



Ashill VC Primary School Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Friday 18th July 2025

www.ashillschool.co.uk

From the Desk of Mr Creasey...

Dear Parents/Carers

Wow! What an incredibly busy couple of weeks and how the time has flown. As you'll see from the photographs, there's been so much happening in school from overnight festivals and curriculum cafes to trips out and summer fayres. We know the children have really enjoyed the experience and my sincere thanks to the staff and Friends of Ashill School who have gone above and beyond in recent months to make this all happen. Thank you all so much!

As we reflect on the past few weeks, my attention turns to what is one of many 'lasts'. This is my final newsletter and, although I've mentioned to many of you in recent weeks that it's a decision without regret, I can't explain the emotional rollercoaster that I've been on, knowing that I leave Ashill Primary on Tuesday.



It is the perfect opportunity to reflect upon the past and look to the future. It's been a ten years of high and lows, with times of laughter, enjoyment and reward, mixed with challenges and sadness at times. I guess this is reflective of many schools! However, what I hold onto dearly is the pride I have in this school. I've worked with some incredibly passionate and talented members of staff and governors over the years, who I'm truly thankful for. They've lived the vision and 'family' culture of this school, many of whom will continue to do this in September. You as parents have been remarkable! The cards and messages of support I've received have been simply incredible – it genuinely means so much to me and, as I'm sure you'll witness on Tuesday, I really do wear my heart of my sleeve (and cry at the opening of an envelope!). My apologies in advance.

But, most importantly, the children that I've worked with here over the years have been amazing! Even when there have been challenges, I've had the most incredible conversations with your children, I've laughed, I've seen them grow in confidence and seen them achieve beyond their comfort zones. They are all incredibly unique and I love this about working with children. This is what this job, and schools, should all be about – the children! And no matter what has been thrown at me over the past decade, I have always kept this at the heart of every decision I've made.

P.T.O

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declared the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

(Jeremiah 29:11)

Our vision, guided by our Christian ethos, is to create an inclusive school family where every child is nurtured to grow and thrive, be confident in showing their strengths and achieve their ambitions in the world.

We aim to achieve this through our values of:

Resilience, Kindness, Respect, Aspiration, Curiosity and Independence

Over the last few weeks, I've had many a conversation with the new headteacher, Dan Pickard. I remember working with Dan when I first started at Ashill back in 2013, when he was headteacher of another Diocese school – we attended several courses aimed at being more collaborative as church schools. I know that he shares similar values to me and if the interview process, and interactions since, are anything to go by, I feel incredibly hopeful for the future of Ashill Primary (no pressure there, Dan!).

So, as a final reflection, I look forward to sharing my final few days with you all as a school community. I look forward to celebrating all that we've achieved these past ten years and have the opportunity to reflect on what has been such a significant part of my life. Ashill will forever hold a special place in my heart – the school, the people and the community as a whole.

With best wishes and sincere thanks to you all,

Steve Creasey
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

(please note that events marked in **blue** are new events and those in **bold** are where parent/carers are invited)

Summer

18 th /21 st /22 nd July	Northgate and Neatherd High School Transition days – children are invited back to us for the last day of term
Mon 21 st July	3:15pm to 4:15pm Parent/Carer drop in (with new class teachers)
Tues 22 nd July	9:30am Leavers Service and Prize Giving at St. Nicholas Church
Tues 22 nd July	Last day of school

2025 ICS Summer Holiday Dates:

Mondays:	28 th July, 4 th August, 11 th August, 18 th August
Wednesday:	30 th July, 6 th August, 13 th August, 20 th August



2025-2026 Term dates

Autumn term:	Wed 3 rd Sept	to	Fri 24 th Oct
	Mon 3 rd Nov	to	Fri 19 th Dec
Spring term:	Tues 6 th Jan	to	Fri 13 th Feb
	Mon 23 rd Feb	to	Fri 27 th Mar
Summer term:	Tues 14 th Apr	to	Fri 22 nd May
	Mon 1 st Jun	to	Fri 17 th July

