



Ashby Hastings Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Rachel Mckeown

Senior Teacher – Mrs Amy Foster

“Inspiring minds to foster confidence”

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Newsletter 2025/2026 Autumn Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start we've had to our new academic year here at Ashby Hastings! I would like to begin with a warm welcome to our new starters who have seamlessly settled into school life. It is great to see how quickly they have settled in – it really does feel like they've always been part of our school family.

What a busy first half term we have had! It has been great to see all children embrace school life after the summer break. Classrooms are full of learning, enthusiasm and great friendships. We are delighted to currently have 149 pupils on school roll from EYFS to Year 5.

Thank you to everyone that attended our recent Harvest Festivals. I am sure you will agree our children shone with their incredible confidence and singing talent. We were blown away by your generous donations for Ashby Food Bank – Thank you!

Recently our Class 1 and Class 2 children participated in multi-skills and multi-sports festivals, engaging wonderfully with pupils from other local primary schools. These experiences are invaluable for building skills, confidence, and inter-school relationships.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our upcoming Parents' Evenings after the half-term break. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress and share information about your child's learning journey.

I would also like to emphasise the importance of your child's attendance at school. Regular attendance is fundamental to your child's educational progress and overall development. We are committed to supporting every pupil in achieving their full potential, and consistent school attendance is a key factor in this.

I would like to wish you all a lovely week, and we look forward to welcoming children back to school on Monday 27th October.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Rachel Mckeown
Headteacher

Safety around school

It is fantastic to see so many children coming to school on bikes and scooters. **Please can we remind everyone that bikes and scooters are to be pushed, not ridden in the school grounds at drop-off and pick up. This includes pre-school children** and is to make sure that everyone is safe.

We also ask for your continued support in parking safely around the school grounds, and in showing consideration to our neighbours, including local residents, Springfields and the Doctors' Surgery.

Our Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who came to watch our two fantastic Harvest Festival performances. Your generosity was much appreciated - a huge thank you for all of the food that you donated. We delivered a car stock-full of donations to Ashby Food Bank, which will help support many families in need in our local community.



Cross Country

We're looking forward to seeing lots of you at the first Cross Country meet of the season on Saturday 1st November, at Sir John Moore School in Appleby Magna.

Everyone is welcome, even if your child has never taken part before. These events are great fun and a lovely way to experience running with children of the same age group in a fantastic outdoor setting. Please see the Weduc message for more information and let the office know if your child would like to take part.



Reading Buddies – EYFS, Class 1 and Class 2 only

Reading Buddies will restart for EYFS, Class 1 and Class 2 on Friday 31st October, from 3pm. It will run for 5 weeks until Friday 28th November, before the countdown to Christmas begins during December!

Children in Class 3 and Class 4 will not be taking part in Reading Buddies as they will be developing their independent reading within Key Stage 2 in their own class Book Club.

Please see the Weduc message for more details.

EYFS

We are so proud of how well the FS children have settled into Ashby Hastings! It has been lovely to watch them create new friendships and begin to learn new skills.

This term, we have been finding out about how we have changed since being a baby and were excited when a real baby came to visit! We have practised our listening skills as we have taken it in turns to talk about the members of our family.

The children have been learning about their senses, and have particularly enjoyed searching for different textures, scents and colours in our forest area.

We hope you all have a well-deserved break over half-term!



Class 1

Class 1 have had a great first term and have settled well into their new classroom routines.

In English, we have been going on our 'Curious Quests' and the children have applied their phonics knowledge to write simple sentences about the characters and the settings that we have seen so far. A highlight has been following instructions to make toast for Mrs Large so that she can finally get her 5 Minutes' Peace! Please do try and read with your child as much as possible. Even 5 minutes a day makes the biggest difference.

We have been exploring numbers within 10 in great detail in maths, looking at finding one more/one less, greater than and less than, as well as exploring a number line, part whole models and most recently adding numbers together.

In our topic work, we have been exploring the history of our families and the ways in which the children have changed since they were born. They enjoyed looking at baby photos and trying to work out who was who was quite a challenge!

Our PSHE unit this half term has been family and relationships, so it has been a great way to explore the different family set ups that we have, how we develop and sustain our friendships, as well as looking at challenging stereotypes.

A great first half term! Well done Class 1!



Class 2

In English, Class 2 have had lots of fun describing characters we have created. We especially enjoyed creating our own professors, based on the story 'Professor Puffendor's Secret Potions'.

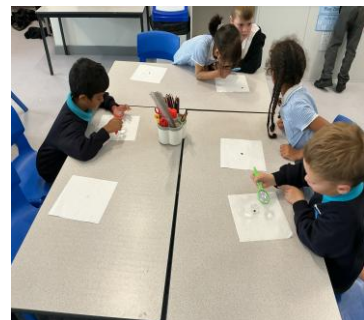
In Maths, we can now confidently partition numbers to 100 and we are beginning to learn column addition and subtraction. This is a very tricky concept, so to help us, we attended the 'K-Pop Demon Hunters' Concert' where we had a life-size column on the carpet to understand exchanging!

In Geography and Art, we have been learning about maps. We drew aerial maps of the school and surrounding area and we really enjoyed turning these into stained glass window style artwork in Art.

We have been learning about plants in our science lessons. We have enjoyed carrying out different experiments to understand the life cycle of seeds and what plants need to grow healthily. We also had a great time at the Multi-Sports Festival.

