



Ashill VC Primary School

Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Friday 28th November 2025

www.ashillschool.co.uk

Advent season



At this time of year, it's hard not to get caught up in preparations for the Christmas season. But we need to be careful not to miss the season of advent!



Advent is a very special time when we get ready for Christmas—not just by putting up decorations or thinking about presents, but by thinking about how we can prepare our hearts for Jesus and be ready to share the JOY of Christmas.



Advent means “coming,” and it reminds us that Jesus came into the world as a tiny baby to bring hope and love to everyone. During these weeks, we take time to think about how we can share that love with others—by being kind, helping people, and saying thank you for all the good things we have.



In school, we'll be lighting our Advent candles, hearing the Christmas story, and taking on some advent challenges to share joy in our school family. At home, you might like to challenge your self with one of the activities on the sheet attached.



Christmas is about more than gifts—it's about the greatest gift of all: Jesus. Advent helps us get ready to celebrate.



Wishing you and your families a happy and peaceful Advent and all the joy of Christmas when it arrives!

Some suggestions for how pupils can take what they have been learning in school about *The Joy of Christmas* into the home setting.

The **JOY** of Christmas ...**at HOME**



Gratitude & Hope Journal

Try writing in a little journal each day!

- Write three things that made you smile or that you're thankful for.
- Then write one thing you're hoping for—like something fun, kind, or exciting. If you like, you can turn your writing into a little prayer to say out loud or in your heart.

Say Thank You to Someone

Can you think of someone in your family you'd like to say thank you to? It could be an aunt, uncle, grandparent, or someone you don't see very often. You could:

- Make a Christmas card
- Draw a picture
- Send a voice message just to let them know you're thinking of them!

Sharing Joy

Create a poem, story, drama, dance that you can perform for your family, that shares about the *joy of Christmas*.

Hope Boxes

Create a hope box with your family for an elderly neighbour or a local care home, filled with things that might bring them joy. This might be with things that you make and doesn't have to be expensive. Even a small act of kindness, like a home made Christmas card can bring a little bit of hope!



**Growing Faith
Foundation**

Church of England

Farewell to Claire Carter

 GOODBYE	After many wonderful years at our school, Claire Carter has moved on from Ashill and so we are saying goodbye to a member of our school family.
 	Claire has made a lasting impact on countless pupils and colleagues and will be remembered for her calmness and quiet determination. Her commitment to nurturing and developing our youngest pupils and her endless patience have been truly inspiring.
THANK YOU 	I know that many of you will want to join me in saying a heartfelt thank you to Claire for her dedication and care. We wish her every happiness in the future—her contribution will be greatly missed by all of us.

Congratulations to Mia, Willow + Dotty C from Badgers who have completed a separate writing task where they have written a poem inspired by 'Having a Dream'. These poems will now be published in a book, which is being sent to school in early 2026.



Children In Need

Dressing up for Children In Need this year was a bit more low key than usual in that we just had a non-uniform day, wear something spotty if you can but we still raised a super £77.00.

Bumblebee Class – Coffee Morning

Thank you to the PTA, volunteers and those that donated cakes. You raised £147.70 for the Bumblebee Class, we'll let you know what they have decided to spend this on.



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

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
Fri 12 th Dec	Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day
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

W/C 26 th Jan	Badger Class – Bikeability
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
Thur 11th to 12th June	Badger Class – London Residential Trip
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	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



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.



DISCO'S



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 5:30-6:30. 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 6.45-8.15. Drop off at the office and collect at the hall door. Children will receive a drink during the disco and can bring up to £3 for tuck.

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



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.

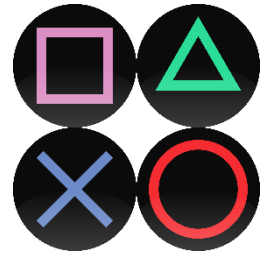
We work with children, young people (0-25 years) and their parent/carers. We can give you information about SEN Support, Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's), mediation, appeals, exclusions and suspensions, and other SEND processes.



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/>



BUMBLEBEE CLASS

If at all possible, please may we have donations of old nativity costumes for Bumblebee Class for the up and coming Nativity. The clothing will need to be in school by Monday 1st December. Thank you.