THE
READING
AGENCY

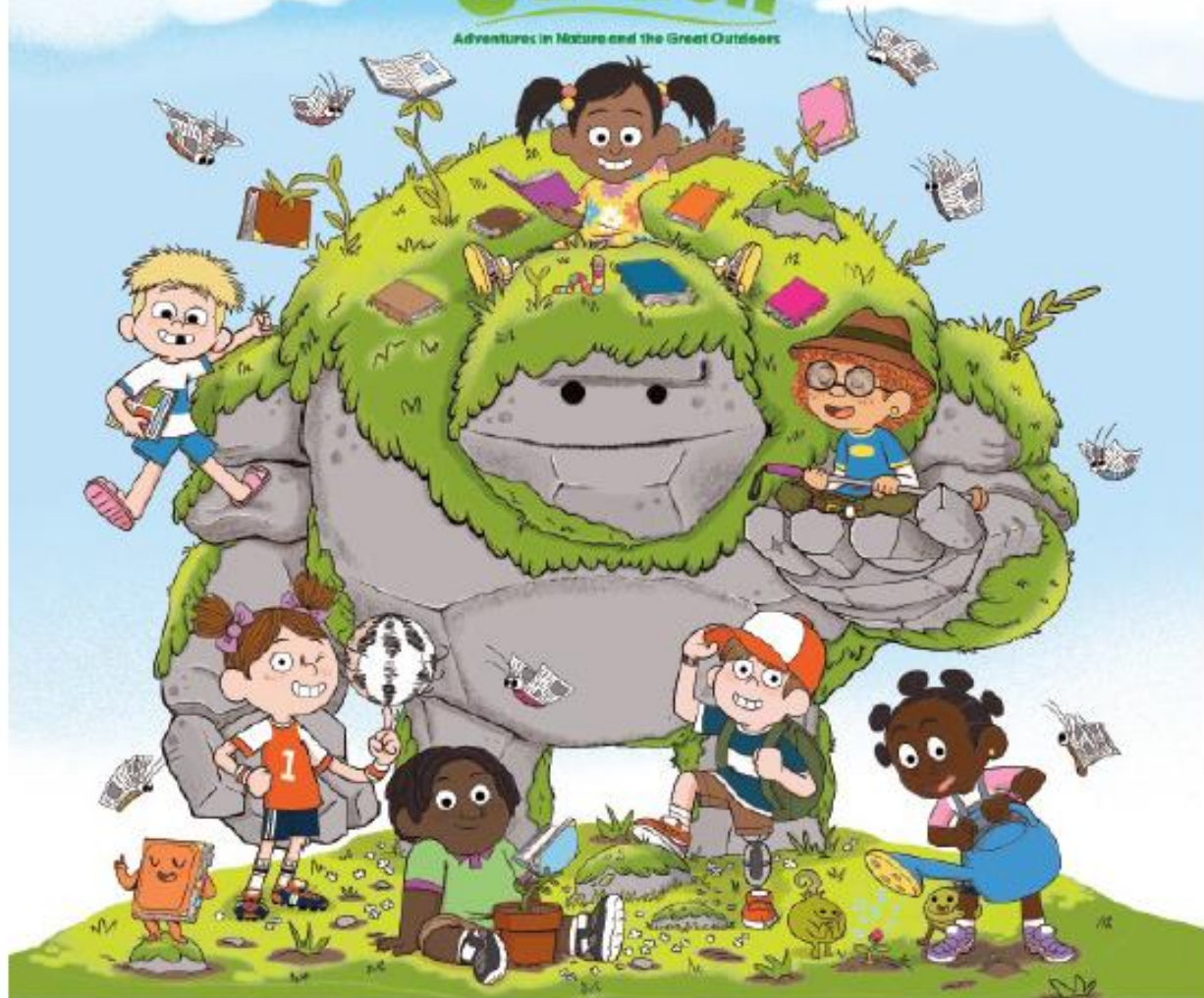
Summer Reading Challenge

Delivered in partnership with libraries

2025

Story Garden

Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors



summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Launching 5th July

Watton Library



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Founded in 1995 by The Arts Council. All © The Reading Agency 2025



Norfolk
County Council

© The Reading Agency. Registered charity number 1085443 (England & Wales)



Story Garden

Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors



What's On at

Watton Library

Saturday 2nd August

2pm - 3pm

Lego Club

Thursday 7th August

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Big Bird Craft & Storytime

Wednesday 13th August

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Make A Nature Journal

Monday 18th August

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Mini Garden & Craft

Thursday 28th August

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Wood Slice Animal

Painting

Monday 1st September

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Wild Garden Art

& Storytime

Saturday 6th September

11am - 12pm

Medal Ceremony



Help Your Child Discover the Joy of Reading This Summer!

