



Ashill VC Primary School Newsletter



Tel: 01760 440403

Friday 9th October 2026

www.ashillschool.co.uk



Celebrating Harvest at Ashill

Harvest is always a special time of year at Ashill, providing a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our rural heritage, to give thanks and to strengthen our connections with the local community.

This year, our whole school family came together at St Nicholas' Church for a joyful Harvest Festival service. Through songs, readings and reflections, the children celebrated the importance of farming, the beauty of the natural world and the vital role agriculture continues to play in our village community. It was lovely to welcome families and friends to share in this special occasion.

Our harvest celebrations continued in school, where Hedgehog Class welcomed parents, carers and grandparents or other adults important to them to come along for a fantastic crumble-making workshop. Working together, the children prepared delicious fruit crumbles, developing their peeling and chopping skills while enjoying time with their families.

We were particularly proud to contribute 23 portions of homemade crumble to our local Memory Café, sharing a little harvest kindness with members of our wider community. It was wonderful to receive a thank you note back in return.

This marks the beginning of what we hope will become a really special relationship. We are planning opportunities for our children to visit the Memory Café and/or the Mardle, to spend time chatting, playing games and building friendships across the generations. We believe these connections are incredibly valuable, helping children develop kindness, respect and a sense of belonging while learning from the experiences of others.

At Ashill Primary School, we are proud of our place at the heart of the village. Our Harvest celebrations reminded us that being part of a school family is not just about what happens within our classrooms, but also about the difference we can make together in our wider community.

With best wishes
Dan Pickard
Headteacher



Tempest Photography – Wednesday 4th November

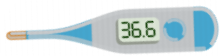
Just a reminder, particularly as it's the first week back to school after the half term, that we have our school photographs. These are for individual and sibling photographs only.



As we have always done for families in the past, if you would like a photograph taken of your child with their siblings, who aren't at our school, we kindly invite you to come from 8:30am to the hall doors.

Bumblebee and Hedgehog Class have their PE Lesson on this day, therefore, please can children come in their school uniform and bring in their PE Kit to change into. Their teachers will tell them when to change.

Illness



Last year our attendance in school was greatly affected by illnesses across the school, particularly over the winter period. Just to remind you that if your child is not well, please phone the school office in the morning to let us know. You can also email or phone if you're unsure what to do. As a school, we have guidance regarding different illnesses and whether being in or out of school is advised.

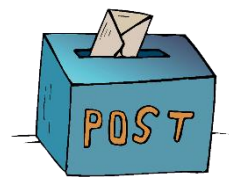
Please remember, we're quite happy for children to come into school if they are suffering from cold symptoms (coughs, sneezes and blocked noses). However, we'd always advise if your child has a fever or particularly high temperature, to stay off school until this has improved. Generally we have a 48 hour sickness rule, meaning if your child has been sick, they cannot return to school for two days. There can be some flexibility in this depending on times that this has happened, so please do check with us.

Medication

We do allow most types of medication to be administered in school, but in order for us to do this; you'll need to fill in a medication form. The form is available at the school office or on our website under 'Parent Information'.

Post box

If you're dropping a note, letter or reply slip into the school office, don't forget we have a post box located near the inner entrance doors for you to use. There are some envelopes and a pen available too, should you need them.



The Oaks

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

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

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 to park your car and not drive across the gardens of the residents.



Friends of Ashill School Association

NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

Thursday 22nd October

Please donate an item in your
child's class colour



Bumblebees
= Yellow



Squirrels
= Red



Hedgehogs
= Blue



Badgers
= Green

Stuck for ideas?
What about...



Chocolate



Sweets



Bubble
Bath



Games



Candles

Help us rocket towards
our fundraising goal with

Fund the Future!



Local estate agent **Phil Bird** is helping us
earn funding with Yopa's Fund the Future
programme.
All we need is your support!

Scan to support



How you can help

1



Sign up

For every Fund the Future board displayed, we receive money to spend on supplies. If you're happy to host a board outside your home, sign up at yo.pa/friendsofashill by **28/10/26**.

2



Host the board

Your Fund the Future board will be put up for you around **11/11/26** and removed around **11/01/27**. You don't need to be in for this, and if you have any special instructions for the location of the board, they will be followed.

