



Squirrel Class Newsletter

Autumn term 2025

Welcome back to school and to Squirrel Class. We are looking forward to having the children back in class and having lots of fun together. Please take time to read this newsletter carefully - this is longer than usual and includes additional information explaining how the school day will look from September. We will be having parent drop-ins after school again this year, details to follow soon.

Teaching

The class will be taught by Mrs Boote, with support from Mrs Ormes. Mr Boote will be teaching the class all day on a Monday and Mr Brown will be teaching the class on Wednesday afternoon. This is to cover Mrs Boote's planning and SEN time and they will see the children out on these days.

If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to a member of staff at the beginning or end of the day. Alternatively, you can email using the office email (office@ashill.norfolk.sch.uk) or ring the school and request a phone call back.

Beginning and end of the school day

In the mornings, we will be using an extended start allowing the children to filter in. Please arrive between 8.45am and 8.55am, say goodbye to your child near to the adventure play equipment and they will go into school through the cloakroom door. Mr Boote will be on duty on a Monday and Mrs Boote will be on duty the rest of the week to welcome the children into school.

We finish at 3.15pm and we ask you to come and wait on the playground near to the hall door, a member of squirrel class will send your child out to you. Please let us know if someone different is collecting your child, either in person or by phone to the school office. **Please do not let your child play on the playground climbing frame before or after school.**

What your child needs in school

- To come in **school uniform** each day including appropriate school shoes.
- A **book bag or small backpack** will be enough to send reading books home in.
- A **named water bottle** and a **packed lunch** if your child is not having a hot dinner.
- A **pair of wellies** to store in school for outdoor play. These will need to remain in school ideally throughout the term, however if you do require them at home for weekends, please ensure they are returned on a Monday morning. We will continue to use our outside learning spaces throughout the year.
- A **coat**, a waterproof one during milder weather but as the weather gets colder make sure your child has a warm coat (and hats, gloves and scarves if you wish) as we will be spending as much time outside as possible.
- We will provide all the stationery your child needs so **no pencil cases or toys/ books from home should be sent in, in case they are damaged or get lost.**

Reading

Please listen to your child read as often as possible at home. Send your child's reading book and record book in daily (even if your child has not finished their reading book). This will allow us to read with them each day in school and to change your child's reading book when needed.

We will be continuing our reading reward scheme, and a letter will follow with further details. We will send home a reading record for you to record each time your child reads.

PE is on Wednesdays

On a Wednesday, please send your child into school wearing their clean PE kit. As outlined in the school prospectus, we ask that your child wears a PE t-shirt in their house colour and **black or dark coloured shorts**. Be aware when the weather permits PE lessons will be outside so your child will need a **dark coloured** tracksuit and **dark coloured** hoodie/ sweatshirt as the weather gets colder. Please do not send your child into school in lighter coloured tracksuits as these easily become marked by whiteboard pens (which doesn't wash out!). Make sure they have a pair of sturdy trainers (plimsolls are not appropriate on the field, especially if it is damp or wet!). Please refer to our uniform guidance if you require any further clarification. **Earrings need to be removed for PE for your child's safety**. If possible, make sure your child is not wearing their earrings on PE days or they must be able to remove them independently.

Phonics and Spelling

Year 1

We will be teaching new sounds each week; at the beginning of term your child will bring home a phonics booklet with all the sounds they are going to learn (like their sounds folder in Bumblebee class). We will be revising the block 3 sounds during the first few weeks before moving onto the block 5 sounds. When the new block 5 sounds are being taught, two new sounds will be covered each week.

Year 2

Each week as part of spelling lessons, children will have a list of spellings to learn, and these are tested on Wednesdays. The spellings will be linked to the work in spellings sessions each week - please help your child to learn these as it really helps them with their writing. Spellings will be sent home on a sheet, and these are for practice at home, and these do not need to be returned to school. We will share their spelling test results with you each week.

What can you do to help?

- Regularly listen to your child read their school reading book and record this in their reading record.
- Practice their phonic sounds and tricky words with them (Year 1).
- Support your child in learning their weekly spellings (Year 2)

Use our class pages and curriculum pages on the school website to find out more about the topics your child will be learning about in class.

