



# Ashill VC Primary School

## Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

[www.ashillschool.co.uk](http://www.ashillschool.co.uk)

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS  
I HAVE FOR YOU  
SAYS THE LORD  
PLANS TO PROSPER YOU  
AND NOT TO HARM YOU  
PLANS TO GIVE  
YOU A HOPE  
AND A FUTURE  
JEREMIAH 29:11

## Ashill VC Primary School Improvement & Development Plan 25-26

Included in our Family	Growing & Thriving	Confident & Achieving
SAFE	HAPPY	LEARNING
Positive Relationships	Consistent Routines	Firm Foundations
<p>We will establish a Values agreement to support these relationships across the whole school family.</p> <p>We will develop well-being structures to support all members of the school family.</p> <p>We will work with the school family to develop and implement an effective communication strategy.</p>	<p>We will develop a behaviour pathway to support consistent management of behaviour.</p> <p>We are developing structured, purposeful and engaging play and lunchtimes with calm transitions back to learning.</p> <p>We will teach the children self-regulation strategies and support them to use them independently.</p>	<p>We will implement consistent approaches to handwriting so that children develop, fluent handwriting appropriate to their year group.</p> <p>We will focus on accurate spelling ensuring children write sentences fluently, applying punctuation and capital letters consistently.</p> <p>We will develop opportunities for children's talk so that they rehearse sentences before writing.</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 !!**

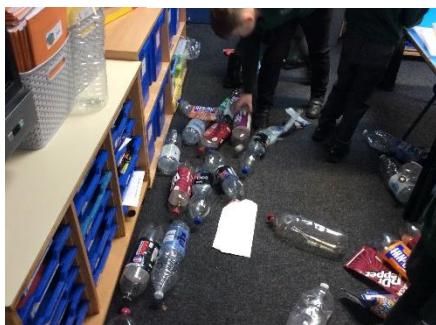


Your mission is to collect the **2 litre drinks bottles** we need for this project. With Christmas coming up, it is likely that there could be an increased number of these bottles in your households and those of your nearest and dearest. All we want you to do is wash them out, keep the lids on them and 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 228 so far....  
772 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

<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Whole School Drop In 3.15pm to 4.15pm</b>
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Hedgehog Class – Eaton Vale Parents’ information session 2.15pm to 3pm</b>
<b>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Hedgehog Class – Eaton Vale Parents’ information session 5.00pm to 6pm</b>
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	NHS Year R (Bumblebee Class) National Measurement Programme, Vision & Hearing Test
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tempest Class Photos
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Hedgehog Class Coffee Morning</b>
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Hedgehog Class – The Museum of Swaffham Trip
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Ashill Book Week – See Poster
<b>W/C 16<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>Parents’ Evening Week</b>
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Comic Relief Day
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>Hedgehog Class – Curriculum Cafe</b>
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Football Tournament
<b>Thur 26<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>Badger Class – Curriculum Cafe</b>
<b>Fri 27 Mar</b>	<b>Easter Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am</b>

#### 2026 Summer Term

Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Ashill’s Got Talent
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Squirrel Class Coffee Morning</b>
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Netball Tournament
W/C 11 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs Week
<b>Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> &amp; Fri 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Hedgehog Class – Eaton Vale Residential</b>
<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Sports Day</b>
<b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Badger Class – Saxon Day (at school)</b>
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Bumblebee Class – Once upon a time – Gressenhall Trip
<b>Tues 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Hedgehog Class – Curriculum Cafe – Ancient Greece</b>
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Badger Class – London Residential Trip
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Hedgehog Class – Bikeability Level One
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Hedgehog Class – Ancient Greece Day (at school)
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Cricket Tournament
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	The Nicholas Hammond Academy Transition Days
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>Squirrel Class – Curriculum Cafe</b>
<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Badger Class Production to parents at Fountain of Life evening performance time to be confirmed.</b>
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> to Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Wayland Academy Transition Days
<b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Summer/Leavers Disco KS1 5.30pm to 6.30pm KS2 6.45pm to 8.15pm
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> to Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Litcham Transition Days
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Pleasurewood Hills Trip – To Be Confirmed
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Dereham Northgate High School and Dereham Neatherd High School Transition Days
<b>CHANGE OF DATE</b> <b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Leavers Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am</b>