3



That's it!

Every board means more money for the organisation. If you have friends and family in the area, they can get involved too.



Sign up or find out more at yo.pa/friendsofashill



FAQs

I'm a supporter. What does a Fund the Future board look like?

The Fund the Future board is the same size and shape as a 'for sale' board, but don't worry – it doesn't look like one. It will have the Fund the Future logo and the name of the organisation you're supporting. It will go outside your home, e.g. at the end of a driveway, but if you have special instructions for where it should be put you can let us know when you sign up.

Do I need to be in for the board to go up?

Not at all. If you have signed up as a supporter, we will take care of putting it up and removing it at the end of the sponsorship period. You don't need to be home for this.

Is it really free?

Yes, Fund the Future is completely free for everyone, from the school to its supporters.

Can I get my friends/family to put a board up too?

Anyone who wants to be a supporter can sign up for a board if they are within the agreed postcodes around the school, club, or charity. If they are outside it, unfortunately we can't put a board up.

Which organisations can take part?

Many primary schools, local sports clubs (e.g. junior football teams), local charities, fundraising events, and other local organisations can take part as long as they serve a defined catchment area. Contact marketing@yopa.co.uk or your local Yopa agent to check if you're eligible. Unfortunately, secondary schools can't currently take part.

Celebration Assembly
25th September 2026

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



The attendance winners are:

Hedgehog Class 98.9%

2nd

Bumblebee Class 98.3%

3rd

Badger Class 96.9%

4th

Squirrel Class 93%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

96.2%

Celebration Assembly
2nd October 2026

Well done to the following children:

Bumblebees



Squirrels



Hedgehogs



Badgers



The attendance winners are:

Hedgehog Class 100%

2nd

Bumblebee Class 97.8%

3rd

Squirrel Class 95.5%

4th

Badger Class 92.1%

Overall Attendance (so far this year):

96.1%

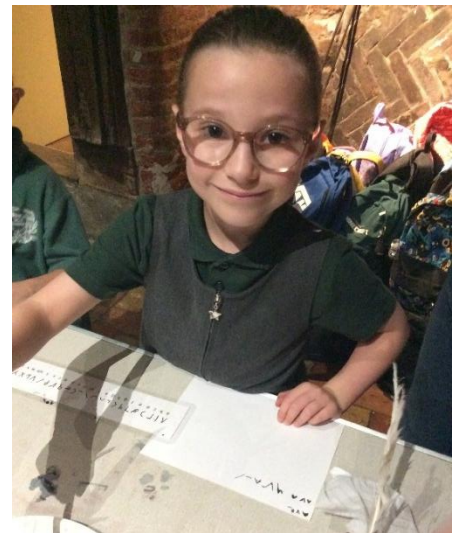
What's Been Happening?



