



Ashill VC Primary School


Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Friday 16th January 2026

www.ashillschool.co.uk

<h1>Happy New Year</h1>	Included in our Family	Growing & Thriving	Confident & Achieving
	SAFE	HAPPY	LEARNING
			
	Respect & Kindness	Resilience & Independence	Curiosity & Aspiration
	WE ARE ALL LEARNING		
 New Year	<p>We would like to wish all our children, parents, and families a very happy and hopeful New Year. We hope you enjoyed a restful break and are ready for the exciting term ahead.</p>		
New opportunities	<p>A new year always brings opportunities for growth—new things to learn, new challenges to rise to, and new moments to celebrate together.</p>		
 Same Vision	<p><i>“...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.”</i></p>		
Same approach	<p>We look forward to working alongside you throughout the year, supporting each child as they discover, explore, and flourish.</p>		
 Thank you	<p>Thank you for your continued partnership, enthusiasm, and trust.</p> <p>Wishing you all a year filled with joy, growth, and wonderful learning experiences.</p>		

Ashill School Eco Guardians Project Recycled Bottle Greenhouse

The Ashill Eco Guardians want to create a greenhouse for the school gardening club. To make this more environmentally friendly we want to make it from recycled plastic bottles. The image below gives a view of what this can look like. We will need about **ONE THOUSAND !!**

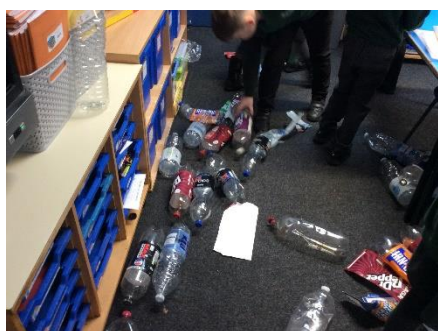


Your mission is to collect the **2 litre drinks bottles** we need for this project. With Christmas coming up, it is likely that there could be an increased number of these bottles in your households and those of your nearest and dearest. All we want you to do is wash them out, keep the lids on them and bring them to school when you have a batch. It will be interesting to see how many we can collect by the end of January 2026.

This is phase one. We can't consider sourcing the other elements we need until we know we can source the bottles needed. So please share the message and come together to progress this project that every school family can contribute too.

Thank you in advance for your support.

The Ashill School Eco Guardians.



Eco Council have started to remove labels and count the bottles received so far for our Eco Greenhouse.

We only have 93 so far....
907 to go....



Dates for the Diary

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

2026 Spring Term

W/C 26 th & 27 th Jan	Badger Class – Bikeability
Tues 27 th Jan	Hockey Tournament
Tues 10th Feb	Whole School Drop In 3.15pm to 4.15pm
Tues 10th Feb	Hedgehog Class – Eaton Vale Parents information session 2.15pm to 3pm
Tues 10th Feb	Hedgehog Class – Eaton Vale Parents information session 5.00pm to 6pm
Wed 25 th Feb	NHS Year R (Bumblebee Class) National Measurement Programme, Vision & Hearing Test
Thurs 26 th Feb	Tempest Class Photos
Fri 27th Feb	Hedgehog Class Coffee Morning
Tues 3 rd Mar	Hedgehog Class – The Museum of Swaffham Trip
Thurs 5 th Mar	World Book Day – Details to be confirmed
W/C 16th Mar	Parents’ Evening Week
Fri 20 th Mar	Comic Relief Day
Tues 24 th Mar	Hedgehog Class – Curriculum Cafe
Wed 25 th Mar	Football Tournament
Fri 27 Mar	Easter Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am

2026 summer

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 11 th to 12 th 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

Spring term: Tues 6th Jan to Fri 13th Feb
 Mon 23rd Feb to Fri 27th Mar

Summer term: Tues 14th Apr to Fri 22nd May
 Mon 1st Jun to Fri 17th 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.

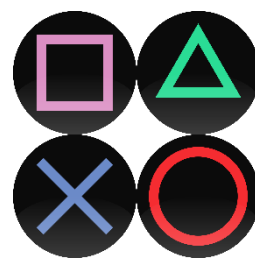
January Draw

1 st	No. 25	W Cossey
2 nd	No. 28	R Grant
3 rd	No. 32	D McDonagh

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.

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.

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.

5) 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.

6) 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.

7) 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.