This summer, give your child the chance to fall in love with reading! The **Summer Reading Challenge**, created by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries, is a FREE, fun-packed way to keep kids reading and learning all summer long.

This year's theme is **Story Garden**, where imagination blossoms and stories grow! Children will explore creativity, storytelling, and the magic of books through exciting activities and adventures.

Why Join?

- It's **FREE!** Available at local libraries and online
- Inspires a **lifelong love** of reading
- Boosts **confidence, creativity, and imagination**
- Earn **rewards, certificates, and prizes**
- Fun for the whole **family**. Visit your **local library** together
- **95%** of children said they **read more** after joining!
- Children **choose their own books** to read over the summer, **collect rewards** for each milestone they reach, and **receive a certificate or medal** when they complete the challenge.



Visit your local library or go online at
👉 summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
to get started from 5 July 2025.

Help your child start their reading adventure today!



Friends of Ashill School



Easy Fundraising

We are using a great website called easyfundraising to help raise money for Ashill School PTA - Thetford - simply by shopping online. Easyfundraising turns

your everyday online shopping into FREE donations when you use them to shop with over 7,000 brands such as eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS and Booking.com. Brands then make a small donation to say 'thank you' and easyfundraising gives those free funds to the cause.



Please register using this link – just click sign up - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=27981&invite=wt04dy&referral-campaign=s2s>

Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it! There's no catch or hidden charges and Ashill School PTA - Thetford will be really grateful for your donations.

Summer Fayre

A huge THANK YOU to the Friends of Ashill Primary and everyone who helped and supported our Summer Fayre. Despite the hot weather, there was a constant flow of visitors and we raised approximately £830.23. Here are a few pictures of the Summer Fayre.

Supporting young children online

With the summer holidays coming up, children are likely to be online that little bit more than usual.

Use these top 10 practical tips to help young children have safer online experiences and develop their digital resilience.



1) Talking to siblings

It's a good idea to talk to any older children about what they do online and what they show to younger children. Encourage them to be responsible and help keep their younger siblings safe.

2) Stay involved

Encourage them to use their tech devices in a communal area like the lounge or kitchen so you can keep an eye on how they're using the internet and also share in their enjoyment.

3) Put yourself in control

Install parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices to manage internet safety. Set up a user account for your child on the main device they use and make sure other accounts in the household are password-protected so that younger children can't access them by accident.

4) Explore together

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk with them about what they do and what sites they like to visit. Ask them to show you or play online games together to learn about the platforms and teach them good e-safety habits.

5) Agree boundaries

Be clear what your child can and can't do online – where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet.

6) Search safely

Use safe search engines such as Swiggle or Kids-search. You can save time by adding these to your 'Favourites'. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines, as well as YouTube.

7) Check if it's suitable

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. For example, the minimum age limit is 13 for several social media sites, including TikTok and Instagram. However, there are some social media platforms made for children which they can use safely.

8) Stay safe on the move

Be aware that if your child is accessing the internet using public WiFi they may not have safety features active. Some providers are part of family friendly WiFi schemes with filters to block inappropriate content. Look out for friendly WiFi symbols like RDI Friendly WiFi symbols when you're out and about.

9) Play and browse together

Learn about your pre-teen's favourite video games, platforms and online interests by joining them. Remember, their online life is their real life — so take an interest. Give them the opportunity to show you some of their favourite things.

