

Ashley Road, Walton on Thames KT12 1HX 8th May 2026

“  
Love others as we  
love ourselves  
”

## Headteacher Message



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a great long weekend and were able to enjoy the Bank Holiday with your families. It has been another busy and successful fortnight.

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge congratulations to all of the children who participated in the Mini London Marathon. They truly made us proud with their determination, enthusiasm and excellent sportsmanship. It was wonderful to see them embodying our school values so clearly — showing courage in their effort, care for one another, and curiosity as they embraced a new challenge. Due to the overwhelming enthusiasm and success this year, we will definitely be entering the Mini Marathon ballot to secure more places for 2027, giving even more children the opportunity to take part in this fantastic event.

We were also delighted to welcome the Open the Book team for their first interactive collective worship. Volunteers from our local churches brought the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den to life in a lively and engaging way. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to reflect on being courageous bravery and faith. We very much look forward to future visits.

Last Wednesday afternoon, I spent time with Reverend Jonny at a church event, designed to bring us together and explore themes for the next academic year. We had a productive discussion about how we can work more closely as a school with the church, further strengthening this important partnership for the benefit of our children and wider community.

Our Year 3 pupils have been making excellent use of our onsite swimming pool, and it has been a pleasure to see their growing confidence in the water. The progress they have made has been fantastic, and they should be very proud of their achievements.

On the professional development front, Mrs Athersuch and I attended a SEND White Paper Consultation event with NASEN and Surrey. This was a valuable opportunity to engage with current developments in SEND provision and contribute to important discussions that will help shape future support for children with additional needs. We remain committed to ensuring that all children receive the inclusive, high-quality education they deserve.

Next week, our brilliant Year 6 pupils will be tackling their SATs, and I want each and everyone of them to know just how proud we are of the hard work they've put in. They've done everything they can to prepare, and we're committed to making next week as calm and supportive as possible to help them feel confident and ready.

It's also important to remember that SATs are only one small snapshot. They don't measure creativity, kindness, humor or courage – and those are just some of the qualities we value most in our children. We believe in every single one of you.

Have a great weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone rested and ready for an exciting week ahead!

Mrs Ratcliff

### LONDON MINI MARATHON

On 26 April, Ashley School was proudly represented by ten courageous pupils who participated in the Mini London Marathon. We would like to extend our sincere congratulations once again to each of them for their commitment, determination and for successfully completing the run.

## SUMMER 1 2025-26

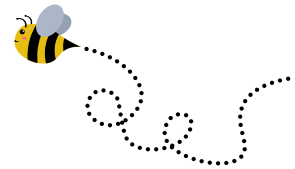
# Dates

Stay in the loop with the details of the below dates on our school website calendar. You can subscribe to this calendar to stay up to date! We also share further information in our bi-weekly newsletter, our weekly year group emails and our social media platforms – @ashleyschoolUK

Week 2: 20/4/26	Week 3: 27/4/26	Week 4: 04/5/26	Week 5: 11/05/26
20 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> - Y3 Swimming 20 <sup>th</sup> - Y2 Brooklands Museum 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Y4 Bikeability 23 <sup>rd</sup> - St George's Day (uniform) 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Y3-Y4 cricket world cup event 25 <sup>th</sup> - Mini Marathon London	27 <sup>th</sup> - 1st - Y3 Swimming 28 <sup>th</sup> - Y5 Church Visit (Time TBC) 30 <sup>th</sup> - Eco Day KS1 (World Caretakers)	04 <sup>th</sup> - BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED 05 <sup>th</sup> - 08 <sup>th</sup> Y3 Swimming 08 <sup>th</sup> - 08 <sup>th</sup> Y3 Walkability 08 <sup>th</sup> - Y4 Egyptian Day 08 <sup>th</sup> - Y3 Woodpecker mini Olympics - Cleves 08 <sup>th</sup> - David Attenborough's 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday	11 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> - Y6 SATS WEEK 13 <sup>th</sup> - Y5 Football Festival at SWPS 15 <sup>th</sup> - Y6 Picnic on the field
	Week 6: 18/5/26 18 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Book Fair 19 <sup>th</sup> - Y1 Great Works (Parents) 20 <sup>th</sup> - Y4 Great Works AM (Parents) 20 <sup>th</sup> - Y5 Great Works PM (Parents) 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Deadline to review SSP	Week 7: 25/05/26 <b>HALF TERM!</b>	

INSET DAYS 2025-2026 - School closed to pupils

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July



# Year updates during the past fortnight

## Reception

This week, Reception explored the tale of Little Red Riding Hood, using expressive story voices to bring the characters to life. The children showed great creativity by creating detailed story maps to track the journey through the woods to Grandma's cottage. These maps helped us practice sequencing events and building new vocabulary during our retelling. It's been wonderful to see our little storytellers gaining so much confidence and imagination!



