



# Ashill VC Primary School Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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

Welcome back to the summer term, and to the first newsletter of what promises to be a busy, joyful and productive term for our whole school community.

Before looking ahead, I would like to reflect on the end of last term and our Easter celebration in church. It was a truly uplifting occasion and a wonderful opportunity for the children to come together and mark the Easter season of hope and renewal.

A particular highlight was the joyful rendition of *'Spring Chicken'*, which brought smiles all round and captured perfectly the sense of energy and enthusiasm our children bring to everything they do.

It was lovely to see children proudly wearing their Easter hats last week. The creativity on display really captured to essence of the Easter season and the joy of spring. Thank you to families for supporting the children with these special creations.



Congratulations and thanks to the whole school community on achieving our target of collecting 1,000 bottles for our greenhouse project. This is a fantastic achievement and a real example of what we can accomplish when we work together towards a shared goal.

A special mention must go to **Mark Mower**, along with his able assistants **Toby Mower** and **Andy Ormes**, for their hard work and commitment in creating the base for the greenhouse. Their time, skill and enthusiasm have made a huge difference, and we are incredibly grateful for their support.

As we move into the summer term, there is much to look forward to – learning both inside and outside the classroom, new projects taking shape, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the warmer weather as it arrives.



## Thank you!

It's always wonderful when you come into school to a nice surprise! Over the weekend, Carl, (Kirsty's husband,) kindly cleared the Mick's Garden area at school, to get it ready for planting. What's particularly lovely is that we remember Mick at this time of year and it's wonderful to see his legacy continuing through Carl's thoughtful actions. With great appreciation from all of

us at school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to sharing many more successes with you over the coming weeks.

With best wishes  
**Dan Pickard**  
Headteacher



# 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.

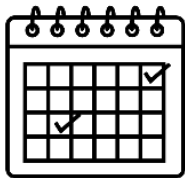
This is phase one. We can't consider sourcing the other elements we need until we know we can source the bottles needed. So please share the message and come together to progress this project that every school family can contribute too.

Thank you in advance for your support.

*The Ashill School Eco Guardians.*

We have done it – target has been reached.





Ashill VC Primary  
 Dates in advance  
**Updated 17.04.26**

Key

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

Tues 14 April	<b>1<sup>st</sup> half of Summer term 26 begins</b>
Wed 22 Apr	Ashill's Got Talent
<b>Fri 24 April</b>	<b>Friends Plant sale collection day</b>
Tues 28 April	Netball Tournament
<b>Fri 1 May</b>	<b>Squirrel Class Coffee Morning</b>
Fri 8 May	Film night – letter to follow shortly
W/C 11 May	SATs Week
<b>Wed 13 May</b>	<b>Information session for parents of children attending the London trip.</b>
14 & 15 May	Hedgehog Class – Eaton Vale Residential
Thurs 21 May	Badger Class – Saxon Day (at school)
Fri 22 May	End of Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> half term – school finishes at 3.15pm
<b>Mon 1 June</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> half of Summer term 26 begins</b>
<b>Thurs 4 June</b>	<b>Fathers' day buy a gift</b>
Tues 9 June	Bumblebee Class – Once upon a time – Gressenhall Trip
<b>Tues 9 June</b>	<b>Hedgehog Class – Curriculum Cafe – Ancient Greece</b>
11 & 12 June	Badger Class – London Residential Trip
<b>Wed 17 June</b>	<b>Sports Day (previously advertised as 20<sup>th</sup> May)</b>
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
<b>Fri 3 July</b>	<b>Squirrel Class – Curriculum Cafe</b>
<b>Mon 6 July</b>	<b>Badger Class Production to parents at Fountain of Life evening performance time to be confirmed.</b>
7 - 9 July	Wayland Academy Transition Days
<b>Friday 10 July</b>	<b>Leavers Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am (previously advertised as 17<sup>th</sup> July – changed to accommodate Yr 6 transitions)</b> Annual reports sent out to parents. <b>Summer family celebration event 5.30pm to 8.30pm (in place of discos previously advertised for 9 July).</b>
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

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

### Key

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## P.E. Days

Bumblebee Class	Tuesdays
Squirrel Class	Tuesdays
Hedgehog Class	Mondays & Wednesdays
Badgers	Mondays (P.E.) & Fridays (Swimming Year 5 only)

## Forest School

Squirrel Class & Hedgehog Class	Fridays
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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.



