

Ashcombe Primary School

Headteacher: Chris Penny

Deputy Headteacher: Kerry Evans

Assistant Headteacher: Steve Burditt

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We Are Ashcombe



Tuesday 29th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've reached the summer term and it's been really lovely to start enjoying some good sunshine since coming back. We had a very busy end to the term just before we broke up for Easter. Year 5 put on an excellent production based on the history of the suffragette movement – it was great to see the children putting their learning into such a moving dramatic tribute to them. Miss Coombs led a group of our year 5s in performing at the NSPEEA Dance Festival – they really did the school proud and were singled out by lots of the people watching as being a great group of dancers. We had a visit from Ofsted inspectors in the second to last week – children and staff worked really hard to showcase the school during their visit – our report will be available to parents and carers to read soon. We held our traditional finals for Ashcombe's Got Talent in the last week and we were joined for the performances by returning judge Mr Mann alongside Mr Burditt, Miss Coombs and Simon from Front Room. The performers were fantastic and really impressed us all. We rounded off the term with a brilliant Spring Fayre organised by the wonderful AFA. It's been great to see children come back last week and we saw a mix of excitement and nerves as children in year 5 set off for their adventures at Morfa Bay yesterday. The summer term is always a very busy one but one we all look forward to.

Ofsted Inspection



Last term, the school underwent an Ofsted inspection, and we are currently awaiting the release of the final report. The inspection took place under Ofsted's new framework published in September, which focuses on pupils' everyday experiences in school, including how learning, behaviour, inclusion, safeguarding and wellbeing are supported. Inspectors spent time talking with pupils and staff, visiting lessons and reviewing a range of school activities and practices to build an overall

picture of school life. We will share further information with families as soon as the final report is published which should be available soon. In the new framework, there is no overall judgement of the school as there has been in the past. Instead, the school is given a report card, grading the school in different areas. For more information about what this report card looks like, please watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbl0FvY976g>

Opal Stay & Play

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers join us for our first OPAL stay and play event last week. We were joined by Nancy Low from OPAL who spoke to families about the ethos and rationale behind OPAL and the journey we've been on as a school since starting OPAL two years ago. Children from KS1 and EYFS came out with their parents and carers to play on the field – it was a really special to see and we're looking forward to hosting our next stay and play. Keep an eye for updates on our next event!



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Spring Fayre

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who helped to organise and run the Easter Fayre. Thank you also to our wonderful families who came along to support us. Thanks to your generosity, we raised a fantastic £1,782! This money is already being put to great use for the children of Ashcombe Primary School. This year the AFA have helped fund the relaunch of Forest School, provided £500 to each year group to support off-site enrichment activities, and pledged an incredible £5,000 towards the playground redevelopment which is well underway. The AFA work hard to support the school wherever possible, and none of this would happen without our fantastic families and community. Thank you all so much.



New Playground equipment:



Parents and Carers will have seen the rapid work underway to construct our new playgrounds. Work began on this during the Easter holidays and has been completed through a mixture of support from Kaleidoscope Multi-Academy Trust, school funds and our AFA. We're hoping that construction will be fully complete by the end of next week. It has been nearly 6 years since the school has had useable playground

equipment so I am really excited for children to be able to begin using it. The equipment has come at a cost of nearly £70,000 so it is imperative that it is well looked after and in the next weeks I'll be running assemblies with the children on how we can safely enjoy the equipment. We will be running a rota system so that children can enjoy using the playground equipment.

Unfortunately, **children will not be able to use the equipment before and after school** – it is to be used during school time only. This is in keeping with how the school was managing its old adventure playgrounds in the past. I am taking this decision for the following reasons:

- It is part of our risk assessment and therefore our insurance that play on the equipment needs to be supervised at all times.
- There is a maximum user capacity for all the equipment – if too many children are using at one time there is a safety risk.
- Not all pupils are supervised by parents and carers when they are in school – year 5 and 6 pupils come into school alone.

Attendance Reminder

We have recently received a high number of attendance requests from families. We would like to remind parents and carers that holidays are not authorised during term time, in line with national guidance. While we understand that time away with family can feel important, regular attendance is crucial to your child's learning, progress, and wellbeing. Even short periods of absence can have a significant impact on confidence, continuity of learning, and friendships. We kindly ask families to carefully consider any time taken out of school and support us in giving every child the best possible opportunity to succeed.



