



Ashill VC Primary School Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Monday 1st May 2026

www.ashillschool.co.uk

There has been much to celebrate in the last couple of weeks at Ashill, not least, the opportunity to enjoy some sunshine on the field.

As always, I am incredibly proud of our whole school community, but I must particularly congratulate all of the children who took part in **Ashill's Got Talent**. The confidence, creativity and determination on display were a joy to see. With acts showcasing talent in music, poetry, gymnastics, singing, dance and comedy and magic, every performer showed real courage and commitment, reminding us just how talented our pupils are.

It has also been wonderful to see children beginning to complete their **Junior Duke Challenge** journeys. They have embraced the responsibilities and new experiences involved, showing resilience, teamwork and a positive attitude – we look forward to celebrating many more achievements as the other children complete their challenges.



A special well done goes to **Teddy**, who proudly shared news of his *big catch* while fishing at the weekend – a fantastic achievement and a great example of enthusiasm and achievement beyond school.

We love to hear about the things the children have achieved or are proud of in their lives beyond school so please do let us know. Examples so far this year have included sports, craft, brownies, cubs and community achievements.

I am also really proud to say that we have received lovely feedback from members of the public during our trips out of school this term, praising our pupils' behaviour, manners and friendliness. They are excellent ambassadors for Ashill.

Finally, I wish everyone a very happy bank holiday weekend. Please remember that **school will be closed on Monday 4th May**. We look forward to welcoming everyone back soon, refreshed and ready for more learning.

With best wishes
Dan Pickard
Headteacher

Uniform

This is just a gentle reminder, with summer now approaching, of what we expect in terms of uniform.

Please note, particularly as there have been recent government changes regarding uniform, that there is no expectation for any uniform items to be branded or have logos. Therefore, most items can be bought from supermarkets and we know that this is ultimately more practical and cost effective for you as parents/carers.

Our **school uniform** consists of the following:

- Dark green sweatshirts or cardigans, dark green or white polo shirts, shirts or blouses, and grey or black skirts/dresses or trousers/ shorts.
- School jumpers, cardigans or t-shirts do not need to have the school logo. In the summer, green checked dresses can also be worn.
- Socks and tights should be dark (e.g. black, grey or dark green) or white in colour and plain.
- Only black, flat soled, plain, closed toed shoes (or trainers on PE days) should be worn to school.
- Boots or shoes with a heel are not permitted due to safety reasons.
- Skirts should be of an appropriate length and style (knee-length or below and not too tight fitting).
- Coats should be dark in colour and of suitable warmth for the type of weather.
- Accessories such as hats, gloves and scarves can be worn in winter, as well as sun hats in the summer (ideally peaked to protect eyes in the sun) when the weather is hot and sunny. These accessories will often be advised by school.
- Sunglasses should only be worn, if advised, due to medical reasons.



Jewellery

- Jewellery, including wristbands, in school presents a safety risk.
- The only jewellery allowed in school is small studs or sleepers for children with pierced ears.
- Wristwatches may be worn, but the school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage.
- Watches with hourly chimes and alarms should be set to silent mode as they are very disruptive during lessons.
- No jewellery can be worn in PE or swimming sessions, so this must be removed before school or the child must be able to remove it themselves as school staff are not permitted to do this.



PE / Games Kit.

- This should consist of a plain t-shirt (with or without the school logo) in their house colour, black shorts, and trainers or plimsolls.
- We try to play outdoor games whenever possible, including in cold weather (as our school hall is very small!). In these conditions children are also allowed to wear tracksuits, hats, gloves and as many sweatshirts as necessary.



And also...

- Please make sure all items are named, especially tops and jumpers, which often get left on the school field.
- All clothing worn at school should be appropriate for school and the activities of the day being undertaken
- Long hair should also be tied back / held back with a suitable hair band / clips at all times so your child has full vision to aid their learning and for their own safety.

