

Ashley Road, Walton on Thames KT12 1HX

25th September 2026

“ Love others as we
love ourselves ”

Headteacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see the children properly back in the swing of things and settling so positively into the new school year. Classrooms have been buzzing with learning and there is a real sense of enthusiasm across the school.

Our assembly theme this term is Care. Through the story of the Good Samaritan, the children have been thinking deeply about what it means to care for others and how even the smallest acts of kindness can make a significant difference. It has been heartening to hear their reflections on the many ways they show care towards their friends, families and wider community.

There has also been a wonderful democratic spirit around school as children voted for their House Captains. It takes a huge amount of courage to stand in front of your peers and ask them to vote for you, so I would like to say a huge well done to everyone who put themselves forward and tried their very best. Regardless of the outcome, every candidate demonstrated confidence, resilience and commitment to their house team. A special congratulations goes to those who were elected. Your house teams have placed their trust in you, and I know you will do a fantastic job representing them throughout the year.

Alongside all the hard work in classrooms, there has been plenty of fun too. Our school Conker Competition brought lots of excitement, friendly rivalry and laughter as children and staff joined in this traditional autumn challenge. Events such as these help create lasting memories and strengthen the sense of community that makes our school such a special place.

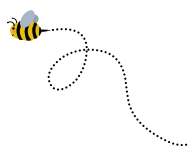
Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended our recent Phonics Workshops and Reading Café. These sessions provided an opportunity to share how families can support their child's early reading skills at home and to explain the approaches we use to teach reading in school. Working together is one of the most effective ways to help children develop confidence and enjoyment in reading. We are already planning a number of further workshops and information sessions, and details of these will be shared with you shortly.

I would like to remind everyone of the importance of children wearing the correct school uniform and taking pride in their appearance, both in school and when representing our school within the community. Smart presentation reflects our high expectations and helps foster a sense of belonging and pride in our school. Thank you to all the parents and carers who are supporting staff in reinforcing these expectations.

Finally, in line with Benedict's Law, we have carefully reviewed all our allergy and food policies and procedures. I can confirm that we have emergency 'epipen' devices and that all staff have been trained in their use. We have always been careful with our food service arrangements and children with food allergies have always had a Healthcare Plan. We have also always asked that junior children only bring fruit and vegetable snacks. If your child has any allergy including food, milk, animals and school have not been informed, please email parents@ashley.surrey.sch.uk.

I would also like to remind parents the importance of not sending your child to school with any snack or packed lunch items that **contains any sesame, nuts or kiwi**. We have children in school with severe allergies to these items. Lunch products such as sushi, bagels, seeded breads may contain sesame seeds so please can we ask that you **do not send** these items into school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Ratcliff
Headteacher



IMPORTANT NOTE

Please can we ask parents to be mindful when making packed lunches for your child/ren that we are a **NUT, KIWI, SESAME FREE** school.

We have children with **severe allergies** in school so it is very important that we avoid any foods with these ingredients.

Please check any **sushi, bread rolls, and bagels** that they do not have any sesame seeds on it. Please no chocolate spread. And please check any snack bars or any pasta ingredients that they do not contain any traces of nuts or sesame before you send it in for your child's packed lunch.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

MEDICAL & DENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Please could we politely request routine medical and dental appointments are booked outside of the school day or during the holidays to minimise the impact on learning. If this is unavoidable, please book an appointment as close as possible to the end of the day. We will require to see proof of your appointment to avoid the absence as being recorded as unauthorised. Thank you for your support.



EVERY SESSION COUNTS



SEED & WEEDS UPDATE

A huge thank you for your continued support of our Farmers' Markets since they began in April. Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful school community, we have raised an incredible £1,100! Every penny is reinvested back into the project, helping us purchase seeds, plants and resources so that Seeds and Weeds can continue to grow and flourish.

We are delighted to share that Seeds and Weeds is back bigger and better than ever this year! Over the summer, our dedicated team worked hard harvesting fruit and vegetables from the school garden and transforming them into delicious homemade produce.

This week, we were pleased to offer a selection of homemade chutneys and jams made from our abundant figs, pears and quince, alongside tasty honey flapjacks made using honey collected from our very own Ashley bees. 🐝🍯

You may remember that our card machine was not working during the honey sale a few weeks ago. Several families kindly took their honey home and agreed to make payment later through the school office. Thank you to everyone who has already settled their payment. If you still need to do so, payments can be made by card at the school office.

