



Ashby Hastings Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs Rachel Mckeown

Senior Teacher – Mrs Amy Foster

“Inspiring minds to foster confidence”

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Newsletter

Summer Term 1 2025/2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting half-term in school, and it is great to stop and reflect on all of the wonderful things that have been happening.

We recently sent our Class 4 pupils on Ashby Hastings' first ever school residential. I am delighted to say that it was a huge success and, having experienced it first-hand, I can confirm that the children (and staff) all had a fantastic time! It was brilliant to see the children gain confidence and independence away from school. They tried new things, supported each other and came back with some brilliant memories. A big thank you to all the staff who made it happen, and to all our parents for your support. It is experiences like these that really help our children to grow and develop.

We also had our youngest children, in EYFS, perform their class assembly recently. It was great to see their confidence and personalities shine. These assemblies are such an important part of school life. Thank you to everyone that came to watch – we hope you enjoyed it as much as the children did!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of school attendance. Regular attendance really does make a difference to how well children learn and progress. When children are in school consistently, they don't miss out on important learning, they build stronger friendships and they develop good routines and habits. If your child is unwell, please do keep them at home, but we ask that you work with us to make sure absences are kept to a minimum. If you have any concerns about attendance or if there's anything we can help with, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're here to support families and we want every child to have the best chance to succeed.

As we near the end of the school year, we look forward to our upcoming Sports Day, 'Dad's to school' morning and school trips for EYFS, Class 1 and Class 2. Information about staffing, children's transition to their next year group and annual school reports will be sent out next half term.

Thank you all for your continued support. I wish you a lovely half term break and we will look forward to seeing children back in school on Monday 1st June.

Best wishes,
Rachel Mckeown
Headteacher

EYFS

This term in Foundation Stage, we have been finding out about lots of different vehicles and exploring how they have changed over time. The children have become experts at using our new vocabulary 'old fashioned, past and present'.

After reading the stories about Mr Gumpy, the children used different materials to build their own boats and find out whether they were able to float in our water tray. They also investigated how far trains travelled down ramps of different heights.

We have loved making maps and using these in our play. We have been learning to program the Beebots to visit different places on our maps too. Well done, Foundation!



Class 1

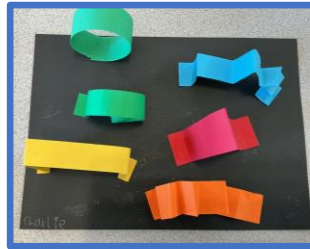
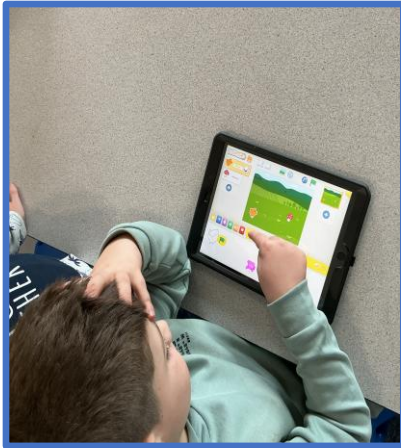
This term in Maths, Class 1 have continued to develop their confidence when exploring fractions and the introductory aspects of multiplication and division. The children have enjoyed exploring numbers within 100 and have been learning about how we can represent these numbers in different ways. In English, the children created their own versions of "Jack and the Beanstalk", changing aspects such as the giant's character, the animal that Jack sells and also who Jack lives with. It has been great to see how creative and imaginative they have become.

In Art, we explored how paper can be used to create different sculptures, with the children creating different curled or concertina patterns and then putting this all together to create an overall piece of work.

In Computing, we have been using ScratchJr, which is software that allows the children to create a programme using different functions, learning how to fix and 'debug' the mistakes that they might have made. The children have really enjoyed using this app, but they have also developed their understanding and worked well with one another to complete each weekly objective.

Our Geography and Science sessions have been closely linked this half term as we have looked at how the weather changes throughout the year, as well as exploring more extreme weathers such as droughts and floods. We presented our very own weather forecasts, explaining what the weather could be in the 4 countries of the UK.

Class 1 staff have enjoyed listening to the children read each week and have been impressed with the level of progress that the children have made. It is great to see how they are confidently applying their reading skills across all lessons; we would like to thank you for your support with the daily reading at home as it makes a huge difference. What a great half-term, Class 1!



Class 2

It's been a creative half-term in Class 2! In DT we finished creating our moving monsters as part of our "Moving Mechanisms" topic. The children did a great job at connecting the linkages using split pins and loved showcasing their designs to the Foundation Stage children. In Art, we have been using clay to create 3-D sculptures; it has been lovely to see the children taking their time to add details to their art pieces.

In English, the children did a brilliant job on their explanation texts, explaining how their monster traps worked. We have recently written setting descriptions linking to our class text 'Meerkat Mail'. As always, the children's creativity shines through their writing and it has been a pleasure to read their work.

This half-term we have been learning to play the recorder in music. We can all confidently hold our recorders correctly and play the B note. The children have even begun to learn a whole piece of music, following the music notation!

We have really enjoyed learning about Kenya in our 'Sensational Safari' topic in Geography. The children are creating presentations in computing to show off their knowledge which they will present after half-term. Well done for another great half-term Class 2!



Class 3

This term has flown by in Class 3! In English, we have written and performed several of our own poems, including our own versions of 'Please Miss Frances' as an homage to Allan Ahlberg's 'Please Mrs Butler', using intonation and actions. For some of us we really stepped outside of our comfort zones and tried something new which was very impressive.