## 2025-2026 Term dates

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

Summer term: Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Apr to Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Jun to Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July

## **PE Days**

Bumblebee Class	Tuesdays
Squirrel Class	Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Hedgehog Class	Mondays & Friday (Swimming)
Badgers	Mondays & Thursdays

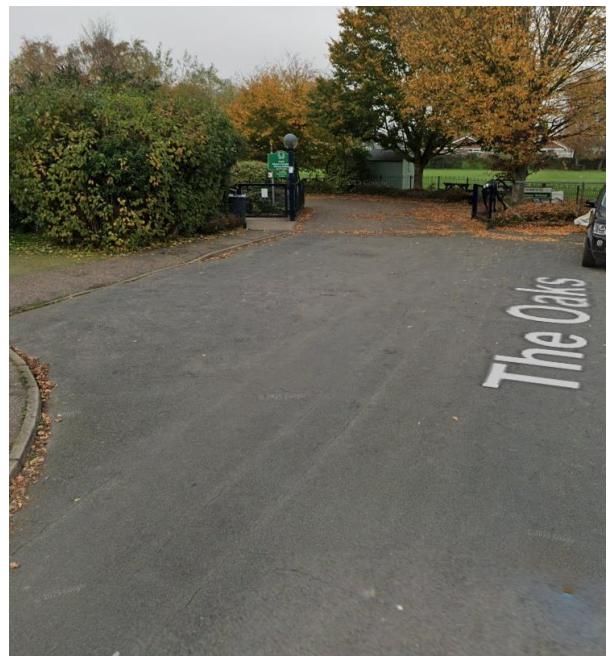
## Parking around The Oaks

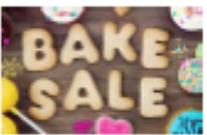
Just a gentle reminder to be considerate of our neighbours when dropping off and picking up in The Oaks, particularly the part near the school gates.

It is a notoriously busy part of The Oaks with many parked cars, even when the school is closed.

A resident has some concerns that children were running across the front gardens, so please ensure that children are reminded to stay on the designated paths for their own safety.

Also, please avoid parking across driveways near the car park entrance. There have been numerous cases recently of 'double parking' and parking across a dropped kerb, so please ensure you park according to the highway code, regardless of how long you intend leaving your car. Also, please be considerate when driving as there has been some instances where a vehicle has travelled across the gardens of the residents. Thank you.



<b>All week</b>		<h1>Ashill Book Week</h1> <p>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March Developing your child's love of reading.</p>
		<p>Children may bring a maximum of two unwanted books to place on our <b>'swap table.'</b></p> <p>Please send books that are in good condition that you no longer want. At the end of the week, children who have brought in books to swap, can choose a book to take home with them.</p> <p>Any remaining books at the end of the day will be sold for a small donation, which will also go towards the World Book Day charity.</p>
	<p>Monday to Wednesday</p> <p>Reading Challenge Boost Up!!</p> 	<p>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></p> <h2>All 'reads' will count as double!</h2> <p>If your child reads everyday for those 7 days, then this will count as a massive 14 reads!!</p>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<p>Character or book theme head wear</p> 	<p>Come to school wearing a cap, hat or head worn creation that represents a character from a book or a book theme. The choice must come from a recent book that is suitable for primary aged children.</p> <p>Some ideas to help you can be found on this website:  <a href="https://www.worldbookday.com/resources/?query=9-page=1&amp;wbd-resource_type%5B%5D=dressing-up">https://www.worldbookday.com/resources/?query=9-page=1&amp;wbd-resource_type%5B%5D=dressing-up</a></p> <p>There will be a book token prize for a winner and runner up in each class Entries will be judged on creativity – the more homemade the better!</p>
		<p>In the UK, up to 1 million children don't have a book of their own and your support will help some of those children to experience books at home in a way they never have before.</p> <p>Please send in cake donations on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> March</p>
	<p>End of the day</p> <p>World Book Day 2026 Live Lesson</p>	<p>LIVE at 11:00</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/articles/zqqcp9q#zrp7rmn">https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/articles/zqqcp9q#zrp7rmn</a></p>
	<p>Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions or need any support with any part of this and we will try and help.</p>	