We are also proud to be supporting the Year 3 Big Soup Share on Thursday 24th September. Produce grown in our garden, including pumpkin, squash, beetroot, chard, spinach, courgettes and herbs, will be used to make delicious soup. All money raised will be donated to Elmbridge Rentstart, a local charity supporting people in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We look forward to sharing more homegrown produce, exciting gardening projects and seasonal harvests with you throughout the year. 🌻🍏🌿

**We are
a sesame,
kiwi,
Nut Free
School**



As the weather begins to change, it would be helpful if children could keep a spare pair of trainers in school. These can be used on the field during breaktimes, lunchtimes, and for the Daily Mile.



ASHLEY NEWSLETTER

CARE - CHALLENGE - EXPLORE

Year updates during the past fortnight

Reception

The reception classes have had lots of fun learning outdoors. Our new play equipment, the basket ball hoop, gives children an opportunity to practise hand eye coordination and turn taking skills. They have also enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen, riding the tricycles and building with the big blocks this week. We are making the most of the autumnal weather!



Year 1

Following on from the extraordinary event of Beegu (an alien from outer space) crash landing on our playground, Year 1 have been making every effort to make her feel welcome. We wrote her some postcards last week, and this week, we have been mapping out our school. This works well alongside our geography, where we have enjoyed exploring maps on google earth. It has also helped prepare us to write a recount of our walk around school. We are sure that, should she decide to visit us again in the future, Beegu will now know some great places to visit around Ashley school.



Year 2

This week year 2 have been using their skills and knowledge of yoga poses to create an image inspired by Keith Haring.



Year 3

This week Year 3 have been very lucky to visit St Mary's church in Walton as part of our RE learning. Each class took part in small group discussions with members of the church community, focusing on the timeline of the bible and the 'big story' that God shows us through the many stories written. We looked deeper into some of Jesus' parables and what the messages within can teach us about how we can best live our lives. The pupils had a great time and we had many 'big questions' from the thought-provoking experience.



Key Email Addresses

We actively encourage parents and carers to communicate with us and sometimes there are important messages to share with key people. Urgent items should always be telephoned through to the school office but below are some of the most useful email addresses for parents to share information

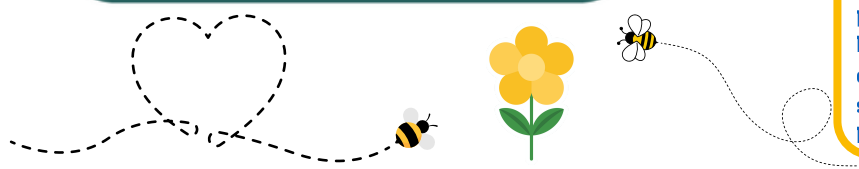
parents@ashley.surrey.sch.ukvia office
head@ashley.surrey.sch.ukheadteacher
dsl@ashley.surrey.sch.uksafeguarding concerns
senco@ashley.surrey.sch.ukSEND concerns
hslw@ashley.surrey.sch.uk ...Home School Link Worker



Follow Us!



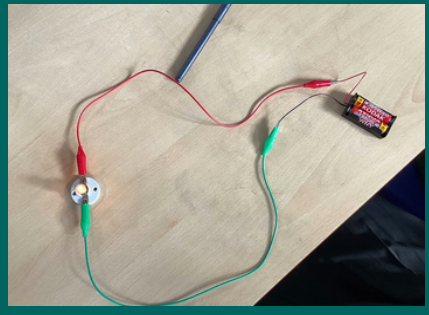
Keep up to date with the amazing things our pupils are experiencing and learning by following our social media pages.



Year updates during the past Fortnight

Year 4

This week, we continued our learning about electricity by investigating simple electrical circuits. Using batteries, wires and light bulbs, the children worked practically to create a complete circuit and make their bulb light up. We then extended our investigation by exploring how we could change the brightness of the bulb and what happened when additional bulbs were included in the circuit. The children really enjoyed testing their ideas and seeing the results first-hand.



Year 5

Year 5 have practiced different collaging techniques in preparation for their collaborative collages in Art. We have focused on the work of the famous Japanese artist, Hokusai. They are going to use a variety of different techniques and textures to mirror some of his most famous pieces.



Year 6

Year 6 had a brilliant time at Henley Fort - we learned how to put out fires, set up roadblocks, march and lead everyone safely to an Air Raid shelter in the dark and avoiding the German spies! The Anderson shelter was noisy; the Morrison shelter was cramped. The rifles were far heavier than we expected but they were definitely better than the 'broomsticks'. We learned so much and it was really good fun practising bayonet drill and throwing grenades. The climb up the hill to the fort was worth it.



