

Ashley Road, Walton on Thames KT12 1HX

24th April 2026

“
Love others as we
love ourselves
”

Headteacher Message



Good afternoon,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back this week, and the school is once again full of energy, smiles and enthusiasm for learning.

As we begin the Summer term, I would like to thank you for your continued support with our school uniform. The children are looking very smart in their Ashley School uniform, which helps to promote a sense of pride and belonging. If a child is not wearing the correct Ashley School uniform, a letter will be sent home to you. If you are ever unsure about what your child should be wearing, please refer to the uniform information on our school website, where clear guidance is available.

A big thank you to everyone who has nurtured their sunflower seed at home and brought it into school. Mrs Pearson and the team are really looking forward to planting them out on the field and seeing whose sunflower grows the tallest — a lovely example of our school community working together.

Next week, we are delighted to welcome the Open the Book team to Ashley. We are very much looking forward to their interactive assemblies, which will bring stories to life and encourage thoughtful reflection in an engaging and child-friendly way.

We would also like to wish the children who are representing Ashley, in the Children's London Marathon this weekend, the very best of luck. What a fantastic achievement to be taking part - we are incredibly proud of you.

Finally, a reminder that children should bring a healthy snack for breaktime each day. Thank you for your continued support in helping us promote healthy habits for all our pupils.

Have a wonderful weekend.
With best wishes,
Mrs Ratcliff



Save the date

Friday 8th May

Student Spotlight

We also discovered that one of our learners has a special connection to Brooklands because of her great grandfather's invention many years ago. Here is Bella R, proudly standing next to the high-speed wind tunnel that William Perring invented in the mid 1900s. This personal link made our visit even more meaningful, as it allowed us to appreciate the rich history through the eyes of someone whose family played a part in it. Bella's story put smiles to the faces of our tour guides!

Parking Reminders

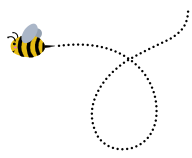
Please could we ask that you are considerate and DO NOT park in front of driveways and block neighbours getting in and out of their houses. DO NOT PARK on grass verges or park on private property.

May we suggest an alternative options of getting to school such as:

- Consider walking, cycling, or using public transport if possible
- Make use of available on-street parking further away from the school, and walk / scooter the remaining distance
- If you need to turn around, use public roads or appropriate turning points, not private property

School Meals Reminder

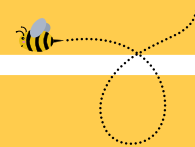
If your child/ren normally has a school meal, please can we remind you to order a school meal in advance via Scopay. Ordering closes on the Friday before and meals cannot be ordered after this time.



Year updates during the past fortnight

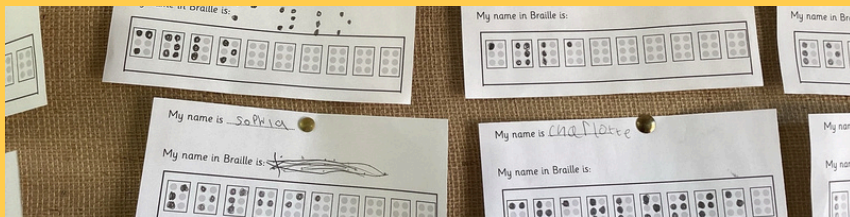
Reception

This week in Reception we have been reading the story of the Three Little Pigs. We have enjoyed wearing masks to role play and re-tell the story. We have built houses out of different materials and tried to blow them down like the big bad wolf.



Year 1

In Year 1, this week we have been learning about Louis Braille and the invention of Braille. We particularly enjoyed decoding some words and we even managed to write our names!