# 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 <sup>st</sup>	No. 25	W Cossey
2 <sup>nd</sup>	No. 28	R Grant
3 <sup>rd</sup>	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**  
**9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Well done to the following children:

**Bumblebees**



**Squirrels**



**Hedgehogs**



**Badgers**



No Photo Available

**Headteacher Award**

The attendance winners are:

**Hedgehog Class 97.1%**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Squirrel Class**  
**95.2%**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Badger Class**  
**93.2%**

**4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Bumblebee Class**  
**90.2%**

**Overall Attendance (so far this year):**

**94.7%**

**Celebration Assembly**  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Well done to the following children:

**Bumblebees**



**Squirrels**



**Hedgehogs**



**Badgers**



No Photo Available

**Headteacher Award**

The attendance winners are:

**Badger Class 90.6%**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Squirrel Class 89.1%**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Hedgehog Class 88%**

**4<sup>th</sup>**

**Bumblebee Class 85%**

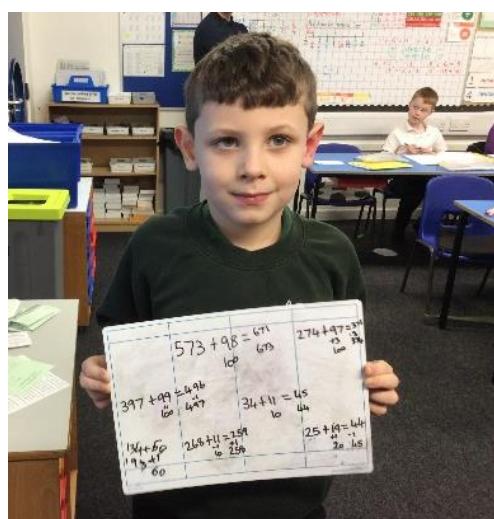
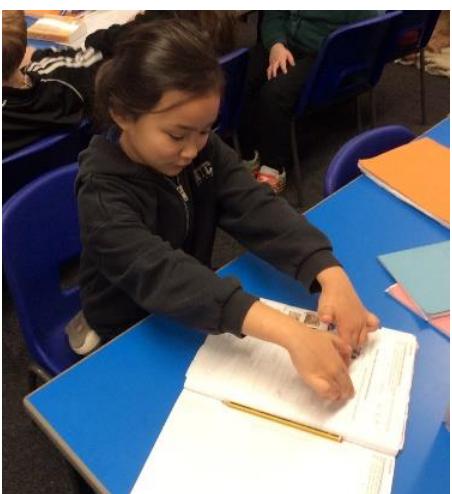
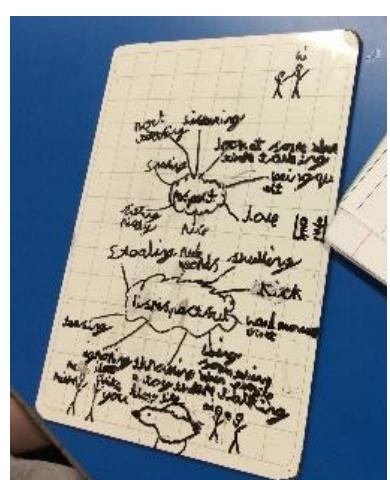
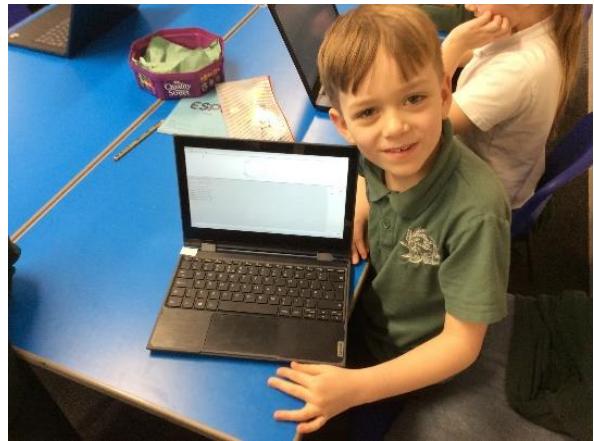
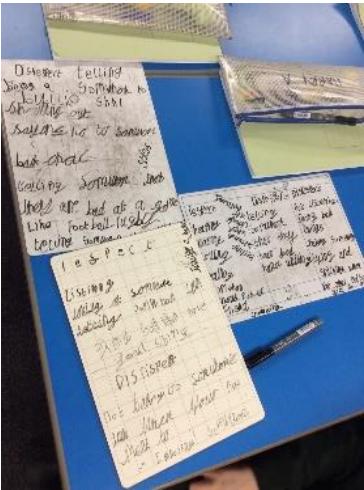
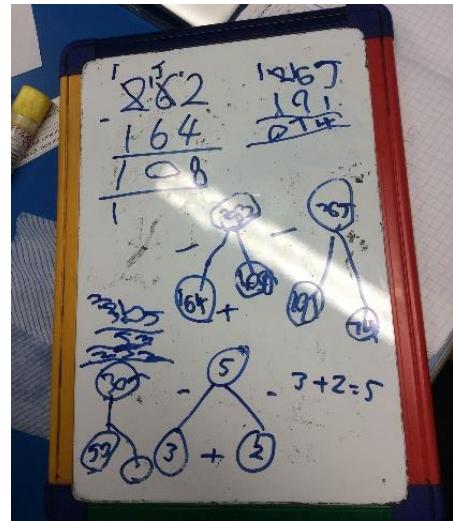
**Overall Attendance (so far this year):**