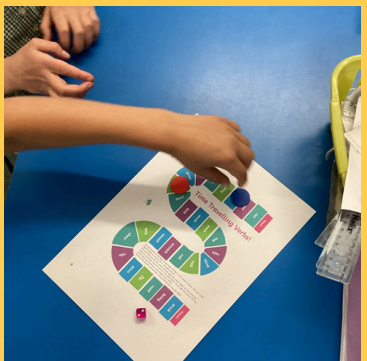
## Year 1

We owe a huge thank you to Mr McConnell who gave up his Tuesday afternoon to educate Year 1 on the effect of exercise on our mind and bodies! He spoke about the Big 5 of South Africa and then related them to the Big 5 for our bodies, Discipline (having control over our body and mind), Food, Water, Rest and Exercise. The children really enjoyed their mini bootcamp (mostly the music) which they went on to use to write a recount in English using time adverbials and description of their feelings.



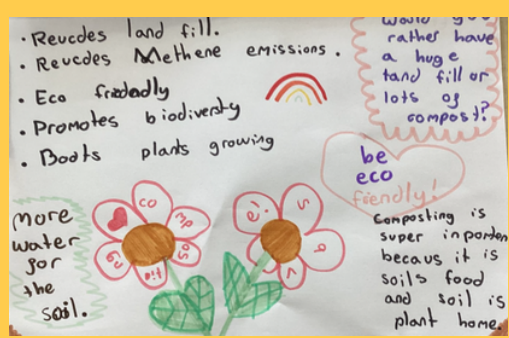
## Year 2

This past fortnight year 2 have been enjoying English lessons where they have been exploring past tense verbs using board games and role play.



## Year 3

This week in year 3 has been busy start to the summer term! Swimming has had a successful start for the children, also a great opportunity for the children to practice a lifesaving skill. Thank you for bringing in compost for our world caretaker project in science. We cannot wait to show you what we get up to during this project. So far, we have been looking at why composting is important. We made some lovely posters we wanted to share!



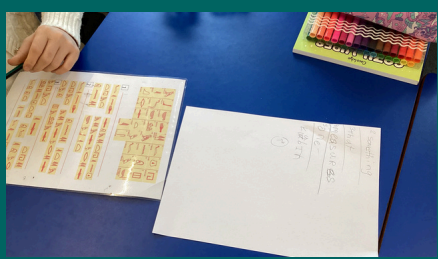
say hello to the new African snails in town- Woodpecker class welcomes Salt, Garlic & Proton



## Year updates during the past Fortnight

### Year 4

The Year 4 children demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm and engagement during their themed day, approaching each activity with curiosity and dedication. They worked collaboratively and showed excellent focus throughout, contributing positively to the overall atmosphere. It was particularly pleasing to observe their confidence and willingness to participate, as well as the enjoyment they clearly derived from the experience. The day was a valuable and enriching opportunity that was thoroughly appreciated by all involved.



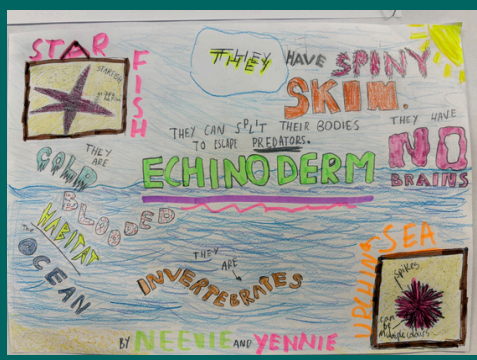
### Year 5

Year 5 had a wonderful afternoon last week planting peas and propagating mint as part of our lessons about sexual and asexual reproduction in plants. The children got stuck in and loved having another opportunity to be out in the sun. We will monitor the growth of our plants over the next few weeks before the children return home with them. Thanks, Mrs Pearson, for giving the children opportunities like this!



### Year 6

Year 6 have been looking at classification in science. Using their taxonomy skills, the children created posters for the different animal groups, highlighting their characteristics. They were puzzled by the duck-billed platypus and how on earth would you classify such a wonderful individual as David Attenborough?