8) Visit this website for more info

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

Celebration Assembly
12th December 2025

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Bumblebee Class 100%

2nd
Badger Class
96.4%

3rd
Hedgehog Class
95.3%

4th
Squirrel Class
90.7%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

95.4%

Celebration Assembly
19th December 2025

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Badger Class 92.42%

2nd
Hedgehog Class 89%

3rd
Squirrel Class 82.3%

4th
Bumblebee Class 77.1%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

94.8%

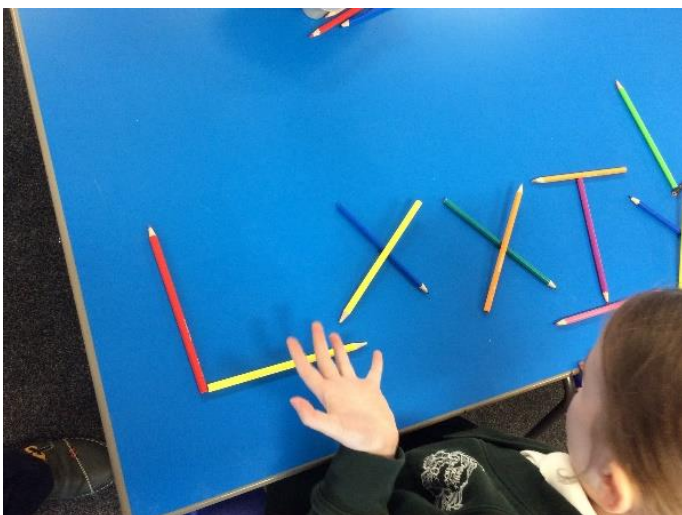
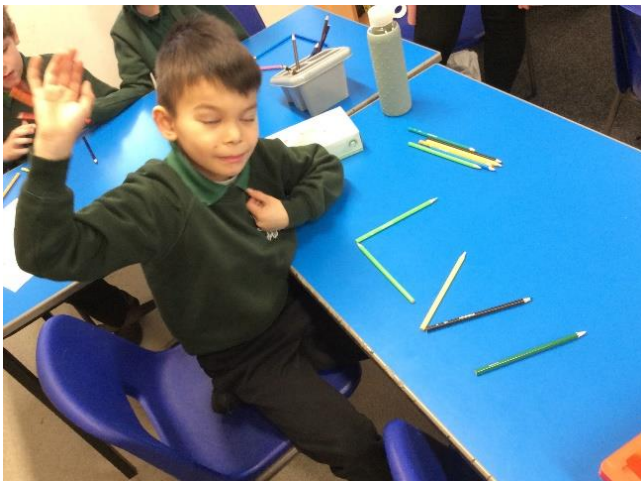
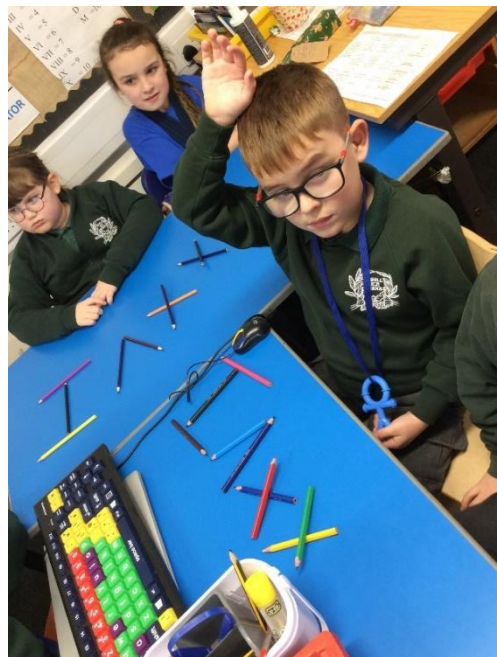
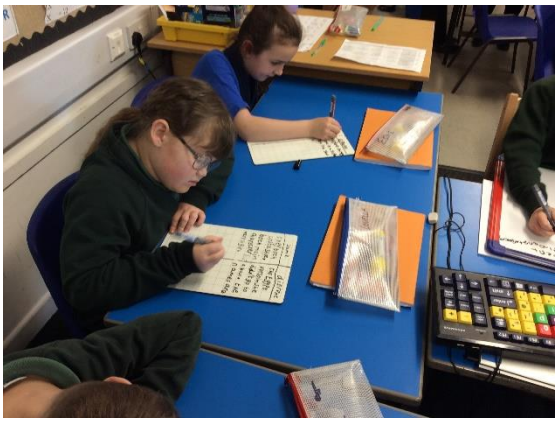
What's Been Happening?