**94.4%**

## What's Been Happening?









DISCOVER YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL IN  
A CARING CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT

Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | **9am - 3pm**  
Friday | **9am - 12pm**

Term time only

### CONTACT

01760 447444

[supervisor@firststepsashill.co.uk](mailto:supervisor@firststepsashill.co.uk)

[www.firststepsashill.co.uk](http://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.

INSPIRE A GENERATION TO LEARN TO LOVE AND LOVE TO LEARN





INSPIRE A GENERATION TO **LEARN TO LOVE AND LOVE TO LEARN**

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

## Are you interested in Volunteering?

We are recruiting Infant Feeding  
Peer Support Volunteers in Norfolk!



Our Infant feeding peer support volunteers will give valuable emotional and practical infant feeding support.

If you are passionate about Infant Feeding and would like to support Norfolk families on their feeding journey – get in touch.



For more details and to apply:

<https://bttr.im/0dlzo>

Questions? Contact:

[ccs.volunteers@nhs.net](mailto:ccs.volunteers@nhs.net)



To apply, scan the QR Code



# Epta-UK Piano Competition Norfolk Region

## Saturday 21st February 2026

Venue: Springwood High School, Queensway, King's Lynn PE30 4AW

National finals are  
due to take place at  
Steinway Hall, London



The EPTA UK Piano Competition aims to inspire and celebrate young pianists and teachers across the country, promoting musical excellence through performance.

Further details, including full rules and conditions, are available on our website:  
<https://epta-uk.org/epta-uk-piano-competition-2026/>

Adjudicator: Patricia Romero

Deadline Entry Date: 14th February 2026

Scan here for  
more details



EPTA UK Regional Organisers for Norfolk: Benjamin Howell and Matthew Preston  
Contacts: [info@benjaminhowell.com](mailto:info@benjaminhowell.com) or [matthewprestonmusic@gmail.com](mailto:matthewprestonmusic@gmail.com)



BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY SETTING

**EUSTON ESTATE**  
JUST OFF A11  
**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

ADVANCE TICKET PRICES: ADULT £23.00 (17+) CHILD £8.00 (5-16YRS) FAMILY £59 (2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN)  
ON THE GATE PRICES: ADULT £27 (17+) CHILD £9.00 (5-16YRS) FAMILY £70 (2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN)

DISCOUNTED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.UKGAMEFAIR.CO.UK](http://WWW.UKGAMEFAIR.CO.UK)

SAVE MONEY - BOOK TICKETS BEFORE MIDDAY MONDAY 20TH APRIL!