Celebration Assembly
14th November 2025

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



The attendance winners are:

Bumblebee Class 98.6%

2nd
Badger Class
94.6%

3rd
Squirrel Class
94.5%

4th
Hedgehog Class
92.3%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

95.7%

Celebration Assembly
21st November 2025

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Badger Class 96.1%

2nd
Squirrel Class 95.8%

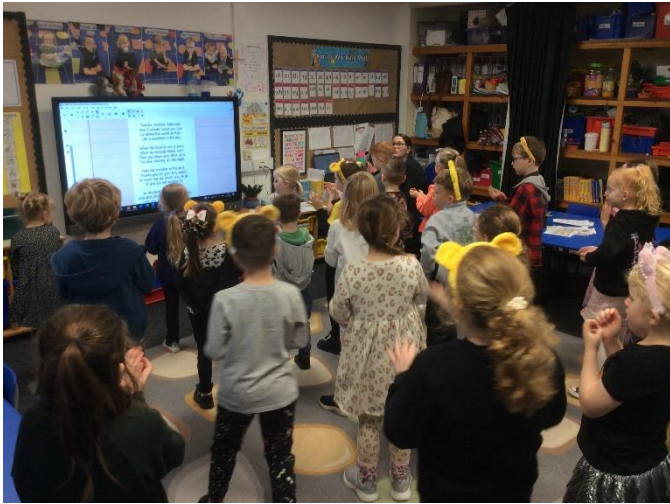
3rd
Hedgehog Class 94.3%

4th
Bumblebee Class 92.1%

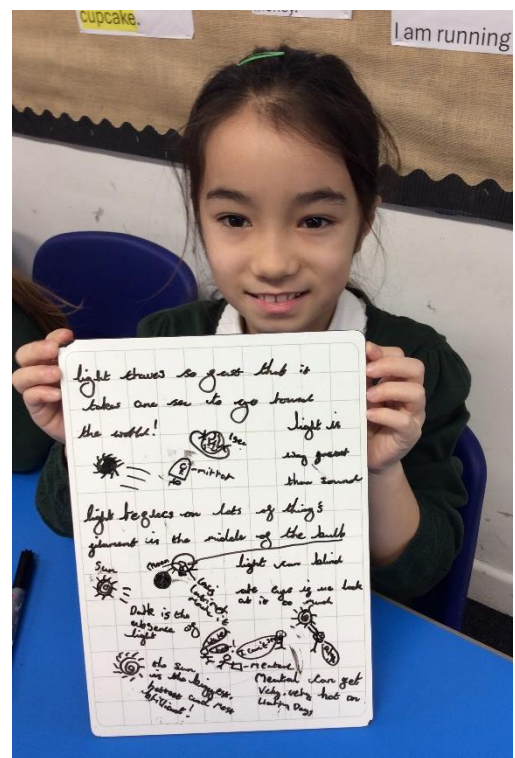
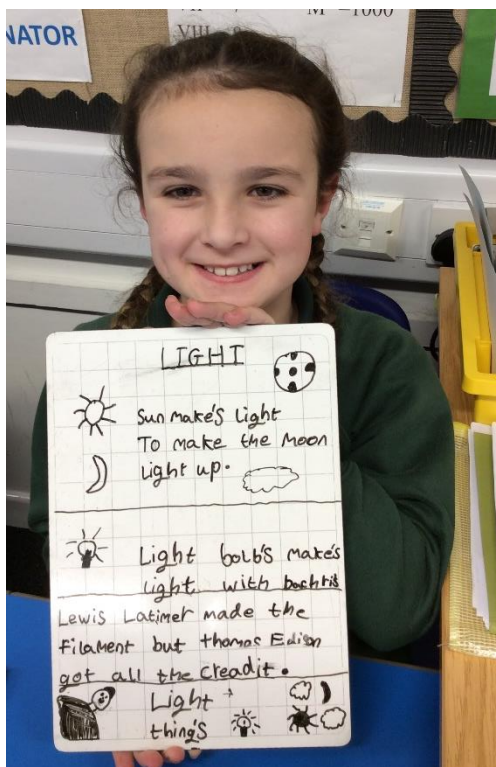
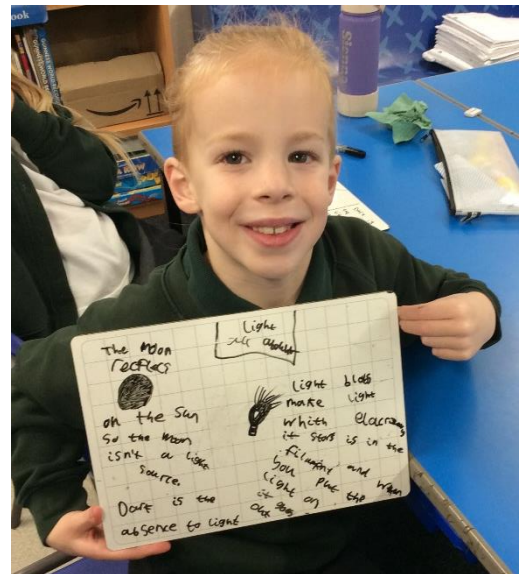
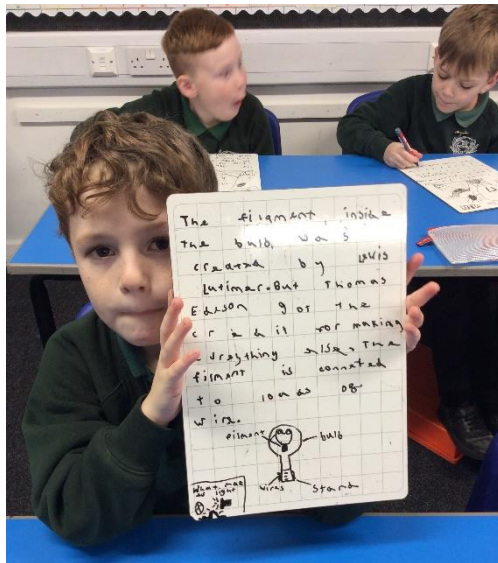
Overall Attendance (so far this year):