Hot Weather

With us reminding you all about the heat, we've probably jinxed the weather now and probably in for months of rain ☺



During spells of hot weather, please ensure each day your child comes to school with sun screen already applied and that they wear a peaked sun hat.

Children may bring in sun cream (named) and apply a top up at break or lunch if required. Depending upon their age, appropriate supervision and support will be given.



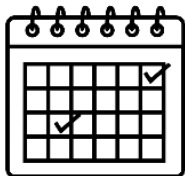
We kindly ask that children do not share sun cream due to the possibility of skin reactions.

If we feel the midday heat is too intense, there will be times where we review the risk and opt for the more shaded playground (thanks to the large oak tree) or possibly even indoors.

We've had a few questions about children wearing sunglasses recently. After reviewing this last year, we would only encourage children to wear sunglasses for medical reasons. Instead, we advise children to wear peaked sun hats, which should be adequate to protect their eyes from the sun in most situations.

Being realistic, like glasses which are naturally worn for appropriate reasons, sunglasses are often lost, found damaged, difficult to name and can potentially be more of a hazard when playing at break/lunch and in outdoor lessons. Therefore, we only encourage the wearing of any glasses if really needed.





Ashill VC Primary
 Dates in advance
Updated 01.05.26

Key

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

Tues 14 April	1st half of Summer term 26 begins
Fri 8 May	Film night
W/C 11 May	SATs Week
Wed 13 May	Information session for parents of children attending the London trip – 1.30pm to 2pm
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	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
Friday 10 July	Leavers Service at St Nicholas Church 9.30am (previously advertised as 17th 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

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

Key

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Bold text	Parents/carers invited
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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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Friends of Ashill School








Squirrel Class – Coffee Morning

Thank you to the PTA, volunteers and those that donated cakes. You raised £122.30 for the Squirrel Class, we'll let you know what they have decided to spend this on.

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
 225 reads or more by 10 th July			

(Note: any Year 6

'Reading Ambassador' level will receive their badge, but also a letter of recognition from Mrs Filby to their

child achieving the

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

The 'reading terms' will be as follows:

Autumn: Wednesday 3rd September 2025 to Wednesday 17th December 2025

Spring: Thursday 18th December 2025 to Wednesday 25th March 2026

Summer: Thursday 26th March 2026 to Friday 10th 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.

Literary Lead at their new High School to highlight their achievement, so they can be signposted to further opportunities to promote reading in their new school.)

Please note: the last 'reading challenge term' has just begun, so every read entered of home reading from Thursday 26th March through to Friday 10th July will count, that's a possible 107 reads this term, as the weekends and holidays count too, so please ensure all reading is entered into your child's Record Book, (older children can do this themselves) and that it is signed or initialed by an adult or older sibling at home.



We've been able to award our **Special Recognition Certificates** nearly 40 times in the last two terms, and for many of the children it's the second certificate they have received, which is a fabulous achievement and those children are well on their way to being our special Reading Ambassadors for next year. Achieving this will mean they will receive a badge and be able to take on responsibilities for reading across the school, such as leading Collective Worships on reading, being active in the library and encouraging children across the school to read often.



225 reads or more by 10th July

Here are last term's recipients of their Special Recognition certificate:



So, every child in the school has the chance, once again, to receive their Gold Reward this term and, if enough reads have been gained already, a big push now as well to achieve 225 reads across the year. Just add up the last two terms reads, then as long as 107 reads or less are needed, your child has the chance to be a Reading Ambassador next year. Happy Reading!

Mrs Filby.

