



Ashill VC Primary School Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Friday 20th March 2026

www.ashillschool.co.uk

Friday 20 March 26



Thank you for your support and understanding last week when I had to make the decision to close the school.

Whilst there was no other option on the day, we are reviewing our Business Continuity Plan and considering how we could offer home learning on (hopefully rare) occasions like this.

The season of LENT

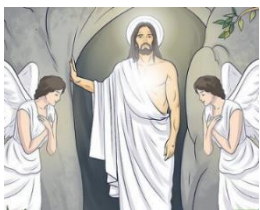
During Lent, we take time to reflect and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. At Ashill, we have been thinking about kindness, gratitude, and making thoughtful choices that help us grow.

Our Easter service this year will take the form of a **Lenten reflection**, designed to help the children thoughtfully explore and understand the meaning of the Easter story. Through a calm and reflective approach, the service will guide them through the themes of the Lenten season and the events leading up to Easter.



The children will sing some traditional songs and at the end of the service, there will be an opportunity to join together and sing an Ashill favourite to remind us all of the promise of new life at Easter.

The season of EASTER



Easter is about more than chocolate—it's a season of celebration at the promise of new life. We want the children to develop an understanding of Easter as a season in the churches calendar and not just think of it as Easter Sunday.

We will have a joyful **Easter celebration** after the Easter break.

Children are encouraged to make an Easter hat that celebrates the joy of the Easter season or the joy of spring.

The children can wear their hat to school and share their creations during collective worship after the Easter break.



Wishing you and your families a reflective and peaceful end to the Lenten season and all the joy of the Easter season when it arrives!

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.

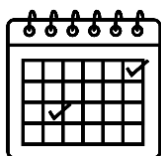
This is phase one. We can't consider sourcing the other elements we need until we know we can source the bottles needed. So please share the message and come together to progress this project that every school family can contribute too.

Thank you in advance for your support.

The Ashill School Eco Guardians.

Please remember we are collecting two litre bottles only

We have approximately 674 so far....
326 to go....



Ashill VC Primary

Dates in advance

Updated 20.03.26

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 Café - 1.30pm for 1.45pm start
Wed 25 Mar	Football Tournament
Thur 26 Mar	Badger Class – Curriculum Café - 1.30pm for 1.45pm start
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
Wed 3 Jun	2.30pm School and Communities Team Transitions Café for all parents (Helping to support your child if they are moving class or school).
Fri 5 June	Fathers' 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

Fri 10 July	Leavers Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am (previously advertised as 17 th July – changed to accommodate Yr 6 transitions) Annual reports sent out to parents. Summer family celebration event 5.30pm to 8.30pm (in place of discos previously advertised for 9 July).
w/b 13 July	Transition week – children work in new class groups in preparation for September.
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 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

P.E. 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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You will be notified of the New term P.E. and Forest School days next week.



We respectfully ask you, not to bring dogs onto the school playground or any other part of the school premises. This applies regardless of the size or breed of dog or whether it is on a lead, off a lead or is being carried. The only dog we will permit to be on school premises is Maggie our school dog. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

The Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) comes to an end on 31 March 2026 and will be replaced by a new Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF) from 1 April 2026. This change means that families who currently receive Edenred vouchers, through the HSF scheme, will receive their last voucher in March. We understand that this will be difficult news for some families. The Council's [Client Hardship Service](#) - will continue and there will be support for families in crisis as part of the new scheme. However, eligibility for free school meals will not lead to automatic entitlement. Details of the new scheme are currently being planned and will be shared once finalised.



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.

Just a little snapshot of a cultural moment, one of our children celebrated their first name day a tradition from the Czech side of her family.



Celebration Assembly
6th March 2026

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Squirrel Class 97.2%

2nd
Bumblebee Class
97.1%

3rd
Hedgehog Class
97%

4th
Badger Class
90.3%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

94.6%

Celebration Assembly
16th March 2026

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award

No Photo Available

The attendance winners are:

Bumblebee Class 100%

2nd
Badger Class 98.9%

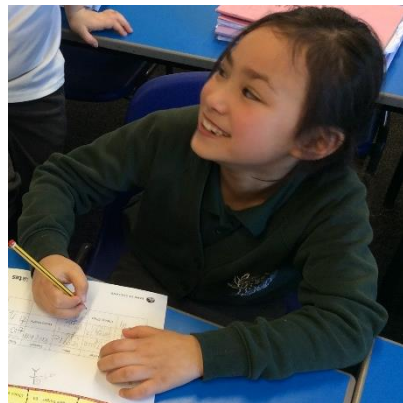
3rd
Squirrel Class 94.5%

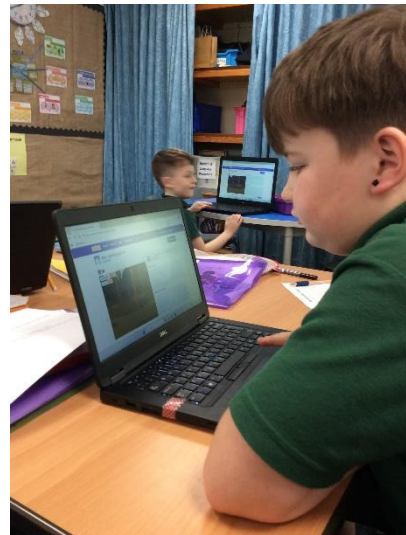
4th
Hedgehog Class 88%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

94.6%

What's Been Happening?









FIRST STEPS

*fountain of life pre-school

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.





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.