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School Trips

In our parent survey, parents and carers made clear that they would like to see an increase in the number of trips and visits taking place across school. I would like to say a big thank you to the AFA in supporting our drive to improve our provision and they have committed £500 to each year group to help reduce costs for all families. During the summer term a number of trips will be taking place – please check School Ping regularly for updates on this in the weeks to come:

- YR & Y1 – Dr Dolittle workshop trip to Blakehay Theatre – Friday 15th May
- Y2 – Noah’s Ark Zoo Farm Trip – Wednesday 8th July
- Y3 – Weston Museum Trip – (3SB & 3SD) Thursday 4th June, (3RH) Thursday 11th June
- Y4 – Bristol Zoo Project school trip – Tuesday 19th May
- Y5 – Morfa Bay Residential – This week!
- Y6 – Activity Days – Ongoing during Term 5 and 6

Statutory Assessments – Summer Term

During the summer term, pupils in several year groups will take part in statutory national assessments that are part of the government’s assessment arrangements for primary schools in England.

- For Year 6 pupils, Key Stage 2 tests (SATs) are scheduled to take place from **Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May 2026**, covering English and mathematics.
- Children in Year 4 will complete the **Multiplication Tables Check** during a **two-week window beginning Monday 1 June 2026**,
- Pupils in Year 1 (and some in Year 2) will take the **Phonics Screening Check** in the **week beginning Monday 8 June 2026**.

These assessments are designed to support teachers’ understanding of pupils’ learning and to inform future teaching. As always, the school will ensure that the checks are carried out sensitively and with pupils’ wellbeing in mind.

Inclusivity at Ashcombe

At times, coming into school can be particularly challenging for some children, especially those who experience difficulties with emotional regulation or transitions. We kindly ask our whole school community, children and adults alike, to be mindful of this and to approach everyone with patience, empathy and understanding. The way we speak to and about others truly matters. By modelling kind, respectful language and attitudes, we help create a safe and supportive environment where every child feels accepted, valued and able to thrive.



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Year 4 times table after-school club



Our Year 4 Times Tables Rock Stars FREE after-school club will be running every Monday, and we'd love to see as many children join as possible. Parents need to complete the form sent via School Ping to confirm the dates your child will attend. TTRS is a fantastic way for children to strengthen their times-tables knowledge while having fun and building confidence. The Year 4 Team look forward to welcoming them.

Year 4 also have another information session about the Multiplication and Tables Check (MTC) that Year 4 children will sit in June. This is a really important check that the children will sit and we encourage as many parents as possible to attend. This session is a repeat of the session that was held last term, therefore if you have already attended there is no need to attend again. Location: Classroom: 4LR, Date: Thursday 30th April, Time: 3.25pm—3.45pm

Staffing Update:



I'm sad to share that after twenty nine years at Ashcombe, Mr Burditt, our Assistant Headteacher will be leaving our school at the end of this academic year. He is leaving education as he wishes to pursue new endeavours and opportunities after a thirty-two year career in education. Mr Burditt has been part of the fabric of this school and its community for nearly three decades and in that time has seen the school grow from a one form entry primary of 210 children to its current size of 630. He has worked with five headteachers, hundreds of staff and thousands of children in that time serving throughout as a teacher and Assistant Headteacher for twenty years. I have really enjoyed working alongside Mr Burditt in my time at Ashcombe - his creativity, wisdom and passion for the job and serving this community will be missed by us all. The summer term will bring us time to consider how we can say a fitting goodbye for an important and valued

member of our team.

Term 5:

Y5 Morfa Bay residential – Monday 27th April to Friday 1st May

Parent Forum Meeting 4 (2:00-3:00pm) – Tuesday 5th May – Transition

KS2 Test week – Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May

YR & Y1 Trip Dr Dolittle workshop trip to Blakehay Theatre – Friday 15th May

Y4 – Bristol Zoo Project school trip – Tuesday 19th 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 can come into school in sports kit)

End of Term 5 – Friday 22nd May



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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

Y3 – Weston Museum Trip – (3SB & 3SD) Thursday 4th June, (3RH) Thursday 11th 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)

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

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)

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