Celebration Assembly
17th April 2026

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Hedgehog Class 99%

2nd
Badger Class 98.5%

3rd
Squirrel Class 98.1%

4th
Bumblebee Class 93%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

94.7%

Celebration Assembly
24th April 2026

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



Headteacher Award



The attendance winners are:

Bumblebee Class 97%

2nd
Hedgehog Class 94.4%

3rd
Squirrel Class 93.8%

4th
Badger Class 91.5%

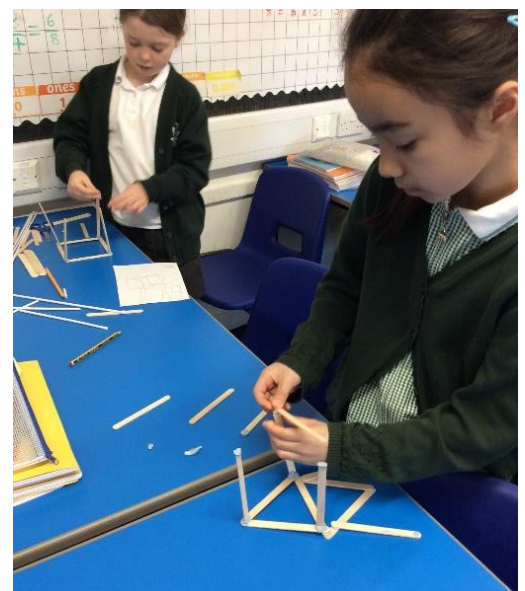
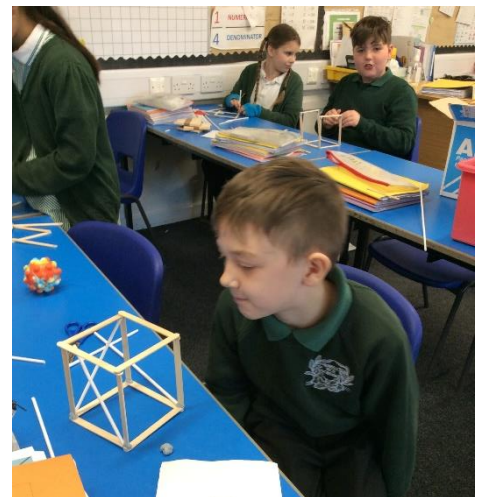
Overall Attendance (so far this year):

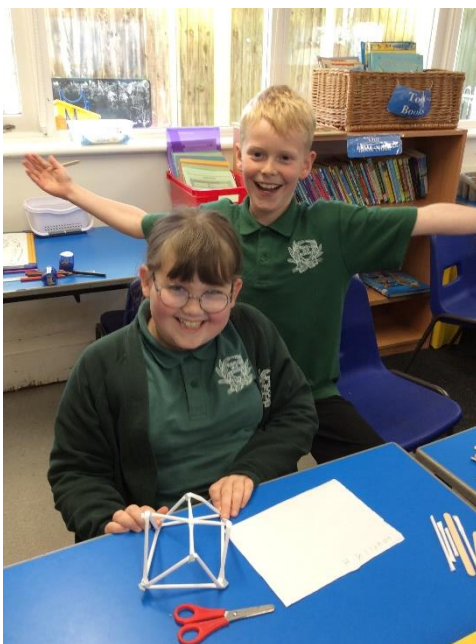
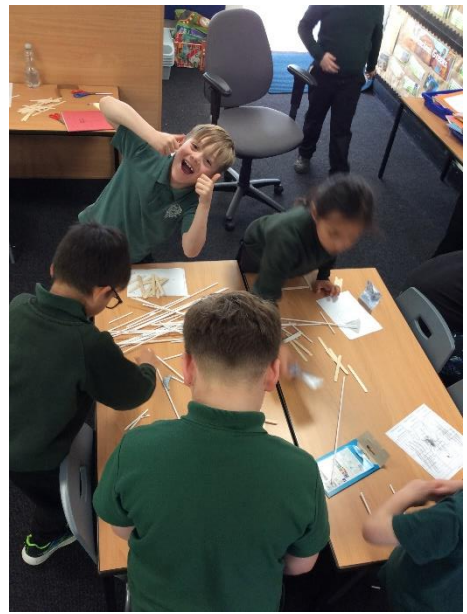
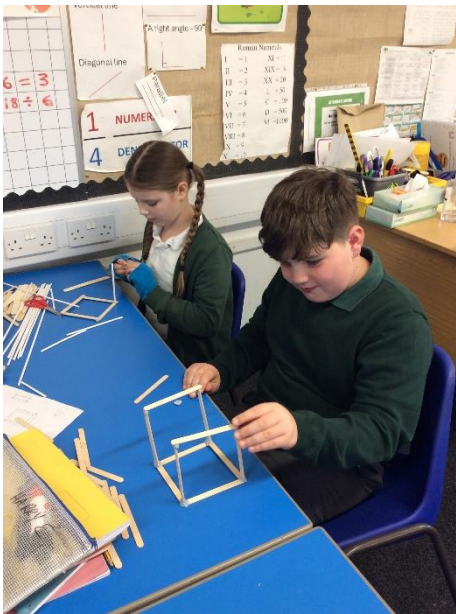
94.7%