# Reading Reward Challenge!

It has been wonderful to see the children rising to the challenge once again in the Reading Reward Challenge. We are now at the over halfway point in the year! This year we have been awarding bookmarks, 'stars' and reading certificates for those children who have met or exceeded our reading levels, which were set out in our launch letter at the start of the year – this can be read on the school website as a reminder, <https://www.ashillschool.co.uk/>

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
20 reads	40 reads	50 reads	60 reads
1-2 times a week	3-4 times a week	4 times a week	5-6 times a week
<b>READING AMBASSADOR</b>			
225 reads or more by 10 <sup>th</sup> July			

## The achievement steps in this year's Reading Reward Challenge.

The 'reading terms' will be as follows:

**Autumn: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Spring: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Summer: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

Rewards at the end of each reading term:

By the end of each reading term:	Amount of reading to be on target per week – average:	What is awarded?	
		Type of Certificate	Reward Gift
20 reads	1-2 times per week	Well done	A special bookmark
40 reads	3-4 times per week	Bronze	Reading Bronze Award
50 reads	4 times per week	Silver	Reading Silver Award
60 reads	4 – 5 times per week	Gold	Reading Gold Award

## By the end of the reading year

We are introducing an incentive to reach even higher levels of reading

By the end of the reading year:	Amount of reading to be on target per week – average:	Type of Certificate	Reward Gift plus responsibilities – see below*
225 reads or more	5 -6 times per week	Platinum	Reading Ambassador Badge

\*Reading Ambassadors will have special responsibilities linked to reading in the following academic year, such as being a buddy reader to other children in school, librarian responsibilities and a role in promoting reading to the rest of the school, such as in Collective Worship.

*(Note: any Year 6 child achieving the 'Reading Ambassador' level will receive their badge, but also a letter of recognition from Mrs Filby to their Literacy Lead at their new High School to highlight their*

**Celebration Assembly**  
**27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Well done to the following children:

**Bumblebees**



**Squirrels**



**Hedgehogs**



**Badgers**



**Headteacher Aard**

The attendance winners are:

**Bumblebee Class 97%**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Badger Class 96.4%**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Hedgehog Class 95%**

**4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Squirrel Class 90%**

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

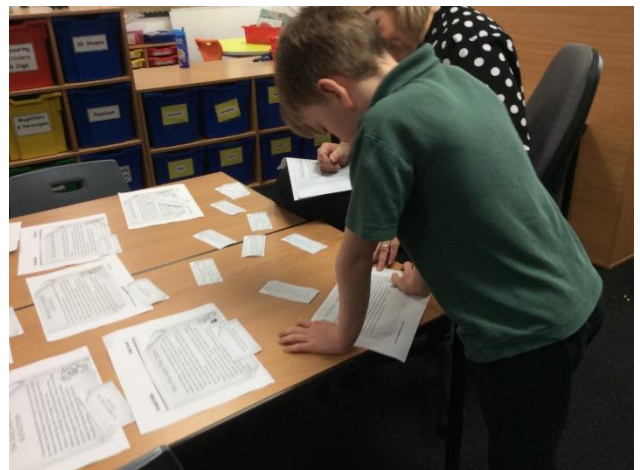
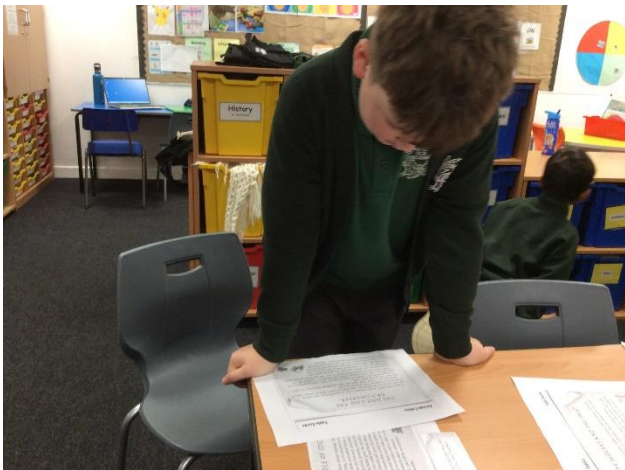
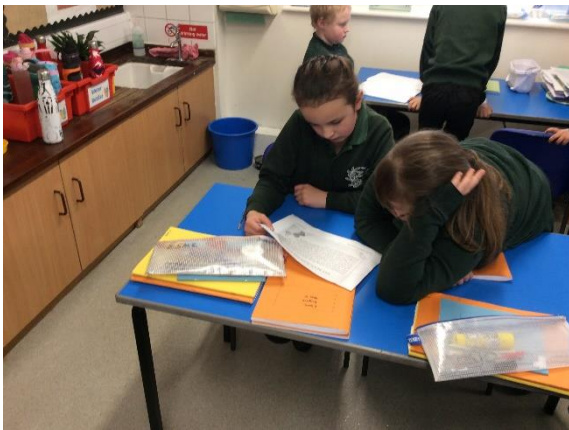
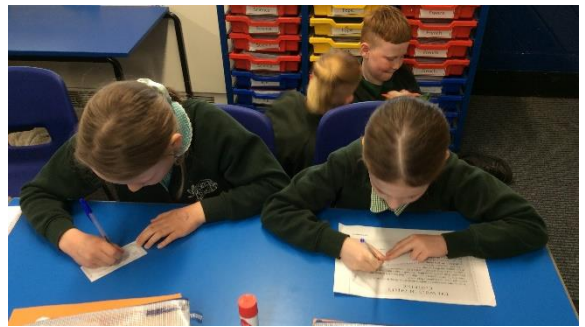
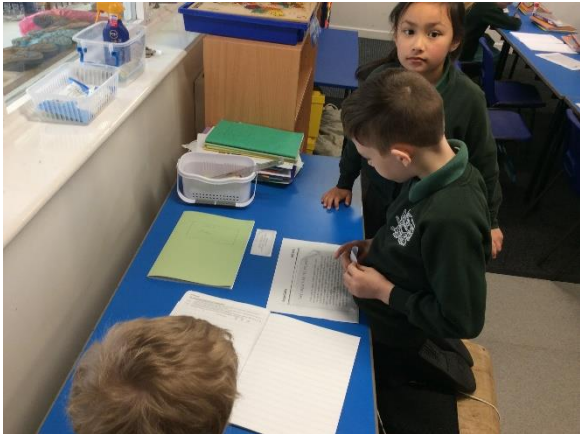
**94.6%**

