



Ashill VC Primary School Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Friday 10th October 2025

www.ashillschool.co.uk

From the Desk of Mr Pickard...



Forest School Adventures

What a joy it has been to see our children embracing the great outdoors through our Forest School sessions!

This week, the woodland was filled with laughter, curiosity, and the delicious smell of freshly cooked dough as the children mixed, shaped, and toasted their creations over the open fire.

In the mud kitchen, imaginations were in full flow as “autumn stew” was on the menu — complete with leaves, twigs, and plenty of creative flair!

It’s wonderful to see the children working together, developing confidence, and showing such enthusiasm for learning beyond the classroom.

These hands-on experiences help build resilience, teamwork, and a lifelong love of nature — all values we hold dear in our school community.

A gentle reminder as the weather becomes cooler: please ensure your child brings **warm layers** and a **FULL change of clothes** for Forest School days.

You never quite know where the water play will lead, and with the *slip and slide* proving to be a recent favourite, spare clothes are always very welcome!

I’m delighted that **every child will have the opportunity to experience Forest School** during the year — it’s such a special part of our curriculum, and we’re so proud of the confidence and joy it brings to our learners. 🌲🔥

“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

(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 20th Oct	Bumblebee Class only – Parents Evening 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Mon 20th Oct	Whole School Drop in
Thurs 23 rd Oct	PTA Non-uniform day – please see poster in newsletter
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 – Wear something spotty (donation via School Money)
Thurs 20th to Tues 25th Nov	Scholastic Book Fayre 3.15pm to 4.00pm
Tues 25 th Nov	Tag Rugby Tournament – Details to be confirmed
Fri 28th Nov	Bumblebees Coffee Morning
Sat 29th Nov	PTA Christmas Fair 11.30am to 14.30pm
W/C 1st Dec	Parents' Evening Week
Thurs 4 th Dec	Buy a Gift
Wed 10th Dec	Bumblebee Nativity to Parents
Thurs 11th Dec	Badger Class – Curriculum Café 1.45pm to 3pm
Thurs 11 th Dec	Christmas Disco KS1 5.30pm to 6.30pm KS2 6.45pm to 8.15pm
Tues 16 th Dec	Whole School Panto – Rapunzel – Children Only
Wed 17th Dec	Bumblebee Class Curriculum Café 2pm 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
Thurs 9th July	Summer/Leavers Disco KS1 5.30pm to 6.30pm KS2 6.45pm to 8.15pm
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.

PTA Club 40 Winners

October Draw

1 st	<u>No.</u> 29	K Portess
2 nd	No. 5	A Cunningham
3 rd	No. 17	J Fox



DISCOS



Please read as there are a couple of changes.....

Christmas Disco - Thursday 11th December

Summer/Leavers disco – Date to be confirmed



KS1 (Reception Year 1 and Year 2) £2.50 entry per child. Disco times will be 5:30pm-6:30pm. Drop off at the Office door and collect from the hall door please, all children receive a drink and a biscuit while at the disco with a goody bag to bring home.]

KS2 (Years 3-6) £2.50 entry per child. Disco times are 6.45pm-8.15pm. Drop off at the office door and collect at the hall door. Children will receive a drink during the disco and can bring up to £3 for tuck.

Badgers Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone that attended and contributed to the coffee morning we raised a staggering £171.25.

Thank you for supporting us and the children as they love a disco!

Non uniform Day 23rd October.

Please bring in a item in your childs colour,
children do not have to wear this colour its
just for donations.

Thank you.

YELLOW
Bumblebees

BLUE
Squirrels

Green
Hedgehogs

RED
Badgers

Suggestions for donations such as...
sweets, chocolate, games, alcohol,
bubble bath, cups, bottles, candles.
let your imagination show your colour!



CHRISTMAS FAIR

GAMES, CRAFTS,
FOOD, &
SANTA'S GROTTO!!

11.30-14.30

SATURDAY

29TH

NOVEMBER

ASHILL VC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Join Us for Drop-In Sessions

We will be here to answer any questions you may have, advice and signposting to further support.