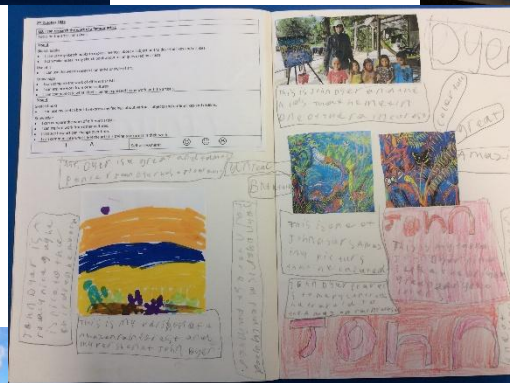
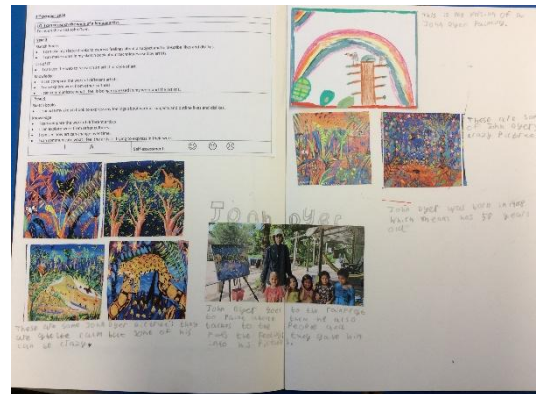
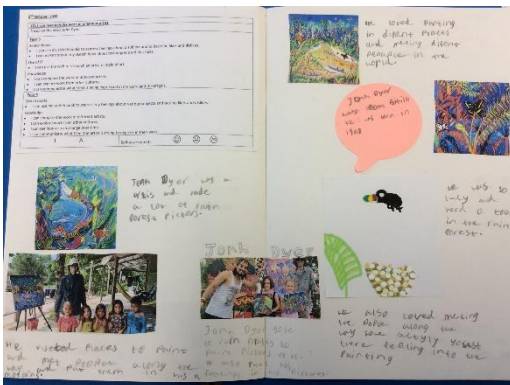
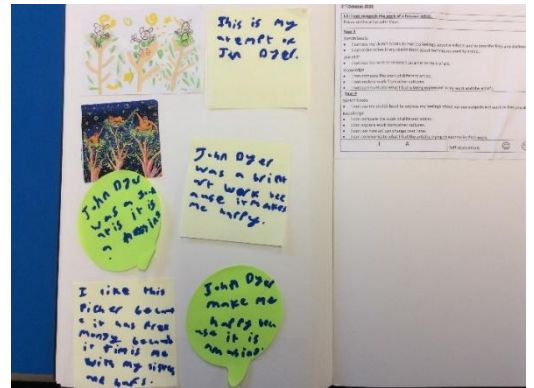
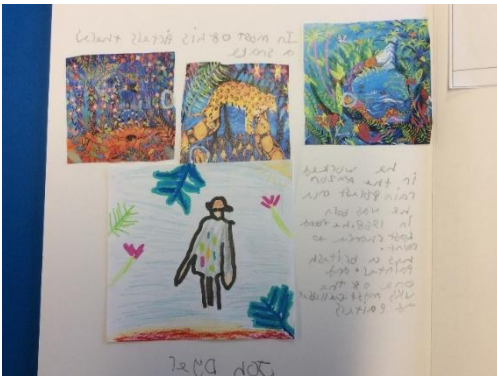
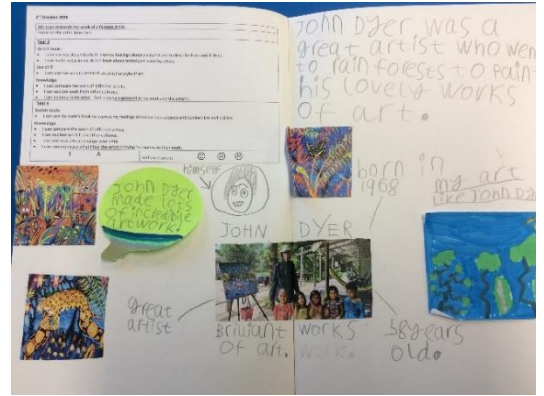
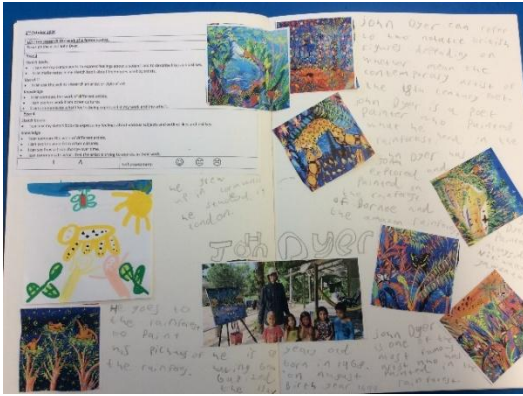




Squirrels trip to the Ancient House Museum







The children of **Hedgehog Class** took part in an afternoon of **crumble making** on 6th October 2026. They practiced their cutting and chopping skills, as well as peeling the fruit that had been donated by parents / carers. The event was very well attended by all the supportive adults and, as it was designed as an 'intergenerational' event, it was lovely to see Grandparents, and other adults important to the children, there. Thank you to everyone for their support and to Mrs Brown for volunteering her time and Mr Brown for being an extra helping adult in the room.





Harvest Festival at St Nicholas Church



House Captains



WATTON UNDER 9'S GUNNERS

ARE RECRUITING!