After School Club

After School Club have had a busy start to the term. We have been celebrating what makes us marvellous and enjoying the colours of the rainbow. This has included art, craft and DT activities. We now have new table tennis equipment, which is proving incredibly popular with the children. Also the new sports provision for After School children has been working well and the children have enjoyed it. You will have been informed which day your child is taken part this half term. If your child is not participating, there will be another opportunity next half term. Please keep an eye out for our next edition of the After School Club newsletter, which will be out shortly.



Collective Worship

Big Questions Collective Worship

Rev Jonny and Rev Kirsty joined us on Monday to field and discuss more of our big questions. Questions included "If you had a magic wand what would you fix in Walton on Thames?" to "Why is there suffering in the world?". It was fantastic to see all year groups listening so sensibly and to see the sparks of curiosity being ignited in them! Watch this space for new questions!



NEW

For Ashley families and the Walton Community

Toddler Group

Enjoy a drink & a chat while your 0-4yr olds play



Sign up for Thursdays 9-11am

@ Walton Baptist Church

supported by  **waltoncharity**
Building a thriving Elmbridge community

CARE CHALLENGE EXPLORE



THAMESMEAD SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

Thursday 8th October 2026

5.30pm - 8.00pm

Headteacher's talks at 5.30, 6.15, 7.00, 7.45pm



We warmly invite parents and primary school students to visit our successful school

You do not need to book to attend but will need a ticket on arrival if you would like to go to the Headteacher's Talk. More details are on our website.

Thamesmead School, Manygate Lane, Shepperton, TW17 9EE

Tel: 01932 219400

Email: info@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk

Website: www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk

Morning tours of the school are also bookable via the school office

"I wanted to say how impressed my husband and I continue to be with the quality of care provided by Thamesmead. Both of my children are so happy within the school environment" – Year 7 & Year 9 parent

"We never had any doubt choosing Thamesmead was the right decision. We're proud to be part of the Thamesmead community." – Year 8 parent

"As parents, we see not just the academic progress, but the confidence, independence and character the school helps to develop in its students" – Year 9 parent.

NEW OFSTED REPORT CARD AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE



Could you or a relative spare a little time to support our least confident readers? Giving just an hour or two a week can make a massive difference to a child's confidence and love for reading.

If you would like to help, please email Mrs Lewis via the school office to find out more.

Thank you for your support!

AUTUMN 1 2026-27

Dates

Stay in the loop with the details of the below dates on our school website calendar. We also share further information in our bi-weekly newsletter, our weekly year group emails and our social media platforms @ashleyschoolUK

Week 1: 1/9/26

1/9 - INSET (no pupils)
2/9 - INSET (no pupils)
3/9 - CHILDREN RETURN!
YR Home Visits
4/9 - YR Home Visits
5/9 - YR Home Visits

Week 2: 7/9/26

7/9 - Y2 Meet the Teacher PM
8/9 - Reception Start (Summer born)
9/9 - Y1 Meet the Teacher AM
9/9 - Reception Start (Spring born)
10/9 - Reception Start (Autumn born)
11/9 - All Reception Start

Week 3: 14/9/26

14/9 - Y6 Henley Fort
14/9 - Open the Book Play
15/9 - Y6 Henley Fort
15/9 - Y5 Meet the Teacher AM
16/9 - Y6 Henley Fort
16/9 - Y3 Meet the Teacher AM
17/9 - Y4 Meet the Teacher AM

Week 4: 21/9/26

22/9 - Reception Meet the Teacher PM
23/9 - Y1 Reading Cafe PM
24/9 - CONKER COMPETITION
24/9 - Y2 Reading Cafe PM
25/9 - SLT Coffee Morning AM

Week 5: 28/9/26

28/9 - Y6 Bikeability
28/9 - Open the Book Play
29/9 - Y6 Bikeability
29/9 - Y5 River Walk
30/9 - Y6 Bikeability
01/10 - Y6 Bikeability
01/10 - Church Harvest Festival
02/10 - Y6 Bikeability

Week 6: 05/10/26

5/10 - Y6 Bikeability
6/10 - Harvest Festival
6/10 - Y6 Bikeability
7/10 - Y6 Bikeability
7/10 - Y4 Sayers croft
8/10 - Y6 Bikeability
8/10 - Y4 Sayers croft
9/10 - Y6 Bikeability
9/10 - Y4 Sayers croft
9/10 - Y5 Great works PM