What's Been Happening?



Hedgehog Class were focusing on how to make strong structures in DT this week, which involved testing where to put triangles in the structure to make it as sturdy as possible.





Talent Show

What an amazing afternoon! Full of the fantastic talents of children from Year 2 upwards. From comedy and magic to keyboard playing, singing, poetry and gymnastics. The whole school came in to watch these great acts, enjoying every minute, applauding in great delight at the wondrous cartwheels, beautiful singing, hilarious comedy, own written poetry-reliving a Yr 6's journey through her time here and a newly taught keyboard player (only started in September, specifically to take part in the show). For the first time this year, separate prizes were awarded to KS1 and KS2. The standard was so high that the judges had a difficult decision to make, finally awarding a joint runner up in KS2.

Thank you to our judges for taking the time out of their busy schedules, (Miss Thornhill, Mrs Martin and Mrs Borgars), thank you also to Mr Titman who sorted out the sound, etc. Well done to the acts who participated showing great talent, confidence and bravery. The winners of KS1 were Bethany and Aubrey with Charlie, Belle and Dotty coming Runners up (both acts performing gymnastics. The winner of KS2 is Mia who wrote her own poem and joint runners up were Jack for magic/comedy and Phoebe on keyboard playing Imagine by John Lennon.





Forest School



Dukes Awards

Thank you to all the parents and carers who are organising activities and helping their child/children to complete their challenges. The children look extremely engaged and have obviously learnt some new skills. I look forward to looking at more booklets in the near future. I am pleased to say that we had our first completed award given last week. Well done to Esme who completed her Silver Junior Duke Award. Also well done to Abigail who has completed her Micro Duke Award and will be receiving her award this week. Remember, if you would like to contact me to discuss any aspect of the award, please do so at school or email me on dukes@ashill.norfolk.sch.uk. Below is a selection of photos received for the Dukes Awards.





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.
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www.norfolk.gov.uk/msos





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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



**SWAFFHAM TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB**

YOUTH OPEN TRAINING SESSIONS

2026/27 SEASON

The Pedlars are pleased to be holding open training sessions for the following 2026/27 age groups playing in Norfolk Combined Youth Football League:

	U7s	School Year 2
	U10s	School Year 5
	U11s	School Year 6
	U12s	School Year 7
	U13s	School Year 8
	U14s	School Year 9

-  **1 STAR ACCREDITED CLUB WITH EXCELLENT FACILITIES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
-  **HIGHLY EXPERIENCED FA & UEFA QUALIFIED COACHES WITH DBS & FIRST AID**
-  **CLEAR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS INTO U18S AND SENIOR FOOTBALL**
-  **MONITORED DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE FA FOUR PILLARS APPROACH**
-  **FOCUS ON FOOTBALL, FUN, TEAM WORK, SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN A POSITIVE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT**



WHERE:

**NICHOLAS HAMOND ACADEMY FIELD
PE37 7DZ**

WHEN:

**WEDNESDAY 10TH & 17TH JUNE 2026
ARRIVAL 18:15
SESSION 18:30 - 20:00**

COST:

FREE

MORE INFO:

**DM OR E-MAIL:
STFCYOUTHSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM**

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