## SEEDS & WEEDS UPDATE!

Last week we proudly held our second Ashley Farmers Market stall, and it was a wonderful success. Parents donated generously for the fresh produce grown by our Seeds and Weeds Club—beans, radishes, spring onions and fragrant herbs. Thanks to these contributions, we've been able to buy new supplies, including extra seeds, so the children can grow even more.

Thank you for sending in your empty milk bottles — they're already being put to great use! Our Seeds and Weeds Club has been busy turning them into containers for homemade nettle fertiliser. This natural plant feed is made simply by soaking stinging nettles in water until they release their nutrients. Nettles are packed with goodness like nitrogen, iron and magnesium, which help plants grow strong and healthy. We'll be selling the fertiliser soon to support more gardening projects across our school community.

A huge thank you to all our families who have been sending in their food waste. Your contributions are helping us create rich, healthy compost that will nourish the fruit, vegetables and herbs our children are growing. It's a simple act that's making a big difference, and we're so grateful for your support in helping our school garden thrive.

**What can I COMPOST?**

<p><b>Greens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Fruit and vegetables</li> <li> Uncooked food</li> <li> Tea bags</li> <li> Coffee grounds</li> <li> Grass cuttings</li> <li> Old flowers</li> <li> Plants</li> </ul>	<p><b>Browns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Egg shells</li> <li> Cardboard</li> <li> Paper</li> <li> Straw and hay</li> <li> Twigs and hedge clippings</li> <li> Natural fibres</li> </ul>	<p><b>No thanks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Cooked food</li> <li> Meat</li> <li> Fish</li> <li> Dairy</li> <li> Dog poo</li> <li> Pet litter</li> <li> Nappies</li> </ul>
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The charity Papaya came in to year 5 to discuss the concerns about having too much screen time and addictive nature social media has. The children were flabbergasted to learn of the time people lose as a result of their phone use and were encouraged to spread the word to family and friends. The children each left with three intentions they would try to maintain in order to be safe and have a healthy balance with technology.

**PAPAYA**

- 1 hr a day = 2.9 years
- 2 hrs a day = 5.8 years
- 3 hrs = 8.7 years
- 4hrs = 11.6 years
- 6hrs = 17.4 years
- 8 hrs = 23.2 years

Come and visit our next Farmers Market after school on Thursday 21st May. Please remember that we can only accept cash donations. Once again, thank you for your support!



# ASHLEY NEWSLETTER

## CARE - CHALLENGE - EXPLORE

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

**3 BOOKS FOR THE PRICE OF 2**

# COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

and earn **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

**GO ALL IN.**

From Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

After school on the school playground (weather dependant)

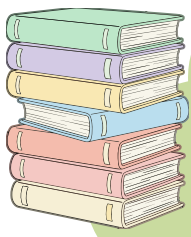
National Year of Reading 2026

This week, our amazing kitchen team transformed lunchtime into a truly unforgettable experience with a very special "David Attenborough" themed lunch for the children

### 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.uk .....via office  
 head@ashley.surrey.sch.uk .....headteacher  
 dsl@ashley.surrey.sch.uk .....safeguarding concerns  
 senco@ashley.surrey.sch.uk .....SEND concerns  
 hslw@ashley.surrey.sch.uk ...Home School Link Worker



Our libraries are missing many books! We kindly ask that you all have a check through your books at home. You'll know if a book belongs to us as it will have the Ashley School stamp inside. If you find any, please send it back to school with your child - they can give it to their class teachers or place it in the Book Return Box in the library no questions asked!



## Sir David Attenborough COMPETITION

To celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday, we are challenging YOU to be come a nature explorer! Information regarding the competition can be found on the weekly message's and Seesaw. Should you not have access to Seesaw, please contact your child's class teacher. Prizes to be won, entries close on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May



## ATTENDANCE FACTS

- Being late for school affects a child's learning too. A child who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of lessons during a year. In summary, low attendance may lead to fewer chances and fewer choices when they are looking for work and developing social relationships later in life
- If a child has 90% attendance that means that he/she is absent for lessons for half a day every week. If their attendance stays at 90% during the academic year he/she will miss 4 weeks of school, which equates to nearly half a term.



This week the Year 3 children completed their walkability. They have learnt how to cross the road safely, the different road signs and the green cross code. Great discussions about road safety and where is suitable places to cross. STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK. The children enjoyed doing this and have had great enjoyment with their activity books and pencils. The instructors gave the school positive feedback on the children's knowledge and attention.