## What's Been Happening?









## **It is Rocket Science!!**

It's not every day you get to see an historic moment, especially if that moment is the Artemis II rocket leaving Earth for space. However, that experience is exactly what happened to Emily in Hedgehog Class. She witnessed, firsthand, the space bound marvel heading for it's around the moon voyage, over the Easter break, from her Grandparent's back garden. Her Grandparents, who live across from the Indian River in Florida, were able to talk Emily through what she was seeing, and we were lucky enough at school to have a copy of the rocket launch, filmed by Emily herself, and sent in by her mum.

Thanks to Emily's family for sharing this amazing firsthand experience with us, and one which Emily will grow up to remember for the rest of her life.



# Gardening Club



## Art Club – Norfolk Churches Trust Competition

Fifteen KS2 children joined the Art Club at school to try and create a winning picture, as part of the Norfolk Churches Trust Competition. The competition has some local celebrity judges, and the brief was to create a piece of artwork inspired by our local churches. The first session involved a walk to St Nicholas' Church in the village where the children gained some ideas of what their artwork could feature. Mrs Broadbear volunteered her time to support this club as well, which is very generous of her and for which we were very grateful.

During the last session, the Revd. Patrick Morrow joined us to see how our artwork was progressing and the children enjoyed hearing about the origin of some of the objects in the pieces they had chosen to draw. The artwork has been sent off and we await any results!

**Mrs Filby.**

Art Equipment supplied by *creative abacus resources*

**School ART Competition 2026**

Calling children from Norfolk primary schools to create a drawing inspired by their own church. There will be three judging categories: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 • Year 3 & Year 4 • Year 5 & Year 6.

**WIN ART EQUIPMENT**

£500 for your school  
£100 for the artist **1st prize**

£250 for your school  
£75 for the artist **2nd prize**

Prizes awarded on 17 June by Dame Emma Bridgewater

Your drawings might feature...

- ...a detail of carvings
- ...a stone gargoyle
- ...a stained glass window
- ...an outside view.

FINALISTS WILL BE JUDGED BY A CELEBRITY PANEL

Your artwork must be no larger than A4 and not be photography. Entries must be received by 17 April 2026. Good Luck!