YEAR 4 SCHOOL YEAR - BOYS & GIRLS WELCOME

TRAINING WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 6-7PM

FOR MORE INFO:

Please message the club, or contact
through this post





Friends of Ashill
Primary School

Help us rocket towards
our fundraising goal with

Fund the Future!



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Christmas Card Competition

Fresh Ideas Feeding Minds

In partnership with our food supplier, Thomas Ridley Foods, we are inviting school children to design a Christmas card.

The card design needs to reflect a taste of Christmas. Draw a picture showing the food, flavours, people and moments that makes Christmas special to you.

The judges are looking for creative artwork with themes around food, togetherness and family.

The Prizes:

First prize for the overall winner will have their design printed and sent to all Thomas Ridley customers and will receive a festive book bundle and arts and crafts goodies, there will also be runner-up prizes for KS1 (reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and KS2 (Year 3 – Year 6).

The winning school will receive a stationery voucher and the runner-up school will receive arts and crafts classroom resources.

**Thomas
RIDLEY**
foodservice est. 1954

The Draw:

The top three entries will also receive printed copies of their own Christmas Card design. **The competition deadline is Friday 30th October.**

How to Enter:

Please send entries to clare.jordan@norsegroup.co.uk or Norse Christmas Card Competition, Clare Jordan, 280 Fifers Lane, Norwich NR6 6EQ or pass on to the school office. Details provided such as name, school and age will solely be used for the purposes of this competition and will be stored in accordance to GDPR regulations.

Please note, Norse Group and Thomas Ridley Foods would like to be able to photograph winning children at their award presentation for promotional purposes.





Christmas Card Competition



norse
group

Use the space below to design a Christmas Card around
the theme of food, togetherness and family...

**Thomas
RIDLEY**
foodservice multi



Turn on its side if you would like your design to be landscape.

Name: Age:

School:

The competition deadline is **Friday 30th October**. Please send entries to clare.jordan@norsegroup.co.uk
or Norse Christmas Card Competition, Clare Jordan, 280 Fifers Lane, Norwich NR6 6EQ or pass on to the school office.

Where are we



family hubs



Breckland – October 2026 Engagements

Community Events - for Parents, Carers & Young People

The family hub team will be available at these community venues to answer your questions, share information on a wide range of activities, groups and organisation that can help you and your family

Andreia - October 2026

Friday 2nd October - Attleborough Library, 14:00 - 15:30

Monday 5th October - Thetford Library, 10:30 - 12:00

Monday 5th October - Breckland Family Hub, 14:00 - 16:00

Tuesday 6th October - Swaffham Library, 10:30 - 11:30

Wednesday 7th October - Watton Library, 10:30 - 11:30

Thursday 8th October - Wayland Academy Teen Agency & Community Event, 13:30 - 17:00

Monday 12th October - Thetford Library, 10:30 - 12:00

Tuesday 13th October - Swaffham Library, 10:30 - 11:30

Monday 19th October - Thetford Library, 10:30 - 12:00

Monday 19th October - Breckland Family Hub, 14:00 - 16:00

Wednesday 21st October - Watton Library, 10:30 - 11:30

Monday 26th October - Thetford Library, 10:30 - 12:00

Monday 26th October - Breckland Family Hub, 14:00 - 16:00

Tuesday 27th October - Watton Family Day - Watton Community Centre, 09:30 - 13:00

Tuesday 27th October - Wellbeing Event - Health Promotion and Support within the Community, 13:30 - 15:00

Wednesday 28th October - Watton Library, 10:30 - 11:30

Wednesday 28th October - Parent SEND Café at Thetford Library, 13:30 - 14:30

Megan - October 2026

Monday 5th October - Dereham SEND café, 13:30 - 14:30

Mondays 12th, 19th and 26th October - Dereham Bounce and Rhyme, 10:00 - 11:30

Tuesday 13th October - Swaffham Bounce and Rhyme, 10:00 - 11:30

You are also welcome to drop-in at the Family Hubs: Kingsway, Thetford ECFS base, Thetford, IP24 3DY or call

01362 654567

Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm



BEST START IN LIFE

in the community

Community and Partnership (C&P) team reserves the right to cancel event due to circumstances beyond C&P's control or not reasonably anticipated by C&P.