One of our greatest achievements of this half term was our Harvest Festival Assembly. Everybody did a brilliant job in remembering their lines and performing the songs.

Well done Class 2 for a great start to the year!



Class 3

The children of Class 3 have made an excellent start to KS2 this term. They have enjoyed practising for the Harvest Festival, especially bringing lots of the grown-ups to tears with their beautiful rendition of 'Seeds of Friendship'.

In History, we have been investigating daily life in the Stone Age. We have looked at how life has changed for various civilisations from the Paleolithic Stone Age to the Iron Age. In English we have created freeze-frames to infer the character Om's feelings in Stone Age Boy. We also wrote about waking up one day in the Stone Age and how we would feel about that – we decided that life is probably a lot easier nowadays with some of our modern comforts! In Art we have been making our own cave paintings with natural resources such as crushed berries and soil.

For European Day of Languages, we 'travelled' to Greece. Class 3 used the Greek alphabet, mosaiced their own plate and enjoyed some live games of 'Gods and Goddesses' Top Trumps! This week we finally received our correspondence from our French pen pals in Pithiviers. We received a video message and some photos. We are keen to write back and use our ever-increasing French vocabulary. In Maths, we have developed our knowledge of addition and we are becoming more fluent in our 3, 4- and 8-times tables. It has been such a busy term and Class 3 have made me proud every day with their commitment, motivation and hard work. Class 3 definitely deserve a rest over Half Term, but before that we will celebrate their excellent effort with a film afternoon to watch 'The Iron Giant', based on our current English text of 'The Iron Man'.



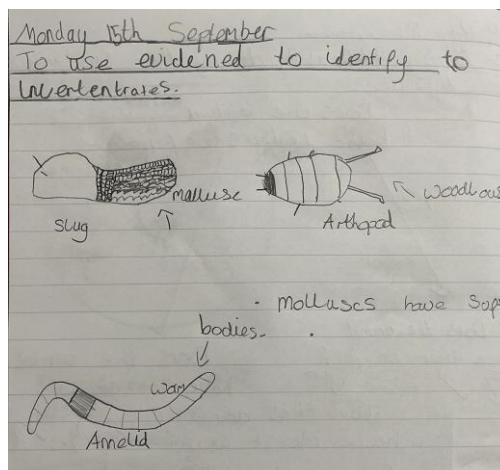
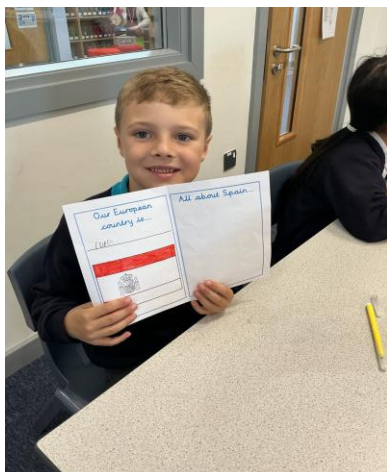
Class 4

Class 4 have had an exciting and busy term filled with creativity, curiosity, and collaboration! In English, we've been diving into the gripping world of 'Varjak Paw', using the story to explore dialogue and persuasive writing. The children have developed their author voices and persuasive techniques through a range of powerful writing tasks.

In Science, we've been exploring animals and their habitats. From forest floors to oceans and everything in between, we've investigated where animals live, what they need to survive, and the dangers they face; including pollution and deforestation. We even took our learning outdoors, searching for animals in our forest area and using our discoveries to create detailed sketches. The children also developed their classification skills by creating their own branching keys to sort and group animals scientifically.

This learning had a real impact — so much so that we combined our Science and English work in a cross-curricular writing project, where pupils wrote passionate letters urging people to reduce their plastic consumption to help protect wildlife. We are incredibly proud that some of these heartfelt letters will be sent to His Majesty the King! Meanwhile, in PSHE, we've been learning about families — celebrating differences, discussing what makes a family strong, and reflecting on the values that help us support one another.

It's been a term full of thoughtful discussion, exciting discoveries, and purposeful learning – and we can't wait to see what next term brings!



Amazing Pupil Results in 2025

We are delighted to share that both our EYFS and Year 1 Phonics data were significantly above national average.

We are very proud of each and every one of our pupils.



Wishing everyone a very happy half-term!



Upcoming Diary Dates

27th October – School re-opens

31st October – Reading Buddies starts for EYFS, Class 1 and Class 2 starts **(3pm)**

3rd – 5th November – Scholastic Book Fair

3rd November – Parents' Evening – appointments between 3.30pm and 7.30pm

4th November – Parents' Evening – appointments between 3.30pm and 6.00pm

10th – 14th November – Anti-Bullying Week: "Choose Respect"

10th November – Odd Socks Day (Anti-Bullying Week)

14th November – Children in Need - Non – Uniform Day (Whole School)

28th November – Final Reading Buddies of 2025

3rd December – Christmas Service at Holy Trinity **(Class 3 and Class 4) – 6pm start**

10th December – **Class 1 and Class 2** Christmas Performance – **1.45pm start**

11th December – **EYFS** Christmas Performance – **2.15pm start**

15th December – **Class 2** – The Christmas Journey – Ashby Methodist Church - **9.15am**

18th December – Christmas Decorations Morning – **(Whole school) - 9am – 10.15am**

19th December - Santa Fun Run and Christmas Jumper Day - **(Whole School)**