



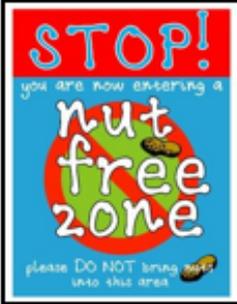
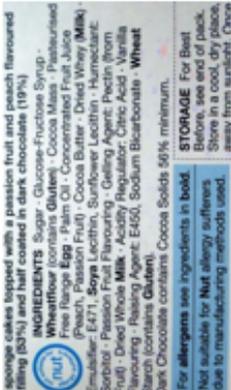
Ashill VC Primary School Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Friday 6th March 2026

www.ashillschool.co.uk

Ashill VC Primary	
	<p>REMINDER</p> <p>In September 2019 we became a nut free school. We have pupils with a severe allergy to nuts. To keep everyone safe -</p> <p>Nuts and/or products that contain nuts are not allowed in school.</p>
<p>2-5%</p> <p>of children in the UK live with a food allergy.</p>	People who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.
<p>20%</p> <p>of severe allergic reactions to food happen whilst a child is at school.</p>	If someone has a severe nut allergy, it is not just eating nuts that can cause a reaction but just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock.
	<p>Please do not send your child with;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">peanut butter chocolate spread cereal bars granola bars cakes that contain nuts biscuits that contain nuts sauces, such as pesto/barbecue/satay, that contain nuts seeded or grained bread</p> <p>This list is not exhaustive so please do check food labels closely.</p>
	Products that MAY contain nuts, have nut traces or are produced in a factory that also handles nut products are permissible.
	Thank you for your support and understanding.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.



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 !!**

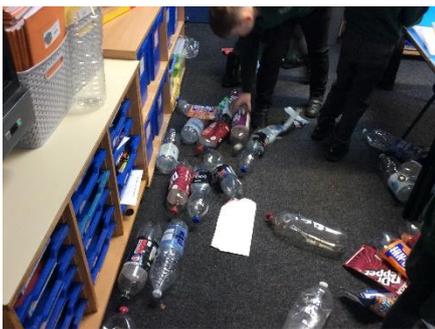


Your mission is to collect the **2 litre drinks bottles** we need for this project. With Christmas coming up, it is likely that there could be an increased number of these bottles in your households and those of your nearest and dearest. All we want you to do is wash them out, keep the lids on them and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

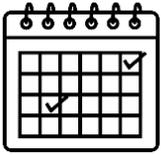
The Ashill School Eco Guardians.



Please remember we are collecting two litre bottles only

We have
approximately 501 so far....
499 to go....





Ashill VC Primary

Dates in advance

Updated 06.02.26

Key

Blue text	New event
Bold text	Parents/carers invited
Red text	Change of date

Mon 23 Feb	2nd half of Spring term 26 begins
W/C 16 Mar	Parents' Evening Week
Fri 20 Mar	Comic Relief Day
Tues 24 Mar	Hedgehog Class – Curriculum Cafe
Wed 25 Mar	Football Tournament
Thurs 26 Mar	Badger Class – Curriculum Cafe
Fri 27 Mar	Easter Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am
Fri 27 March	End of Spring term – school finishes at 3.15pm

Tues 14 April	1st half of Summer term 26 begins
Wed 22 Apr	Ashill's Got Talent
Fri 24 April	Friends Plant sale collection day
Tues 28 April	Netball Tournament
Fri 1 May	Squirrel Class Coffee Morning
Fri 8 May	Film night
W/C 11 May	SATs Week
Wed 13 May	Information session for parents of children attending the London trip.
14 & 15 May	Hedgehog Class – Eaton Vale Residential
Thurs 21 May	Badger Class – Saxon Day (at school)
Fri 22 May	End of Summer 1 st half term – school finishes at 3.15pm

Mon 1 June	2nd half of Summer term 26 begins
Fri 5 June	Father's day buy a gift
Tues 9 June	Bumblebee Class – Once upon a time – Gressenhall Trip
Tues 9 June	Hedgehog Class – Curriculum Cafe – Ancient Greece
11 & 12 June	Badger Class – London Residential Trip
Wed 17 June	Sports Day (previously advertised as 20th May)
Fri 19 June	Hedgehog Class – Bikeability Level One
Thurs 25 June	Hedgehog Class – Ancient Greece Day (at school)
Tues 30 June	Cricket Tournament

