



Friday March 14th 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been lovely to see the sunshine over the last couple of weeks and Spring properly on its way. We've also had a busy few weeks in the first half of term 4 with few more things to look forward to over the next half of this term.

Dance Festival performers

Last Tuesday, I was delighted and so proud to see our dancers perform at the North Somerset School Sports Partnership Dance Festival. The children were outstanding and their hard work over many weeks culminated in two beautiful dances they can be very proud of. They performed in front of a packed audience at the Playhouse. Speaking to parents, carers and other staff members who came to see, we were all blown away and moved by what they children produced. I'd like to make special mention of Mrs Coombs who came in during her maternity leave to teach the children - we're so lucky to have her as part of the school. Mrs Burditt also needs special mention for the support she gave during rehearsals and the many hours she put into getting the costumes ready. Well done everyone - you did Ashcombe proud!



Biggest Ever Football Session

Last Friday, a group of our year 5 girls took part in a girl's football tournament at Hans Price Academy on their 3G pitch. This event was to coincide with the 'Biggest Ever Football Session' which aims to inspire and empower the next generation through girls' football. Year 9s and Year 10s from Hans Price helped coach and referee the matches. The children did Ashcombe proud and came 4th place overall - we were really proud of the effort the

children put in!

Y5 Parent Workshop and Production

In the last two weeks, we've welcomed in year 5 parents and carers to support the year group in preparing props for their production of 'Buckets of Luck for Charlie'. The children and teaching team have been working so hard to get ready for this production which they put on this week for parents and carers. I was so proud to see the children act, sing, dance, manage props, visuals and lighting. They were brilliant! Well done year 5 and thank you to all the parents and carers who help make our props!



Red Nose Day



We are pleased to announce that our school will be participating in Red Nose Day on March 21, 2025. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Comic Relief, and we are excited to join the nation in a day filled with laughter, fun, and fundraising. Red Nose Day helps support children and families in need, both in the UK and around the world. Let's come together to make a difference and show our support! During the day, children are invited to wear something red alongside their usual uniform (this could include face paint). If families are able to, please make a donation via Parent Pay.

Sustran's Big Walk and Wheel

Join the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel! From March 24th to April 4th, our school will be participating in the UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting, and cycling challenge. The Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel encourages pupils to make active journeys to school, helping to improve air quality and promote healthier lifestyles. It's a fun and free event where schools compete to see who can get the highest percentage of pupils traveling actively. Let's all get moving and make a positive impact on our community! Schools that get over 15% of their pupils making an active journey to school get entered in a prize draw for each of the 10 days the challenge is running!



Smartphones, social media and internet use



I have to share some concerns that I have regarding children's use of mobile phones and social media outside of school during evenings and weekends. In the past, I have had significant safeguarding concerns arise due to use of mobile phones, messaging services and social media networks.



I recognise that being a parent at a time when children have access to these things is brand new territory for all of us. It is hard to set boundaries for these things when everyone is using them. My ask of you all is that we all work together as a community to set these boundaries. If we all give the same messages, then it makes holding the line easier for all.

Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter (Now X), Wink, Discord all have an age rating of 13+.

Threads has an age rating of 12+.

Whatsapp has an age rating of 16+

No primary aged children should be using these platforms.

Even without using social media accounts, our children can be accessing dangerous content or sending unkind or harmful messages to one another.

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



Children might not know what is ok to access and what is not. They are not all mature enough to know how to react when someone sends them an unpleasant or an unsafe message.

What messages are our children sending and receiving?
What websites are they browsing?
What videos are they watching?
How late are our children using their mobile devices?

Mobile phone use needs to be checked regularly.

What is school doing?

There is a limit, I believe, to what we as a school should do and to what we can do. We cannot set the boundaries for the children and we cannot monitor what they use their phones for. Too much time is being taken up for pupils and staff with the negative consequences of using devices at the moment.

We will:

- Use our computing and Jigsaw schemes to teach the children regularly about online safety.
- Teach the children how to behave kindly and with respect.
- Support pupils when things go wrong/ if they are vulnerable.

Our children are growing up in an incredibly hard time and as parents and carers we are having to manage that for them. I believe that this is something we can all work towards as a community for the benefit of them all.

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:

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)

AFA Summer Fayre – Saturday 5th July.

Year 4, 5 & 6 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 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)

Forever proud to serve you.

We Are Ashcombe.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Penny
Headteacher