For full information and entry form scan the QR code or visit [norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/events/schools-art-competition/](http://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/events/schools-art-competition/)






# Making Sense of SEND

**In person free, friendly information  
and support about SEND for  
families and professionals.**



**Thursday 21st May 2026  
Dereham Memorial Hall, NR19 1AD  
10am-12pm and 12.30pm-3pm**

**Are you looking for support for your child  
/young person with SEND and your family?**

- Listen to expert-led talks on SEND topics.
- A chance to give feedback and be heard by the EHCP team or SEND advisor. Bookable on the day.
- Speak directly with more than 20 services and get personalised, face-to-face advice all in one place.
- Children's participation activities giving children and young people the chance to share experiences.

**Find out more  
and book  
your place:**



[www.norfolk.gov.uk/msos](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/msos)





# 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<sup>am</sup> - 3<sup>pm</sup>  
Friday 9<sup>am</sup> - 12<sup>am</sup>

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.





# Messy<sup>®</sup>

## Church

at St Mary's

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March: 10am-12  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April: 10am-12  
Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May: 10am-12  
Tues 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:wattonchurch@gmail.com) | [stmaryswatton.org](http://stmaryswatton.org)

**Kids**

Disabled children  
say we can

**Norfolk Parent  
Carer Service**

# What's On In April

## Online Workshops

### Parental Resilience

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
2pm - 4pm

### Behaviour that Challenges

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April  
10am - 12pm

### Neurodivergent Teens

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April  
2pm - 4pm

Join us online for these free  
workshops

Scan here to book  
our online  
workshops!



**NEW!**

## Coffee and Connect North Walsham

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
10:30am - 12:30pm

Join us for cuppa and a warm  
welcome to our North  
Walsham Coffee and Connect

Family Hub and ECFS  
Manor Road,  
North Walsham,  
NR28 9HG

Email: [natalie.tagg@kids.org.uk](mailto:natalie.tagg@kids.org.uk)

## West and Brecklands Coffee and Connect

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

### Parental Resilience Workshop

Thetford Family Hub, Kingsway, IP24  
3DY

10:30am - 12:30pm

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April

### Wellbeing

St Augustine Healthy Living Centre,  
Columbia Way, King's Lynn, PE30 2LB

10:30am - 12:30pm

Email: [sally.macgregor@kids.org.uk](mailto:sally.macgregor@kids.org.uk)

Scan here to  
join our  
Facebook  
community!



**Kids** Disabled children say we can

## Norfolk Parent Carer Service

# What's On In April

### Sprowston Coffee and Connect

**Guest Speaker from SENDIASS**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April  
10:30am - 12:30pm

**Guest Speaker from Early Help**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
10:30am - 12:30pm

Viking Centre, Tills Road  
Sprowston, NR6 7QZ

Email: [hayley.huckle@kids.org.uk](mailto:hayley.huckle@kids.org.uk)

### Great Yarmouth Drop-In with Grace

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April  
10am - 12pm

Join us for a relaxed cuppa and chat session. Places are limited so please email [grace.hillard@kids.org.uk](mailto:grace.hillard@kids.org.uk) for more info



### NEW! Dad's Time!

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
7:30pm - 9:30pm

Are you a dad, stepdad, grandad or male carer for a young person (0-18 years) with SEND?

Then this is for you!

Come and join us at Albion Games Cafe in Norwich for a drink, gaming and connection with other parent carers.

Albion Games Cafe  
21 St Benedicts Street  
Norwich, NR2 4PF

Email: [hayley.huckle@kids.org.uk](mailto:hayley.huckle@kids.org.uk)

### Riding The Rapids

We run this amazing course every term in different places around Norfolk!

**Do you want to know more about:**

- Parent wellbeing
- Understanding behaviour
- Sensory needs
- Teamwork & communication
- Positive interactions
- Managing stress & crisis point
- Problem solving

Email [sally.macgregor@kids.org.uk](mailto:sally.macgregor@kids.org.uk) for your nearest course!

Scan here to join our Facebook community!





# Join us at our Junior taster session at Thetford Netball club

## Where?

Kings House Gardens Thetford

## When?

Wednesday May 27th  
10:00 - 12:00

## Who for?

Year groups 3 - 6  
All abilities welcome  
Existing members too!!

£5 per person

\*Training sessions run every  
Saturday.

Contact Gill to book your place:  
[juniorsecretary.thetfordnetball@gmail.com](mailto:juniorsecretary.thetfordnetball@gmail.com)