10) Visit this website for more info

<http://www.internetmatters.org/>



Celebration Assembly
4th July 2025

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Badger Class 94.1%

2nd
Squirrel Class
91.7%

3rd
Hedgehog Class
90.3%

4th
Bumblebee Class
84.2%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

94.7%

Celebration Assembly
11th July 2025

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Hedgehog Class 99%

2nd
Badger Class 94.1%

3rd
Squirrel Class 93.5 %

4th
Bumblebee Class 90%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

94.7%

What's Been Happening?

Dukes Awards



New Bumblebees



Clockwork Sports



Squirrels Curriculum Café



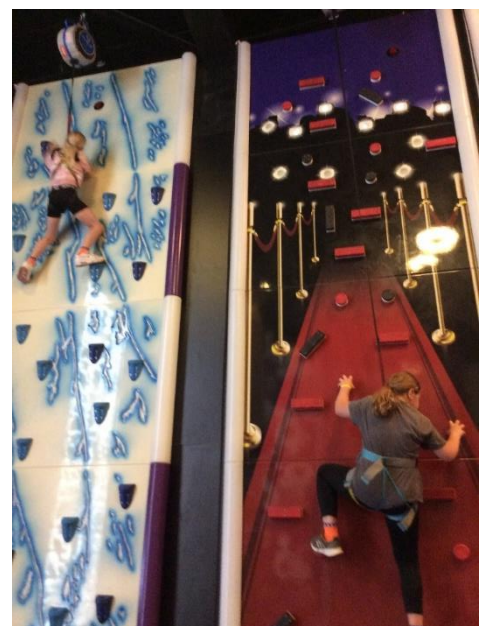
PTA Summer Fayre





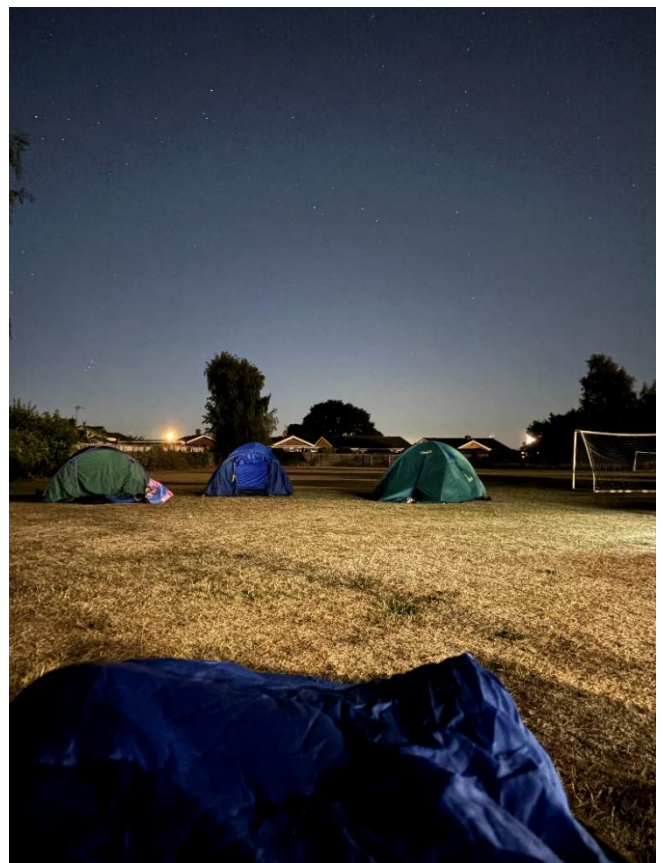
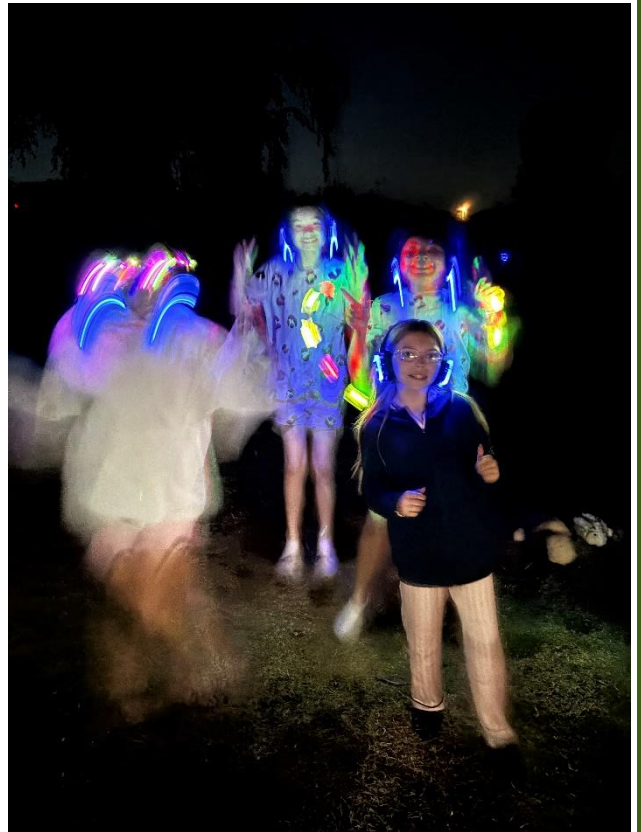
On Monday 14th July, the children enjoyed their Reading Reward Trips for getting 180 reads in their Reading Record Books over the course of this last year.