95.6%

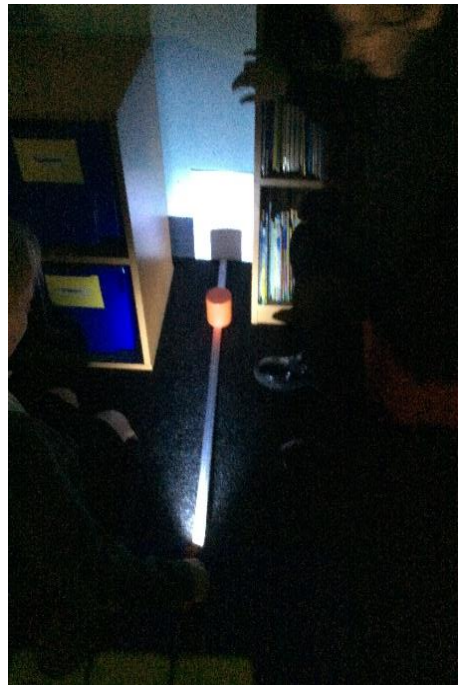
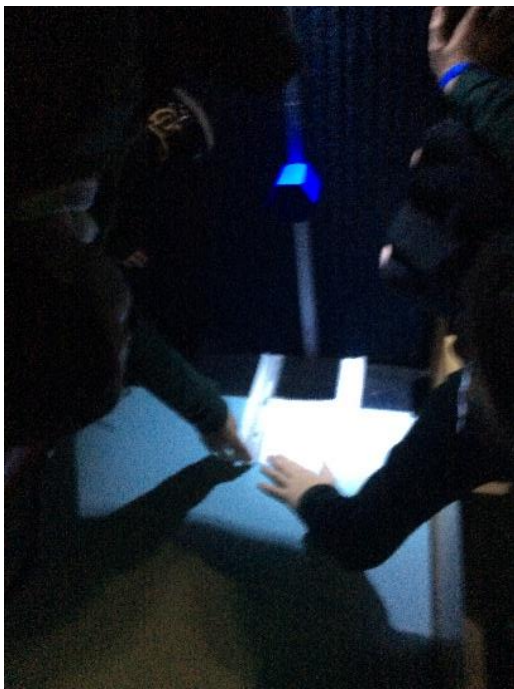
What's Been Happening?











Congratulations to Mr Brown who successfully completed the Norwich half marathon on Sunday 23rd November. The grand total raised for the Watton Youth Group is £1,220.

It's still not too late to donation, just click on the link below.

Watton Youth group (part of The Benjamin Foundation) are raising money to be able to take the young people on a residential or theme park trip (their choice!).

Many wonderful young people attend the youth group, many of whom are Young Carers (including children from our school). It would be lovely to be able to take them on the trip they've been wanting to go on for a long time!

Any donations are greatly appreciated by both the staff and young people alike!



Watton Youth Group

www.justgiving.com/page/watton-youth-group?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

About the charity



The Benjamin Foundation ✓

RCN 1124936

benjaminfoundation.co.uk/

The Benjamin Foundation is a charity working in Norfolk and Suffolk, supporting local young people overcome challenges in their lives by providing opportunity, stability and independence, to help them finally feel hopeful of a better future.



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

THETFORD VOICES

[Thetford Voices](#) are running a FREE carol singing workshop on Monday 22nd December.

The children will learn a range of Christmas carols and songs, touring the programme around local care homes and performing in concert for friends and family. The workshop will take place at Thetford Grammar School, running from 12.45 pm, with a concert for family and friends at 6.15pm at St Cuthbert's Church. More details and the registration form can be found below.

<https://www.thetfordvoices.co.uk/upcoming-events-1>



**Christmas Virtual
Balloon Race 2025**
Just £3 a balloon!

**Design your
balloon and
watch it race
across Lapland!**

12pm, 25th December
Scan to enter



**Have fun and support a
local charity this Christmas.**

Find out more:
www.ormiston.org/events

 **Ormiston
Families**
Brighter futures

Registered Charity Number: 1015716

Will your balloon win?