



Ashill VC Primary School Newsletter



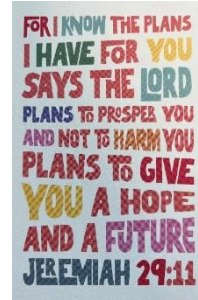
Tel: 01760 440403

Friday 12th September 2025

www.ashillschool.co.uk

From the Desk of Mr Pickard...

New beginnings can be a little nerve-racking and that feeling is in no way diminished when stepping into the Headteacher's role so thank you for all your smiley faces and cheery hellos that have helped settle my nerves! I'm beginning to feel very 'at home' at Ashill. I have been genuinely impressed by the sense of school family and the commitment and contribution that you all make to a collective effort to serve the children and each other in our school community. Ashill is truly 'a school at the heart of the community, with the community at its heart'.



I understand that change can be unsettling and that you will all be feeling 'curious' about what things will be like under my leadership and what things might change.

If you asked the children about changes, they might talk about Jeremiah and plants! We have been talking about individual growth and plans for the future in our times of collective worship this week. My plans for growth and the future at Ashill will be shaped by my commitment to get to know this school community.

My intention in this first term is to be curious. Curious about the school and curious about you and your children and the staff. I intend to spend the first term getting to how things work and getting to know all of you. I'm looking forward to getting under the skin of the school and understanding the rationale behind the things that we do so that I can become as much of an 'Ashill expert' as all of you.

I have the benefit of a fresh pair of eyes. I'll have my note book to hand because they say you should write down everything that you are curious about in the first few weeks of a new headship because after that, you stop seeing things – the fresh eyes are not fresh anymore!

Only when I feel like I know the school and community well, will I feel truly able to develop plans for the future.

I'm so pleased to be here and working with you all. Please do come and say hello if we haven't met and bear with me while I learn names!

Dan Pickard
Headteacher

"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

Dates for the Diary

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

2025 Autumn Term

Mon 15th Sept	Friends of Ashill Primary School AGM 6.30pm at Ashill Primary School
Wed 17 th Sept	Badger & Hedgehog Classes R.E. Workshop at Necton Primary School
Thurs 18 th Sept	Squirrel Class – Trip to St Nicholas Church, Ashill.
Mon 22 nd Sept	Whole School Flu Immunisation
Thurs 2 nd Oct	Hedgehog Class – Sandringham House & Gardens Trip
Fri 3rd Oct	PTA Badger Class Coffee Morning
Thurs 9 th Oct	Badger Class – WW2 Experience in School
Mon 13th Oct	Parent Surgery 9.15am to 12.00pm
Mon 20th Oct	Bumblebee Class only – Parents Evening 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Mon 20th Oct	Whole School Drop in
Wed 5 th Nov	Tempest Photography – Individual & Sibling Photos
Thurs 6 th Nov	Squirrel Class – Gressenhall Homes Long Ago Trip – To be confirmed
Tues 11th Nov	New Reception Open Day AM
Thurs 13th Nov	New Reception Open Day PM
Fri 14 th Nov	Children In Need – Details to be confirmed
Tues 25 th Nov	Tag Rugby Tournament – Details to be confirmed
Fri 28th Nov	Bumblebees Coffee Morning
W/C 1st Dec	Parents Evening Week
Thurs 4 th Dec	Buy a Gift
Wed 10th Dec	Bumblebee Nativity to Parents
Tues 16 th Dec	Whole School Panto – Rapunzel – Children Only
Wed 17th Dec	Bumblebee Class Curriculum Café 2pm to 3pm
Thurs 18th Dec	Badger Class – Curriculum Café 1.45pm to 3pm
Fri 19th Dec	Christmas Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am
Fri 19th Dec	Carols in the Playground – 2-3pm

2026 Spring Term

Tues 27 th Jan	Hockey Tournament
Mon 9th Feb	Whole School Drop In
Fri 27th Feb	Hedgehog Class Coffee Morning
Thurs 5 th Mar	World Book Day – Details to be confirmed
W/C 16th Mar	Parents Evening Week
Wed 25 th Mar	Football Tournament
Fri 27 Mar	Easter Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am

2026 Summer Term

Wed 22 nd Apr	Ashill's Got Talent
Fri 24th April	Squirrel Class Coffee Morning
Tues 28 th April	Netball Tournament
W/C 11 th May	SATs Week
Wed 20th May	Sports Day
Fri 17th July	Leavers Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am

2025-2026 Term dates

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



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.

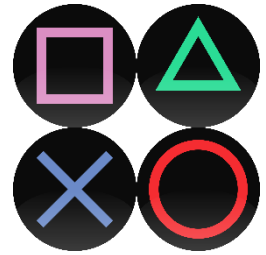
Summer Fayre

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
18th July 2025

Well done to the following children:

Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Hedgehog Class 95.5%

2nd
Squirrel Class
94.8%

3rd
Bumblebee Class
94.7%

4th
Badger Class
80.6%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

94.4%

Celebration Assembly
5th September 2025

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Squirrel Class 100%

2nd
Badger Class 99.5%

3rd
Hedgehog Class 93.3 %

4th
Bumblebee Class 92.2%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

96.8%

What's Been Happening?

Forest School









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

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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