Ashill Fest



Pleasurewood Hills



Thetford Voices

Singing Workshop

Tues 12th August
10.00-4.00

Wed 13th August
1.30-6.45

FREE



A musical workshop for young singers aged 6-16, at Thetford Grammar School.

We learn a varied programme of songs to perform in concert.

Concert for family and friends at 6pm on Wed 13th August at Thetford Grammar School

For more information, contact:
thetfordvoices@gmail.com

To register:



<https://tinyurl.com/Thetford25>



SUMMER FETE

**FUNDRAISING FOR
WATTON YOUTH GROUP**

**12 | 08 | 2025
10-1pm**

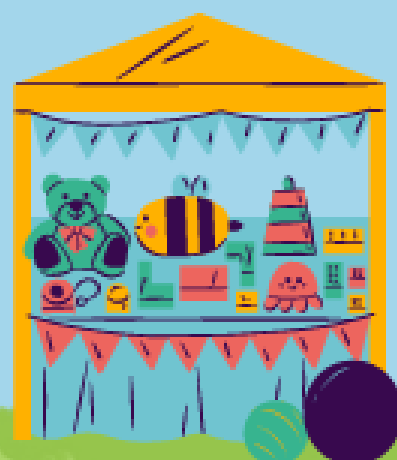
**Watton Community
Centre, Harvey Street**

If you can, bring
your pennies to
help us raise
money!
Some free
activities will still
be available



Stalls

Bake sale
Make-your-own crafts
Games
Raffle
& lots more!



Contact:

ellie.brown@benjaminfoundation.co.uk
for more information



The Benjamin Foundation

THETFORD NETBALL CLUB PRESENTS

NETBALL PLAY DAY!

FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 3 +

- **CURRENT YEAR 3-5
STUDENTS → 10AM-12PM**
- **CURRENT YEAR 6-9
STUDENTS → 12:30- 2:30PM**
- **NEW AND EXISTING CLUB
PLAYERS WELCOME- £5PP**



- We cater for all abilities, whether you are completely new to netball or have played before
- A great opportunity in the summer holidays for a day of fun and making new friends

COME AND JOIN US ON...

Wednesday 13th August

**@ Kings House Gardens,
Thetford, IP24 2AT**

For more information contact Gill:

juniorsecretary.thetfordnetball@gmail.com

CHARITY NO: 1153552

DEEP SEA DIVERS

JOIN US FOR A SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB FOR 5 – 11 YEAR OLDS!
DIVE BELOW THE WAVES AS WE EXPLORE THE MIRACLES OF JESUS!