Year 2

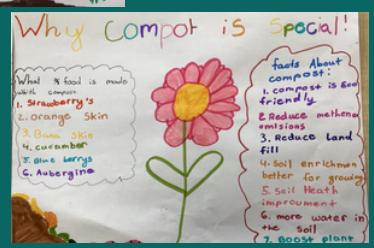
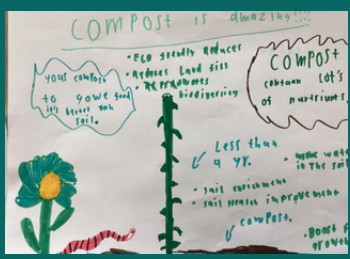
Year 2 had a fantastic visit to Brooklands Museum as part of their history topic, exploring how transport has changed over time. The children learnt about the evolution of Aeroplan's, discovering the remarkable advances that have shaped our world. A highlight of the trip was the chance to sit on Concorde, giving everyone a real sense of just how far technology has come. It was an inspiring day that brought history to life!



Year updates during the past fortnight

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 some of these!



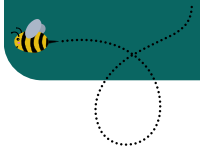
Year 4

We had an incredibly exciting lesson last week as the children explored a range of Ancient Egyptian artefacts. The classroom was buzzing with curiosity and enthusiasm from the moment the items were revealed. The children handled replica artefacts, and worked brilliantly together to investigate what each object might have been used for. Their questions were thoughtful, their observations were sharp, and they showed a genuine fascination for Ancient Egyptian culture. Through this hands-on exploration, the class learned a great deal about daily life in Ancient Egypt. It was wonderful to see them so engaged, and their growing historical knowledge We're looking forward to building on this excitement as we continue our Ancient Egypt topic over the coming weeks.



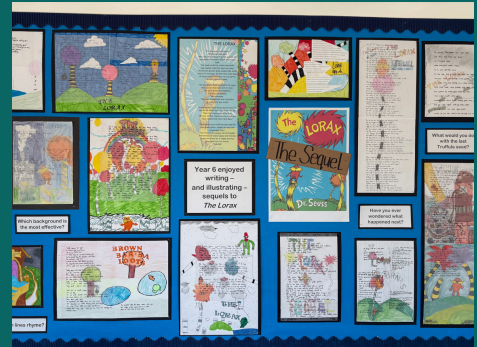
Year 5

Year 5 have been amongst the nature at Ashley and have used a variety of medium (charcoal, oil pastels, crayons, sketch pencil) to create observational drawings in Art. The children showcased wonderful artistic technique as well as patience when using the different mediums. Here are some examples of the fabulous pieces that were created!



Year 6

Year 6 are really proud of their beautifully illustrated and well-written Lorax sequels. The Lorax has an important message about our world and how we can look after it.



PARENT SURVEY

PARENT SURVEY - SEND (but others welcome)

Our work on the PINS Project is coming to a close and although this is the end of the official project for us, many of the initiatives will be continuing as we strive to develop and support our learners with additional needs.

We would welcome your feedback in their final questionnaire:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QHYHFLF>

The survey closes on the 28th April!



SEEDS AND WEEDS NEEDS YOUR HELP

We're excited to let you know that our Seeds and Weeds afterschool club is expanding and we'd love your help.



Composting

If you're able, please save any clean food scraps (fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, eggshells) and garden waste (leaves, grass cuttings, small pruning's) and bring them into school in a compostable bin bag. These can be left in the marked box at the entrance, and our brilliant Seeds and Weeds team will do the rest.



Empty milk bottles

If you have any empty, clean 4-litre milk bottles with their lids, please send them into school and drop them off at the entrance in the marked box.

Jar Rescue Mission

Our Seeds and Weeds team are busy growing, picking, mixing, and making all sorts of tasty produce from the school garden.

If you have any clean glass jars at home (big or small!) with the labels already peeled off, we'd love to have them. Just wash them out, remove the label, and pop them in the marked box at the entrance to the school.

Thank you for joining in with our green-fingered mission and helping our school garden grow!



Online SAFETY

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. The Children's Commissioner for England has published this guide which aims to make conversations around children's digital lives easier and help you support your child with confidence.

The guide for parents and carers for managing children's digital lives:

- Explains common online challenges
- Helps families start and sustain open conversations
- Provides support with setting boundaries
- Includes a checklist of actions and an additional activity pack for children

'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>



There has been real buzz around school lately and its all thanks to our fantastic dancing bee mascot. If you haven't see the dancing bee yet, keep a lookout...you never know where it might be dancing next

Attendance Matters

Every term we monitor and report on pupil attendance. Our maximum allowable absence figure is set at 4%, hence our attendance target is 96%.