1 & 2 July	The Nicholas Hammond Academy Transition Days
Fri 3 July	Squirrel Class – Curriculum Cafe
Mon 6 July	Badger Class Production to parents at Fountain of Life evening performance time to be confirmed.
7 - 9 July	Wayland Academy Transition Days
Friday 10 July	Summer family celebration event 5.30pm to 8.30pm (in place of discos previously advertised for 9 July).
13 & 14 July	Litcham Transition Days
Tues 14 July	Year 6 Pleasurewood Hills Trip – To Be Confirmed
15 to 17 July	Dereham Northgate High School and Dereham Neatherd High School Transition Days
Fri 10 July	Leavers Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am (previously advertised as 17th July – changed to accommodate Yr 6 transitions)
Fri 17 July	Last day of Summer term – school finishes at 3.15pm

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

PE Days

Bumblebee Class	Tuesdays
Squirrel Class	Wednesdays
Hedgehog Class	Mondays & Fridays (Swimming) until Easter
Badgers	Mondays & Thursdays

Forest School

Bumblebee Class & Squirrel Class	Fridays
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Help Available - Gas & Electric: Unity in Community will be providing vouchers to help towards paying for gas and electricity. To qualify you must pay for your energy through a **prepayment meter** and have **not received energy vouchers from Unity in Community** within the past 12 months. This is in response to the ongoing cost of living crisis and beneficiaries can be working, unemployed, self-employed or retired. For more information and to register, call **01482 420836**, Monday to Friday, 9am – 3pm – if busy, please keep trying.



Friends of Ashill School



Hedgehog Class – Coffee Morning

Thank you to the PTA, volunteers and those that donated cakes. You raised £118.40 for the Hedgehog Class, we'll let you know what they have decided to spend this on.

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.

March Draw

1 st	No. 43	D Pickard
2 nd	No. 10	K Nelson
3 rd	No. 41	I Brown

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
13th February 2026

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Bumblebee Class 94.3%

2nd
Squirrel Class
93.8%

3rd
Hedgehog Class
91.1%

4th
Badger Class
90.3%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

94.5%

Celebration Assembly
27th February 2026

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Bumblebee Class 97.1%

2nd
Badger Class 96.1%

3rd
Squirrel Class 94.1%

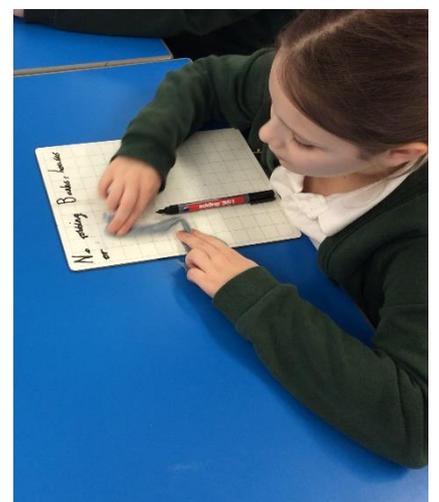
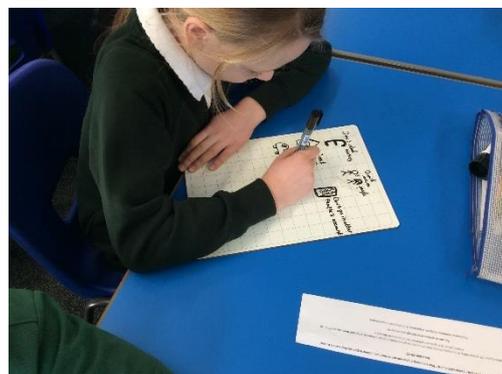
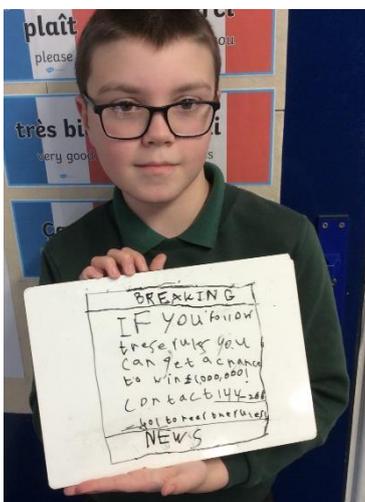
4th
Hedgehog Class 92.6%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

94.5%

What's Been Happening?





