



# Ashby Hastings Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Rachel Mckeown

Senior Teacher – Mrs Amy Foster

*“Inspiring minds to foster confidence”*

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## Newsletter

### Spring Term 1 2023/2024

I would like to begin with a warm welcome to Mr Cooper, our new teacher in Class 1. He has settled in wonderfully and the children are already enjoying his fun and interactive teaching style. We are lucky to have him as part of our team!

Our children have been enjoying exciting topics in all classes this term. From becoming Polar Explorers, to delving into historical events, to learning to play the recorder, our curriculum is designed to engage and inspire their young minds. It's truly amazing to see the children's enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge.

I am thrilled to announce that our Forest School area is currently being developed. This outdoor learning space will provide our children with a unique opportunity to connect with nature, learn about the environment and develop valuable life skills. We are eagerly looking forward to its completion and cannot wait for our children to explore and enjoy the area after the half-term break.

I would like to remind all parents about our upcoming Parents' Evenings. These provide a fantastic opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher and discuss their progress, strengths and areas for improvement. Further details and appointment scheduling has been sent through Weduc. Appointment times will be confirmed by the office after half-term.

Keep an eye out for class topic maps that will be sent out at the beginning of next term. These maps will outline the exciting topics and subjects your child will be exploring in class. It's a great way to stay informed and be part of their learning journey.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We truly appreciate the partnership between parents, teachers, and children. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our dedicated staff.

Wishing you all a wonderful and enjoyable half-term break!

Best wishes,  
Rachel Mckeown  
Headteacher

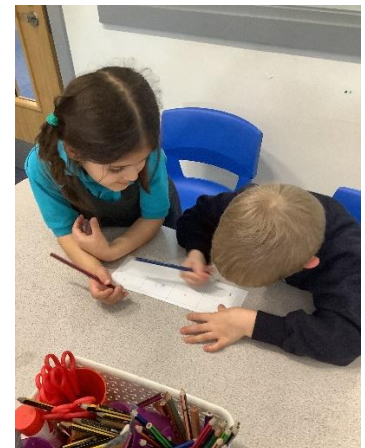
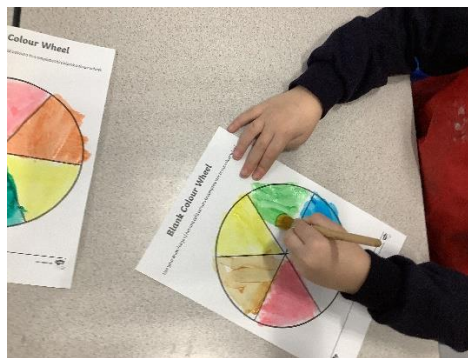
## EYFS



This term, Foundation Stage have been exploring the world around us by noticing the changes that happen in winter. We have found out that some animals have a very long winter sleep as they hibernate through the winter and others migrate to warmer places.

The children have become Polar Explorers, finding out about the different animals that live in both the North and South Pole. The children loved making a picnic to take on their own Artic Adventure! We have finished the term by learning about our own culture, and that of other cultures, by celebrating the Lunar New Year and Shrove Tuesday.

## Class 1



Class 1 have been working incredibly hard since returning to school. We have been exploring colour within our art sessions, looking at how secondary colours can be made, and we have been creating our own pieces of artwork based on the artwork of Mark Rothko. We have also been looking at the groups that animals belong to and have looked at the human body and how powerful our own senses are.

In music sessions, we have been focusing on rhythm and we have been creating our own graphic scores to clap our rhythms that we have made.

In English, Class 1 have been looking at writing a retell of the story "Handa's Surprise", and writing our own poem about animals in a zoo. In maths we have been looking at adding and subtracting numbers within 20. In our afternoon sessions, we have been learning about the lives of Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell and the impact that they have had on nursing. A super busy few weeks!

## Class 2



Spring 1 has been a half-term full of fun and learning! In music, the children have been learning how to play the recorder. It has been so lovely to hear the school buzzing with the sound of recorders being played on a Tuesday afternoon. As the children have been working so hard to play their final piece, 'Water', it is our pleasure to inform you that the recorders can be kept permanently as a reward for all their hard work!



In addition to our normal science curriculum, we have been using resources from the 'James Dyson Foundation' to help give our children an understanding of the future of farming. We have planted our own strawberry crop and in the following half-term we will be exploring how our engineered crop will fare compared to a control crop.

Learning to divide has been a highlight across this half-term. We have explored 'grouping', 'sharing' and have supported this with the use of TT Rockstars. We are all very much looking forward to our Class 2 TT Rockstars day! We cannot wait to see all of the rock stars and wonder who will have the best rock star hair?

# Reading Star Challenge 2024

Your child will have come home with their Reading Star Challenge; we look forward to seeing the pictures of the children completing their challenges, and raising some money for books for our school library along the way!

We can't wait for World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Children are invited to come into school in their pyjamas on this day and bring their favourite bedtime story and a teddy bear.