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

Find more information



www.norfolk.gov.uk/familyhubs

Mondays

Monday 5th - Norfolk Community Law Service (NCLS) – 2:00pm-4:00pm - Services include: Family law and court support, welfare benefits, debt and money advice, immigration advice, discrimination and employment. However, you are welcome to visit the website at anytime: www.ncls.co.uk

Triage appointments at Thetford Citizens Advice may also be available – please contact Citizens Advice directly.

Tuesdays

Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - REEL – 9:00am-1:00pm - Anna 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.

Tuesday 13th & 20th – DWP – 10:00am-2:30pm - Emma from Department of Work and Pensions will be available and can support with:

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

Wednesdays

Wednesday 14th & 28th - Infant Feeding Drop-In – 10:00am-11:30am - Infant feeding is all about how we nourish our little ones; from breast and bottle feeding to starting them on solids.

Wednesday 14th & 28th - Under 5 Healthy Child Drop In – 09:30am-11:30am - 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.

Wednesday 14th - SEND Café – 1:15pm-3:30pm - Free friendly drop-in service open to all SEND parents & carers.

Fridays

Friday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th - Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Service (NCLS) – 2:00pm-4:00pm

NCLS provides support to Norfolk residents experiencing financial hardship or crisis. The service works with individuals and families to identify immediate support needs, improve financial resilience, maximise income, access benefits and grants, manage essential household costs and reduce the risk of ongoing hardship. Support may include financial assessments, budgeting advice, benefit support, signposting to specialist services, and coordinated assistance with housing, utilities, food insecurity, debt and other welfare concerns.

Up and coming events and activities

SEND café @ Dereham Library will be open on Monday 5th October, 1.30pm-2.30pm hosted by Family Action, Norfolk and Waveney Autism / ADHD Support Services.



Thetford SEND Parent & Carer Cafe @ Thetford Library, Wednesday 28th October 1:30pm-2:30pm with Family Action, organized by Breckland Family Hubs.



Community and Partnership (C&P) team reserves the right to cancel event due to circumstances beyond C&P's control or not reasonably anticipated by C&P.



Messy[®]

Church

at St Mary's

Sat 10th Oct: 10am-12
Sat 14th Nov: 10am-12
Sat 12th Dec: 10am-12

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

Kids



Norfolk
County Council

Old Buckenham

In Person Workshops

Tuesday 29th September

Introduction to Neurodiversity

Tuesday 6th October

Behaviour

Tuesday 13th October

Demand Avoidance (PDA)

Thursday 20th October

Parental Resilience

10.30am – 12.30pm

Old Buckenham Village Hall

Abbey Road

Old Buckenham

Norfolk

NR17 1PU

Email
sally.macgregor@kids.org.uk for
more info



Scan here to book



Kids



Norfolk
County Council



Norfolk Parent Carer Service

Autumn Term Online Workshops



Tuesday 22nd September Demand Avoidance

10.30am – 12.30pm

Sunday 4th October Eating Challenges 2pm – 4pm

Wednesday 7th October Eating Challenges 11am – 1pm

Wednesday 14th October Sleep 10.30am – 12.30am

Sunday 25th October Demand Avoidance 2pm – 4pm

Sunday 8th November Behaviour 2pm – 4pm

Friday 20th November Behaviour 10.30am – 12.30pm

Sunday 22nd November Sleep 2pm – 4pm

Monday 23rd November Resilience 11am – 1pm

Sunday 29th November Resilience 2pm – 4pm

**Scan here for
booking form:**



**Join us online - just
scan the code and
choose your dates!**

**Email
sally.macgregor
@kids.org.uk
for more info**





**Swaffham
Community
Centre**

Managed by Iceni Partnership

Discover our *new* ...

SEND Friendly Room

- Large touchscreen monitor
- Soothing, soft colours and furnishings
- Acoustic panels to reduce echo
- Colour changing mood lighting

Adaptable space for meetings,
training and events.

Contact us to discuss
affordable rates of hire.



01760 722 800



icenipartnership.co.uk



@iceniswaffham



Reduce waste by getting **FREE** food !

Come along to the Community Fridge from
9:30am-11am Tuesday to Friday. We
redistribute surplus food from
supermarkets for **FREE** to stop it from going
to waste.

Find out more at
facebook.com/swaffhamcommunityfridge



Reducing Waste.
Supporting Our Community.