Hedgehog Class Visit Swaffham Museum!

On Tuesday 3rd March, Hedgehog Class enjoyed a fascinating visit to Swaffham Museum, <https://www.swaffhammuseum.co.uk/> as part of our history learning on the Ancient Egyptians. We were warmly welcomed by Sue and Helen, Manager and Trustee respectively, who completed a couple of activities with us, followed by an interesting talk by Sue about Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb. We were very lucky to see information and hear the discovery story so close to home when it is about a place (Egypt) so far away. An experience that is unique to where our school is located.

Pictures from the morning sessions:

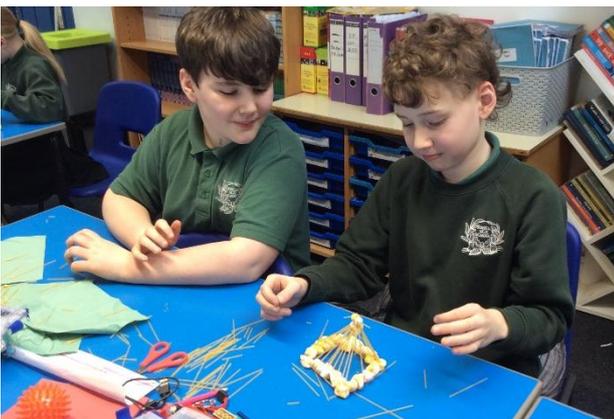


Lunch in the Methodist Church.



And the afternoon:





World Book Week

It was lovely to see the children and their World Book Day headwear in school on Thursday 5th March. Their creations reflected a wonderful range of stories: modern classics like Julia Donaldson's *Stick Man*, Roald Dahl favourites such as *Willy Wonka*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *The Twits*, popular series like *The Dork Diaries*, and timeless stories including *The Secret Garden*.

Throughout the day, the children shared fabulous stories about being read to at bedtime, reading with loved ones, reading to siblings or pets, or enjoying a quiet moment with a book on their own. Their enthusiasm made it clear how much joy reading brings them. It was especially heart-warming to hear children asking one another about their headwear and excitedly talking about the books they love.

Many children have clearly taken on the challenge of reading more this week, helped by the 'double reads' offer and the book-themed conversations sparked by their chosen characters. Two children from Badgers also shared their love of reading during Collective Worship, where prizes were awarded—though choosing winners was incredibly difficult given the tremendous effort shown by all.

During the school day, around 35 children took part in a 'book swap', each going home with a story that was new to them. After school, a fantastic bake sale raised more than £130 for the World Book Day charity, helping to provide books for children around the world who do not yet own any of their own.

As always, events like this are a team effort—staff (who also embraced the headwear challenge), the children, and all those who support reading at home. Thank you for helping us create a day that means far more than it appears on the surface. Together, you are helping our children foster a lifelong love of reading, which in turn strengthens their writing and spoken communication skills.

Thank you.





Children's Mental Health Week – This is my place (9th-13th February)

During children's mental health week, we focused on bringing a greater sense of belonging to our school. Mrs Ormes led a wellbeing assembly (which we hope will become a regular slot each half term) raising awareness and sharing ideas. The children discussed how we could help others to feel proud of our school, how to be inclusive and ways in which we could support others in our school community. The children were challenged to make small gestures over the week to help others to feel like they belong.



These children were presented with a certificate and enjoyed being treated to afternoon tea with Maggie in the library - very much deserved, well done!

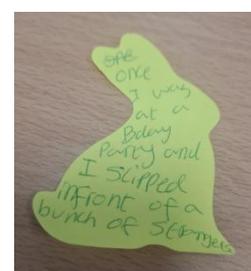
What we got up to for Children's Mental Health Week

Bumblebees used feathers to interact with each other. With permission, they tickled a friend's face and hands in a playful way, sharing lots of laughter along with some shrieking! Children were confident to allow themselves to be vulnerable around a friend showing each other trust and friendship.