In Science, we have dissected plants to be able to name the different parts, attempted to grow mini cress gardens whilst missing a key variable (soil/water/sunlight) and also learned about the life cycles of wildflowers.

This term we have begun to learn about angles in Maths, taking part in a right-angle hunt around school and also learning about acute and obtuse angles. We also took part in an Art day with Mrs Amour, where we learned how to join and build using paper in various ways ready for a bigger project next half term. Thanks for a great half-term, Class 3!



Class 4

Class 4 have had a busy and exciting term! In History, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the Anglo-Saxons. We designed and created our own Anglo-Saxon villages, took part in a thrilling battle during our Anglo-Saxon Day and explored what life may have been like during this period in history. We also enjoyed creating and decorating our own pottery, showing off our creativity.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of decimal places and recapping how to tell the time. One of our favourite activities was taking part in a fun maths relay race, where we worked together to organise the months of the year into the correct order as quickly as possible! It was a fantastic way to build teamwork skills whilst practising our learning.

In English, we have been reading and discussing the inspiring book "No Ballet Shoes in Syria". Through this text, we have explored the experiences of refugees and had many thoughtful discussions about kindness, resilience and belonging, which have inspired some excellent pieces of writing.

The importance of looking after others and how to keep ourselves and those around us safe has been our focus in PSHE. We have also been introduced to some basic first aid skills and discussed what we should do in different emergency situations. Class 4 have worked incredibly hard this term and should be very proud of all they have achieved!



Spotlight on... Class 4 Residential!

Our Class 4 children had an amazing time on their residential trip to Beaumanor Hall!

From canoeing and rock climbing to bridge building and exploring the outdoors, every day was packed with adventure and excitement. We certainly had lots of fun getting wet and muddy along the way! Although we all thoroughly enjoyed the trip, everyone was very happy to return home for a well-earned night's sleep in their own bed.

We are already looking forward to returning next year to create more unforgettable memories!



Message from the Governors

Hi everyone,

I'm Richard and I'm the Vice Chair of Governors and have been part of the Board of Governors since it was first established. I'm also a parent with a child in Class 4.

Over my time in this role, I've worn a few hats and have led on Finance, Wellbeing and Health and Safety, which I still currently oversee. More recently, I supported the school during the tender process for after-school wraparound care.

All members of the Governing Board conduct visits around the school on a regular basis and it's always a lovely experience to walk round and see (and sometimes hear!) the children learning, and to talk to them about what they are doing.

All of the children and staff have worked so very hard this term and thoroughly deserve the half term break. I wish you all a great break and look forward to catching some of you at the school gates soon.

Summer Term Sports!

Over the last few weeks, we've been lucky enough to have some external sports coaches in to help deliver specialist PE sessions in some of the year groups:

Rugby

Class 4 have had a fantastic time developing their rugby skills this term whilst working with a coach from Leicester Tigers. Throughout the sessions, we learnt a range of new skills and techniques whilst building our confidence and understanding of the game. We worked hard on teamwork, listening carefully to instructions and improving our coordination when learning and applying the rules of rugby. The children showed excellent determination, sportsmanship and enthusiasm during every session, and it was wonderful to see everyone encouraging and supporting one another. What great fun we had learning new skills, taking part in team games and enjoying being active together!





Football

Class 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their football sessions with Mr Archer this half-term. The children have shown great enthusiasm, teamwork and determination during each session, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow week by week.

They have worked hard to develop their passing, attacking and defending skills, and have become much more confident with their ball control and coordination. Well done, Class 2, for your excellent effort and positive attitude during football this half-term!

Tennis

Class 1 have thoroughly enjoyed their coached Tennis sessions over the past few weeks. Their tennis coach from Ashby Tennis Club has been developing the children's basic skills in hand-eye coordination, simple throwing and catching games as well as the swings necessary to play a game of tennis. The children have shown a great level of determination and concentration each week, wanting to get better each time they have a session.



After School Choir Club (Years 2, 3 and 4)

We have had a lovely few weeks at Choir Club. Our main focus is to develop a love of singing and collaborating as part of a group and it has been wonderful to hear the children supporting one another through vocal warm-ups, singing in parts and even singing parts of a song solo.

We have been learning a variety of songs such as: 'Hard Knock Life', 'Waiting on a Wish' as well as 'Shine a Light' and a 'Wicked Medley'. We have introduced a karaoke sign-up sheet where the children can add a song that we will sing at the end of each session. It is a great way to share our favourite songs with one another.

There are still spaces available, so please get in touch with the school office if you would like more information.



Please ensure your child comes to school with a named water bottle and a named sun hat each day after half-term.

Sun cream is to be applied before school. If sun cream is sent in to school to be reapplied, it will be for your child to apply themselves (with suitable support and supervision). Please ensure sun cream sent into school is named. No sun cream will be shared between children.

Dates for your Diary

1st June – First day of Summer Term 2

12th June – **EYFS** School Trip

17th June – **Class 1 and Class 2** School Trip

19th June – ‘Dads’ to school – (**Whole School**) - **9am – 10.15am**

24th June – Sports Day – **EYFS, Class 1 and Class 2** – **10.30am start**

24th June – Sports Day – **Class 3 and Class 4** – **1.45pm start**

7th July – End of Term

Please note that all dates may be subject to change. More information regarding each event will be sent to you closer to the date.

Ashby Hastings is committed to safeguarding for all. We fully support the Operation Encompass initiative to ensure domestic violence is eliminated.