## Cross Country 2023/2024



Our second North West Leicestershire Cross Country season has come to a close for this year, and we wanted to say a big thank you to all of our fantastic runners who took part, and to their families for helping them to get involved. We had 15 children come along to the races, and they all did brilliantly, demonstrating our school core values of confidence and teamwork in abundance. We are very proud of you all!

## Communication

We aim to make the way that children enter and leave the school buildings at the beginning and end of the school day as safe and harmonious an experience as possible.

Our staff are always on the door at morning drop off and afternoon pick up, and are happy to talk to parents about minor queries or issues that can be addressed quite quickly. More serious or sensitive issues may need to be addressed by making a longer appointment with your child's class teacher or with the Headteacher. You are welcome to make an appointment by contacting the school office by telephone or by sending a Weduc message. All messages sent to the office are treated confidentially, and are always passed on to the relevant member of school staff.

# School Clubs

## Gym Club

Mrs Foster has loved running Gym Club after school on a Monday this term! Well done to everyone from Class 1 and Class 2 who came along.



## Art Club

Mr Cooper is looking forward to Art Club starting after school on Monday 26th February. Thank you for all of the interest in this club; all of the children who have a place have been notified.

These are the clubs that will run in the Summer Term:

Summer Term 1: Athletics Club

Summer Term 2: Board Games Club

All Class 1 and Class 2 children have been given their first choice of club, and the office will send a message through Weduc to confirm remaining spaces closer to the time.

## Lunchtime Clubs

All of our children from all 3 classes have enjoyed being able to get involved with our lunchtime clubs, which have included drawing club, Lego club and film club. Children have made their own choice about whether they would like to attend a lunchtime club each day.

# Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is run by school staff in the school hall from 7.30am to 8.45am every weekday morning. It currently costs £6/session, which includes breakfast (before 8.15am). If your child has used Breakfast Club before, you can book them in up to 5 days in advance through the "Bookings" section of the Weduc app. If you require a place with less than 5 days' notice, please give the school office a call to book.

If you haven't used the Breakfast Club offering before and would like more information, please speak to the school office.

## Maths Information Evening

Thanks to all of our families who came along to the Maths Information Evening in January. It was great to share information about our maths curriculum with you all, and to demonstrate some of the ways that you can support your child with their learning. We have sent round the slides from the three classes' presentations, but please do speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions.



## Internet Safety Day

Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday, 6 February 2024. As a school, we have a duty to deliver Online Safety content across the computing and PSHE curriculum, to all year groups. As part of Safer Internet Day, we focussed on how to use the internet and technology in a safe, considered and respectful way.

A copy of our Online Safety Policy, together with details about our curriculum, can be found on our school website, or paper copies can be requested from the school office.

## Message from the PTA

The PTA wanted to write a big thank you for the overwhelming support you have all given to our two events so far! It has been a brilliant start to the PTA and wonderful to see the school come together while raising lots of money for the school. We are now looking forward to the Quiz on 29th February!

Here are some dates for your diary for future fundraising events:

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Easter egg hunt (after school)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Non-uniform day

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June: Summer picnic (after school)

We are also planning a clothing and toy sale in the summer term. Please keep hold of any donations that you might want to make, and watch this space for details about when and how you can donate.

If you or anyone you know is involved with a local business that might be interested in sponsoring or donating something to school, please do get in contact:

[ashbyhastingspta@gmail.com](mailto:ashbyhastingspta@gmail.com)

Thanks so much for your support. Please do get in contact if you have any ideas or suggestions.

# Attendance

We encourage all pupils to have excellent levels of attendance of above 97%.

Outstanding	Attendance is 97% or higher.
Good	Attendance is 95% or higher.
Requires Improvement	Attendance is below 95%.
Cause for Concern	Attendance is below 90%.

We would like to remind you that planned absences are to be requested through Weduc by completing a Leave of Absence Request. Requests are considered on an individual basis. Only exceptional circumstances will be authorised.

## Dates for your Diary

**26<sup>th</sup> February** – School re-opens after February half-term

**7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day

**8<sup>th</sup> March** - 'Mums' to School – **9am – 10:15am**

**11<sup>th</sup> March** – Parents' Evening – appointments between 3:30pm and 6:00pm

**13<sup>th</sup> March** – Parents' Evening – appointments between 3:30pm and 7:30pm

**22<sup>nd</sup> March** – Easter Workshop – **9am - 10:15am**

**25<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> April** – Easter Holidays (school closed)

**3<sup>rd</sup> May** – Class 1 Assembly – **9:10am start**

**6<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank Holiday (school closed)

**23<sup>rd</sup> May** – Class 2 Assembly - **9:10am start**

**27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> June** – May Half-Term (school closed)

**14<sup>th</sup> June** – 'Dads' to school – **9am – 10:15am**

**21<sup>st</sup> June** – EYFS Class Assembly – **9:10am start**

**25<sup>th</sup> June** – Sports Day – **EYFS - 9:00am start**

**25<sup>th</sup> June** – Sports Day – **Class 1 and Class 2 - 1:45pm start**

**9<sup>th</sup> July** – Last day of term