All sessions are subject to change, and any changes will be advertised on our Facebook page. Please be aware these sessions do not offer a private room to talk, we will be based in main areas of the library. As we are not taking bookings, we will do our best to speak to you on a first come, first served basis.

Find out more



Dereham Library 1st Oct
10:00-12:00



Caister Library 7th Oct
14:00-16:00



Kings Lynn Library 9th Oct
11:00-13:30



Mile Cross Library 15th Oct
10:00-13:00



Wroxham Library 17th Oct
13:00-15:00



Great Yarmouth Library 22nd Oct
10:30-12:30



Cromer Library 27th Oct
11:00-13:00



Mile Cross Library 31st Oct
10:30-12:00



Earlham Library 4th Nov
13:00-16:00



Gorleston Library 11th Nov
13:00-15:00



Wymondham Library 14th Nov
13:00-15:00



Downham Market Library 27th Nov
11:30-13:30



Thetford Library 10th Dec
10:00-12:00

We can give you advice, information and support about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in relation to education.

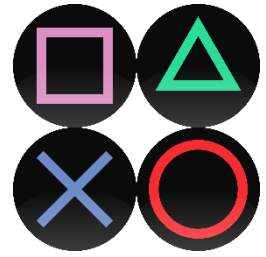
We work with children, young people (0-25 years) and their parent/carers. We can give you information about SEN Support, Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's), mediation, appeals, exclusions and suspensions, and other SEND processes.



Supporting young children online

With the half term holiday 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/>



Healthy Snacks

As you know Bumblebee and Squirrel Class are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat at snack time. However all children are welcome to bring in a healthy snack for morning break time, that is separate to their lunch. We would request though that any snack brought from home is low in sugar, salt and fat and considered to be a 'healthy' option, avoiding chocolate. Healthy snacks are as follows;



• Fresh fruit	• Fresh vegetables
• Breadsticks	• Plain Oat cakes
• Dried fruit	• Unsalted rice cakes
• Cereal bars (low sugar)	• Plain Crackers
• Cheese (eg Babybel	• Yoghurt

Celebration Assembly
26th September 2025

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers

No picture available



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Badger Class 98.4%

2nd
Bumblebee Class
95.7%

3rd
Squirrel Class
94.5%

4th
Hedgehog Class
92%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

95.7%

Celebration Assembly
3rd October 2025

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Hedgehog Class 97.3%

2nd
Bumblebee Class 97.1%

3rd
Badger Class 93%

4th
Squirrel Class 91.6%

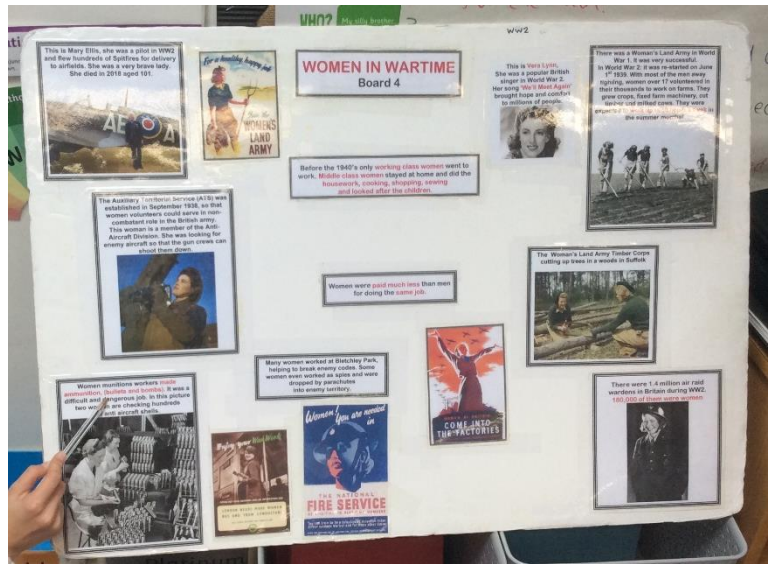
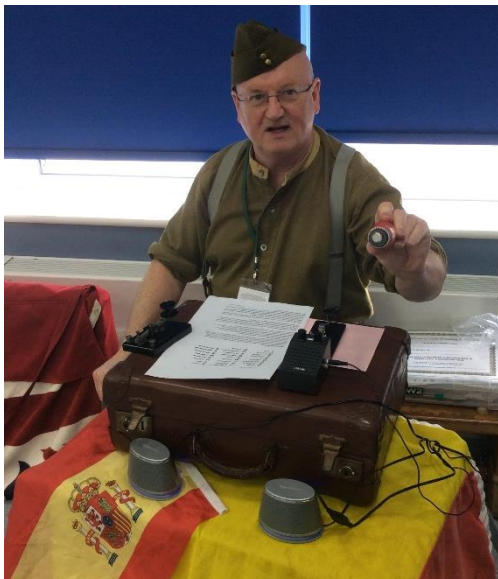
Overall Attendance (so far this year):