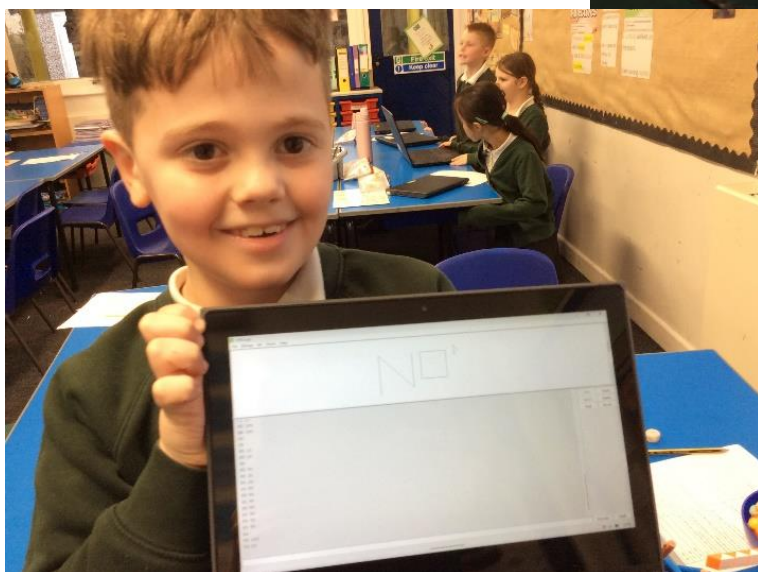
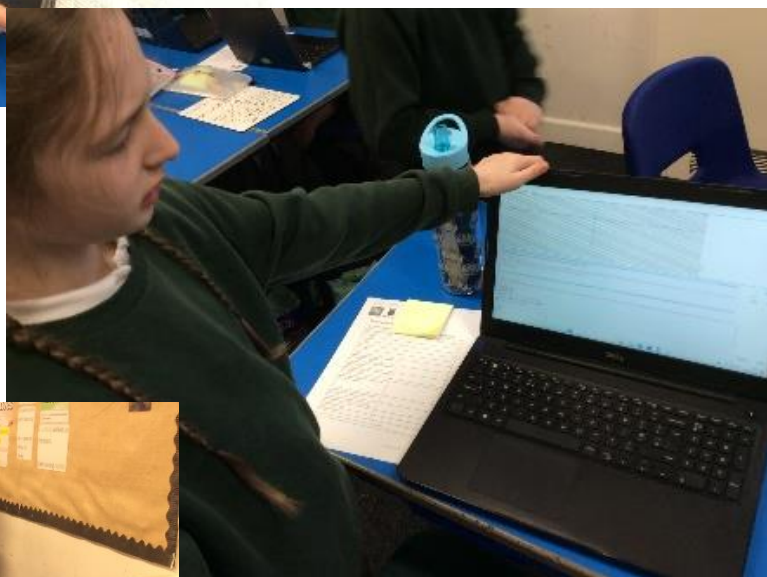
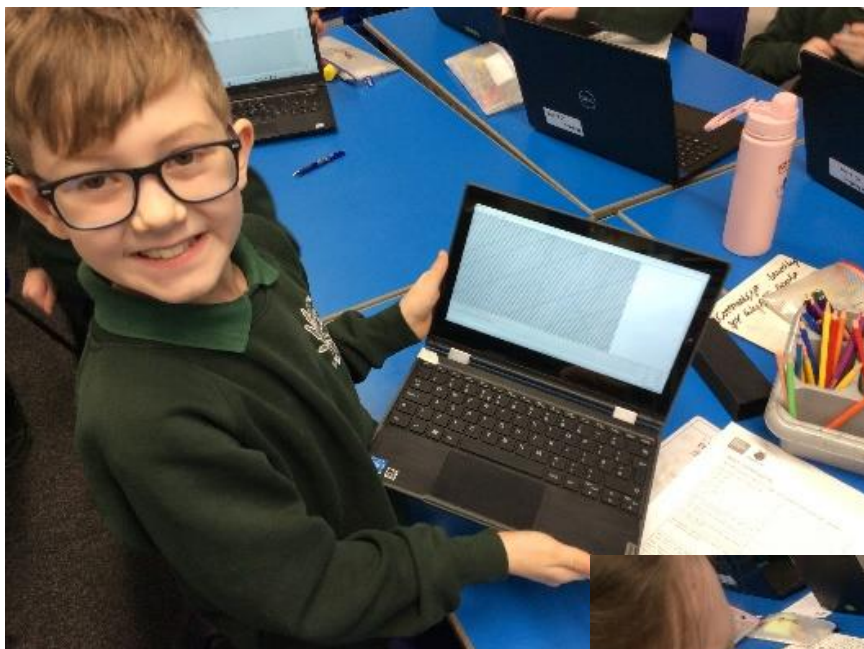
It's a boy

Leo Christopher, born on Friday 9th January at 15:20pm.
Mum (Mrs Thornhill) and baby are doing well...











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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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