Hedgehogs and Squirrels used mirrors to make our friends laugh, encouraging happiness. Mirrors help as a tool to make eye contact and connection with others by providing a safe space with minimal social pressure. Mirrors are also good for self-esteem activities and recognising emotions.

Badgers spent time thoughtfully guessing each other's secrets, ones they were happy to share of course. The children enjoyed guessing who the secret belonged to, finding connections with classmates they may not have known were there, and finding out a little bit more about each other. This exercise relied on seeking emotional connection and deepening mutual respect.



Thank you to all pupils and staff for engaging so well in Children's Mental Health week. By creating a strong sense of belonging we can best support the children in their outcomes, both emotionally and academically.



FIRST STEPS

*fountain of life pre-school

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.

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

Norfolk Healthy Child Service

Supporting every child, young person
and family in Norfolk to flourish



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://btr.im/Odlzo>

Questions? Contact:

ccs.volunteers@nhs.net



To apply, scan the QR Code





Messy[®]

Church

at St Mary's

Sat 28th March: 10am-12
Sat 25th April: 10am-12
Sat 16th May: 10am-12
Tues 9th June: 4pm-6pm

CRAFTS

for primary age but all families
welcome

STORIES

FOOD/DRINK

FREE!



St Mary's Church, Church Rd, Watton, IP25 6DQ
01953 881252 | wattonchurch@gmail.com | stmaryswatton.org

What's on at the Breckland Best Start Family Hub March.....

Find more information



www.norfolk.gov.uk/familyhubs

DAILY

The Family Hub offers daily access to advice and support you may need for families with babies, children and young people - from conception until they reach the age of 19, or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Various groups and activities are on offer, free of charge, as well as representatives from various services such as DWP; the Relocation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (REDI) team; Norfolk Community Law Service (NCLS). Come along and say hello. We are open daily from 9am to 4.30pm, and you do not always need an appointment

Tuesdays

Anna from the Relocation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team will be attending the Family Hub on Tuesdays between 9am and 1pm. Ana is able to support parents/carers who have relocated to England from another country and are struggling with barriers to accessing support for their children with SEN or social, emotional and mental health needs.

Emma from Department of Work and Pensions will be available on Tuesdays 10am to 2.30pm and can support with:

- Benefit related queries
- Finance difficulties and debts
- Childcare funding
- Opportunities around training, qualifications or new skills

Wednesdays

11th March 1.15 – 2.30pm.: SEND Café - A relaxed and informal group designed to offer support, friendship and expert guidance on SEND related topics

11th and 25th March 10 – 11.30am.: Infant Feeding Drop-In - Infant feeding is all about how we nourish our little ones; from breast and bottle feeding to starting them on solids

18th March 10:30 – 12.30pm.: KIDS - A session for parent carers

11th and 25th March 9.30 – 11:30 : Healthy Child Under 5 Years – No appointment required to attend, you can just drop in and ask any questions about your baby or child's health development or growth.

Thursdays

Routes Employment Service – 26th March

Join Bethany between 9.30 and 11am to support you with your journey into work – Your Way:

- Confidence building with support
- Matching you with the right employers
- Help with writing CVs and job applications
- Job interview coaching
- Support with speaking to employers

Other up and coming events and activities:

SEND café in Dereham, every first Monday (second Monday if a bank holiday), 1.30pm – 2.30pm with Family Action, Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service



SEND café at Thetford Library, every 4th Wednesday of every month, 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Fridays

Homestart – 6th March 10am – 12noon

Home-Start Norfolk helps children and changes lives. Working with families with young children, we support them to cope with whatever life throws at them. Our volunteers are parents, they understand how hard it can be. Come along and chat to us about how Homestart can support you.

Lizzie from Norfolk Community Law Service (NCLS) will be at the Family Hub on Friday 6 March 1.30 – 4.30pm. NCLS provide free, independent and confidential legal advice and advocacy for individuals and families who cannot afford access to justice. The focus is for vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. Services include:

Family law and court support, welfare benefits, debt and money advice, immigration advice, discrimination and employment.