Why 96% attendance?

This optimises learning opportunities for your child.
96% attendance equates to 7.5 days off a year.

As a school we want to prepare our pupils for excellent work habits. Regular attendance and excellent punctuality are part of this work.

Attendance figures can flatter to deceive. 90% attendance a year means nearly 4 whole weeks of lessons have been missed.

Did you know?

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.

Low attendance

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.

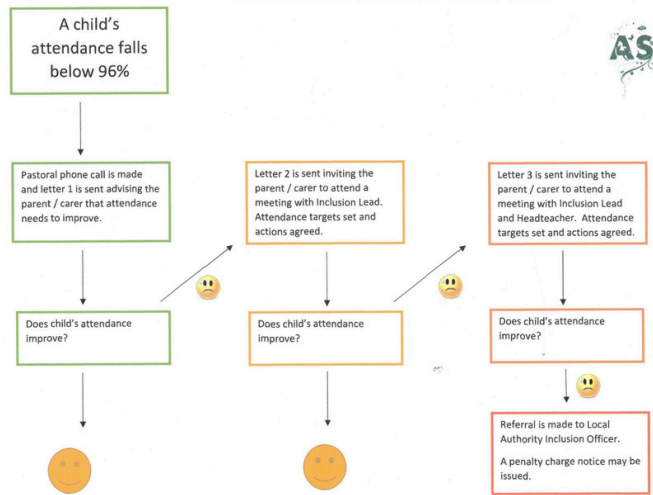
Letters to parents regarding absence

We send out letters to parents whose child's attendance has fallen to 96% or below. This could have been due to a holiday at the beginning of the year or a spell of illness, particularly in the Autumn and Spring terms when the flu and cold bugs are thriving. We don't enjoy sending these letters out, but we hope you understand that we have a duty to alert parents to their child's attendance. Ongoing poor attendance (below 90%) is shared with our Local Authority Inclusion Officer, to whom we report each half-term.

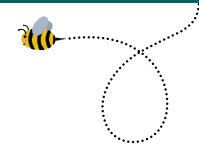
This can lead to an attendance meeting at school or over the phone. The aim of these meetings is to give school, parents and the Inclusion Officer the chance to sit together and look at reasons for absence, the impact this is having, and then discuss ways to improve the situation.

In line with Government and Local Education Authority policy, any holidays taken in school time have to be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Our school is accountable to the DfE and Surrey Local Authority (LA) for attendance.

Attendance Procedure – Flow Chart



If you have any questions about attendance please email parents@ashleycepschool.co.uk or speak to the Attendance lead Ms Clifford



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

20th -24th - Y3 Swimming
 20th - Y2 Brooklands Museum
 22nd -Y4 Bikeability
 23rd - St George's Day (uniform)
 23RD - Y3-Y4 cricket world cup event
 25TH - Mini Marathon London

Week 3: 27/4/26

27th - 1st - Y3 Swimming
 28th - Y5 Church Visit (Time TBC)
 30TH - Eco Day KS1 (World Caretakers)

Week 4: 04/5/26

04th - BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
 05TH - 08TH Y3 Swimming
 06th - 08th Y3 Walkability
 08th - Y4 Egyptian Day
 08th - Y3 Woodpecker mini Olympics - Cleves
 08th - David Attenborough's 100th Birthday

Week 5: 11/05/26

11th - 15th - Y6 SATS WEEK
 13TH - Y5 Football Festival at SWPS
 15th- Y6 Picnic on the field

Week 6: 18/5/26

18th -22nd Book Fair
 19th - Y1 Great Works (Parents)
 20th - Y4 Great Works AM (Parents)
 20th - Y5 Great Works PM (Parents)
 22nd- Deadline to review SSP

Week 7: 25/05/26

HALF TERM!

INSET DAYS 2025-2026 - School closed to pupils

Friday 26th June
 Monday 29th June
 Friday 10th July