GAMES • CRAFT • SONGS • PRIZES

26TH – 29TH AUGUST • 10 TILL 12
FOUNTAIN OF LIFE CHURCH, ASHILL
£5 FOR THE WEEK



SCAN HERE
TO BOOK OR GO TO
FOLCHURCH.CO.UK



 @midnorfolkkidzklub

 joe.welch@folchurch.co.uk



FREE PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG CARERS

**YOUNG CARERS MATTER NORFOLK AND THE BENJAMIN FOUNDATION WARMLY
INVITE YOUNG CARERS TO JOIN THEM FOR A FUN AND ENGAGING
PERFORMING ARTS AND DRAMA SESSION.**

**LED BY EXPERIENCED TUTORS, THESE WORKSHOPS ARE ALL ABOUT
CREATIVITY, CONFIDENCE, AND SELF-EXPRESSION — A CHANCE TO STEP
INTO THE SPOTLIGHT, TRY SOMETHING NEW, AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS
WHO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A YOUNG CARER.**



**THE WORKSHOP
38 NEW CONDUIT STREET
VANCOUVER QUARTER
KING'S LYNN
PE30 1DL**



**THE GARAGE
14 CHAPEL FIELD NORTH
NORWICH
NORFOLK
NR2 1NY**

**🕒 10AM – 11AM: AGES 5–9
🕒 11.30AM – 12.30PM: AGES 10–16**

**BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!
SPACES ARE LIMITED, SO DON'T MISS OUT!
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE LINK BELOW
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT:**

👉 [SIGN UP FORM](#)





UPCOMING

EVENTS



The **Benjamin** Foundation



Carers Matter Norfolk

SUPPORTING YOUNG CARERS & FAMILIES

FREE YOUNG CARER EVENTS

Join us for a packed programme of exciting summer events just for Young Carers!

Take a break, meet new friends, and enjoy fun activities in a relaxed and supportive space. From outdoor adventures to creative workshops – there's something for everyone!

Don't miss out – sign up today!
Places are limited.



Lingwood Care Farm – Tuesday 29th July 10am to 12 noon (ALL AGES)



Sailing @ Hunter's Yard, Ludham – Wednesday 6th August 10am to 3pm (AGE 8 PLUS)



Carlton Marshes – Thursday 14th August 10:30am to 12:30pm (ALL AGES)



UEA Campus Trip – Thursday 28th August 10 am to 2.30pm (AGE 14 PLUS)

BOOKING



Scan the QR or go to:
<https://forms.office.com/e/9Xt7ymkNAt>



DON'T

MISS OUT!



INSPIRE A GENERATION TO LEARN TO LOVE AND LOVE TO LEARN

DISCOVER YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL IN
A CARING CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT

Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | 9^{am} - 3^{pm}
Friday | 9^{am} - 12^{am}

Term time only

CONTACT

01760 447444

supervisor@firststepsashill.co.uk

www.firststepsashill.co.uk

FIRST STEPS PRE-SCHOOL

The Well Christian Centre
Swaffham Road, Ashill. IP25 7BT

Fee paying and funded places
available for 2 and 3/4 year olds.





First Steps Pre-school has a clear Christian identity, operating on the principles of love, forgiveness, respect for self and others, acceptance of all cultures, and responsible behaviour.

We provide an inclusive, safe, caring and happy Christian environment where all children can learn, play and develop as individuals through a wide range of planned and free play activities both inside and out. The children are encouraged to learn about the life and work of Jesus Christ through Bible stories, music, craft, drama and prayers.

We recognise that children have individual needs and will develop at different rates, so we will provide resources to encourage all children to reach their potential.

We welcome their parents or carers to become involved in their development at pre-school and enjoy with their children the facilities we provide. We aim to serve the needs of the local community in regard to pre-school provision, whilst reflecting the love of God in our relationships, standards and way of life.

At First Steps we follow the Early Years Foundation (EYFS) Stage framework and National Standards set out by OFSTED.

OFSTED Registration EY544373
Fountain of Life Charity No. 1153552



Join us between

23RD JUNE - 31ST AUGUST 2025

by cycling and
visiting our charity shops

HOW IT WORKS:

Cycle virtually or outdoors 116 miles,
58 miles or 16 miles.

All at once or a little at a time whilst
raising money for Tapping House.

**DISCOVER MORE AT
TAPPINGHOUSE.ORG.UK**

Scan to **sign up**
on our website

