



8th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer term is racing away from us now and I can hardly believe that we are approaching the final weeks of the school year. The children have been working hard on their assessments over the last two weeks and year 6 are gearing up for their final production to parents and carers next week. It's been really lovely to see the children improve in their work through the year and I've had a few visits to my office for smelly stickers and lots of nominations for Hot Chocolate each week.

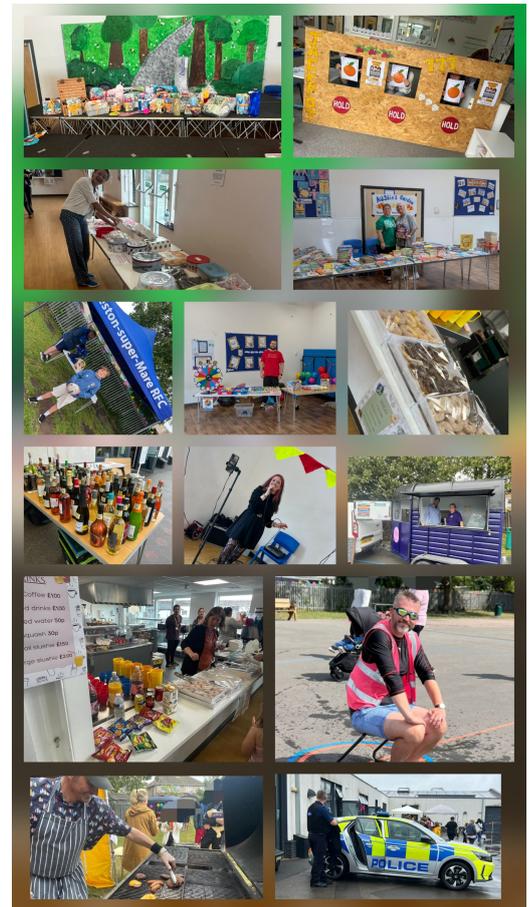


AFA – Summer Fayre



I'd like to say a huge, huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard on Saturday to make the Summer Fayre a reality. This was the first Summer Fayre in six years and it was really special to see the Fayre in action in our new extension and on the new playground. The weather,

having been gorgeous for weeks and weeks, was of course rainy and blustery to begin with. However, AFA and staff volunteers were unfazed and readied stalls and workshops despite the grim weather. Over the course of the afternoon, the sun broke out and the wind died down to leave us with a really special afternoon for the children. It has taken many hours of volunteered time to make all the AFA events take place this year. We couldn't do it without the parents who have given so much of their time. Thank you to all the AFA and staff volunteers who gave up their Saturday – you made a real difference. All money raised will be going towards supporting the school community. Thanks for everyone who came along and supported the school by attending this event.



Music at Ashcombe next year

Following demand from parents and carers, I'm pleased to share that we'll be hosting music lessons on site again next year. Please read the following options we have available to pupils:



WEMA

Ashcombe Primary School have teamed up with **WEMA (West of England Music Association)** and will be offering 1-1 and group music lessons starting in September 2025. These lessons will be offered to KS2 pupils and will take place throughout the week during the school day.



The instruments your child will be able to choose from are:

Drum Kit, Flute, Guitar (Acoustic), Guitar (Bass), Guitar (Electric), Keyboard and Ukulele.

More details and the booking form can be found on their website: <https://wema.org.uk/music-hub/young-people-families/learn-to-play/>



RockSteady

We have also partnered with **Rocksteady Music School** to deliver fun and inclusive rock and pop band lessons, right here at Ashcombe Primary School! These weekly music lessons take place in school and are led by highly trained professional musicians who know how to inspire a love for music. It's the perfect way for children to learn new musical skills, make friends and have fun, all whilst boosting confidence, wellbeing, social skills and academic achievement. The lessons are open to all year groups, there is no experience necessary and all instruments for lessons are provided.

Lessons will take place in school hours on a Thursday afternoon starting from 11th September. If your child would like to experience the magic of learning music, you can find more information and check available spaces by visiting: <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com>

Sun safety

As the sunny days continue, it's important to keep our children safe while they enjoy the outdoors.

Please remember to:

- Apply sunscreen to your child before school each morning.
- Send them with a sun hat clearly labelled with their name.
- Send children into school with a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day.
- On particularly hot days, please do not send children into school with jumpers, fleeces or leavers hoodies as some children can be reluctant to take them off. On these days, please send children into school with light airy clothing.
- Please remind children at home of the importance of drinking regularly and taking breaks in the shade.



Other measures we will take in school in the event of extreme heat:

- Outdoor PE sessions will be cancelled
- Lunchtime breaks will be shortened.
- Whole school events e.g. sports days may be postponed.

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Staffing Update:

Miss Hawkins has been successful at interview and will be taking a position at a new school next year, closer to home. Miss Hawkins joined us during her initial teacher training and has thrived at Ashcombe since. We are all very sorry to see her leave but her incredibly long commute will be shortened significantly next year. Thank you for all your hard work here.

Mr Mann is retiring at the end of this year and brings his education career to an end having been a Headteacher and worked for the Local Authority supporting schools. Mr Mann has brought a great deal of energy and humour in his years working at Ashcombe. We wish him well and thank him for his service over the years.

Mrs Vowles will also be leaving us at the end of the school year and I know first-hand how much she has cared about this job. She has been dedicated to helping children improve and has made a massive difference to children over the years she has been here. We are sad to see her go but I hope some new adventures are waiting for her.

Finally, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Light at the end of this academic year who is taking retirement. Mrs Light has been an incredible support to staff, pupils and families during her time as Pastoral Lead at Ashcombe. She has put in 27 years of service to this community and deserves a huge amount of recognition for the difference she has made here. She will be very much missed by us all.

We have already recruited two maternity teachers who will be joining us in September; Miss Leeks and Miss Walcot. We are currently recruiting for a new Pastoral Lead. I will write to you as soon as I can with more details.

Important Dates ahead in Term 6

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

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

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

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

New class transition morning – Thursday 10th July

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

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

Y6 Parents & Carers are invited in for Y6 farewell – Tuesday 22nd July at 2:40pm

End of Term 6 – Tuesday 22nd July

Forever proud to serve you.

We Are Ashcombe.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Penny
Headteacher