95.4%

What's Been Happening?







Hedgehog Class enjoyed a trip to Sandringham House and Gardens at the start of October. They loved looking at all the items in the house and hearing the stories behind them. They also had a walk through the new gardens that are being developed and a workshop on 'monarchy' to help them consolidate their learning in history.



Summer Reading Challenge

The whole school was invited to take part in the Ashill Summer Reading Challenge over the last summer holidays. It was great to see around 35 families sending back to Mrs Filby the completed Reading Challenge sheets and / or evidence of completing the Norfolk Library Reading Challenge this year. As reading is a lifelong skill, it was brilliant to see how many books the children explored over that time to keep their practice up by reading for pleasure in their own time. Well done to everyone taking part and here is just one example of what one of our younger children got up to:

"Read to someone older than you" Over the summer I spent lots of time with my Nana Grinch and Gargie and I did some reading with them on the days I was there. "Read a Book set in a different Country...A Book that was recommended to you" I read a story with my Mummy that my Grandad used to read to her, which is called "Wombat Stew" it is set in the Australian Outback!

"Have a look at the Books in the Library" Over the Summer I went to Dereham Library with my Mummy, there was a very cute little baby there and I picked a Peppa Pig & Dragon book.

"Re-read a favourite book...Read a book by a well-known author...Read a book with a Rhyme in it" I love reading Julia Donaldson books, especially "The Ugly 5", "Superworm" and "The Singing Mermaid" I read all these over Summer with Mummy.



"Read to any Animal"

While spending time with my Nana Grinch and Garie, I would sometimes practice my reading and my writing. They have a very lovely dog called Mollie, she is 10 years old and is a red cocker spaniel. We call her Mollie Marmalade, and she loves having her tummy rubbed! She likes to lay with me on the sofa, or the floor while I am practicing my words.



**HELP
DELETE
CANCER**

Smiles • Memories • Awareness

Vs



Help Delete Cancer Proudly Present

Erin Beales Bumble Bee Day

Charity Football Match Feat. Celebrities, Ex-Pros & Community Heroes



Sunday 12th October 2025

Fakenham Town Football Club

Daly Group Stadium, Clipbush Lane, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 8SW

In aid of raising monies to purchase a running frame for Erin to help develop her co-ordination, strength and balance, and to bring her back a sense of freedom.

Back in 2022, Erin was diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer known as Medulloblastoma, which she has fought bravely and is now stable in her diagnosis. Despite many complications, including posterior fossa syndrome, seizures and sepsis, Erin has never complained and maintained her huge infectious smile. Thank you for helping raise funds to support Erin in her rehabilitation and create more special memories.

Admission on the Day (Cash Only)

£5 Adults ~ £3 Under 12's ~ Under 5's Free

Gates Open: 12.30pm | Kick Off: 2pm

Raffle ~ Tombola ~ Stalls ~ Hot Food ~ Bar



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

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DONATIONS
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THE CHURCH

DATE AND TIME

18TH OCTOBER 2025

LOCATION

ST MARYS CHURCH,
CHURCH RD, WATTON, IP25 6DQ

2-3PM

01953 881252 | WATTONCHURCH@GMAIL.COM
WWW.STMARYSWATTON.ORG

Charity No.
1203822



Storybags

Playgroup for 0-5 yrs

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at

St Mary's Church, Church Rd.

Watton, IP25 6DQ

01953 881252

wattonchurch@gmail.com

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