Week 7: 14/10/24

13/10 - Y3 Great Work PM
13/10 - Parent Consultations (Virtual)
14/10 - Prospective Parent Tour (AM)
14/10 - Y6 Evacuee Day & Y6 Great Work PM
14/10 - Prospective Parent Tour (PM)
15/10 - Parent Consultations (Virtual)
16/10 - SLT Coffee Morning AM
16/10 - Tree Day- Wear Green
16/10 - Y4 Great Works PM
16/10 - Whole School VIP EVENT

Meet the Teacher: Parents are welcomed for a 45min meeting with teachers from the year group to find out about expectations for the year and answer any questions. Slides shared after.
AM: 9.15 - 10am. PM: 2.30 - 3.15pm

Conker Competition: Children are invited to bring in a conker (horse chestnut) on a string to play as a whole school in the afternoon. Reception roll their conkers throughout the day!

Harvest Festival: Y2-Y6 visit St Mary's Church for Harvest Festival. Parent walkers will be needed across all classes.

YR Introduction to Phonics: Parents invited to hear about how we begin the reading journey and support all pupils to learn to read.

Y1 Phonics & Reading Cafe: Parents invited to hear about how we continue support reading through phonics plus time in the classroom, reading!

Our Reading Approach: A parent workshop about our approach to reading across the school Aimed at Y2+.

Prospective Parent Tours: Sign up online via our website. Current parents welcome for tours too!

VIP Event: After school until 4pm. Come and see your child's classroom and their learning so far.

Parent Consultations: Virtual and info on how to sign up emailed via office.

Great Works: At the end of a learning theme, children are able to pass on what they know to others - students become the masters - or they make a change to our community or environment. Be prepared to take part! Not all year groups will perform to parents each half term.

Leadership Coffee Meet: Presentation and coffee with the leadership team.

CARE CHALLENGE EXPLORE



ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

UPDATED TERM DATES 2026 – 2027



Children do not attend school on INSET days

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Term starts – Children return	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
Half term	Monday 19 th October 2026 – Friday 30 th October 2026
Children return	Monday 2 nd November
Term ends	Friday 18 th December 2026 - School finishes at 1.30pm
Christmas holidays	Monday 21 st December 2025 – Friday 1 st January 2027
SCHOOL CLOSED	Tuesday 1 st September (INSET DAY) Wednesday 2 nd September (INSET DAY)

SPRING TERM 2027

Term starts – Children return	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Half term	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2027
Children return	24 th February 2027
Term ends	Thursday 25 th March 2027 - School finishes at 1.30pm
Easter holiday	Monday 29 th March 2027 – Friday 9 th April 2027
SCHOOL CLOSED	Monday 4 th January (INSET DAY) Monday 22 nd and Tuesday 23 rd February (GST INSET DAYS)

SUMMER TERM 2027

Term starts – Children return	Monday 12 th April 2027
Half term	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 ^h June 2027
Children return	7 th June 2027
Term ends	Friday 23 rd July 2027 – School finishes at 1.30pm
SCHOOL CLOSED	Monday 26 th July (INSET), Tuesday 27 th July (INSET), Wednesday 28 th July 2027 (INSET)



Harvest appeal

Help support our food projects this Harvest

In Harvest 2025 we distributed over 500kgs of food which supported 2,850 people, 1,164 were children.

Donate food



Donate items from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community via the Foodbank and Pantry.



Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food.

Shopping list

Tinned meat & fish

Pasta and pasta sauce

Coffee & hot chocolate

Milk (UHT)

Biscuits and chocolate

Deodorant

Shampoo

Shower gel

Toothpaste

Washing up liquid

Toilet roll

waltonhersham.foodbank.org.uk





Pedal more – make the pledge at
www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek

Cycle to School Week 2026

5th October to 9th October

Join in to celebrate the fun of cycling and experience a quick and healthy way to travel to school.

WalkWheelCycleTrust is the charity making it possible for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle.

To find out more, please contact:

e:toby.hopkins@walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk **w:**
www.walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk



Walk Wheel Cycle Trust is a registered charity in the UK
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and 20206824 (Republic of Ireland)
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SURREY
ARTS

SURREY ARTS YOUNG SINGERS (North)

An inclusive choir for children
aged 7 to 13 of all abilities

Tuesdays 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Molesey Adult Learning Centre,
KT8 2LG

For more information contact Surrey Arts:

T: 01483 519303

E: surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk

surreycc.gov.uk/music

