



Ashby Hastings Primary School

Headteacher - Mrs Rachel Mckeown

Senior Teacher – Mrs Amy Foster

“Inspiring minds to foster confidence”

Address: School Lane, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2AX

Email: office@ashbyhastingsprimary.co.uk

Telephone: 01530 442480

Website: www.ashbyhastingsprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @hastingsprimary

Newsletter Summer Term 2 2025/2026

Dear Parents,

I can't believe we are here already, at the end of another school year. And what a fantastic, busy year we have had!

There was a lovely buzz in school on our recent transition day. All children were able to visit their new classrooms and spend the day with their new teachers. It was great to welcome our new cohort of EYFS too, and we can't wait for them to start with us in August. A full intake of 30 children will take us to 180 pupils on roll next year. It is wonderful to watch our school continue to grow. We are also delighted to be having out first cohort of Year 6 pupils next year too.

In assembly, recently, I looked back with the children at all of the wonderful things that we have done this year; highlighting that our curriculum goes much further than the classroom:

- We've had forest school sessions where children have got their hands dirty and learned about nature.
- We've been out on school trips that have brought learning to life.
- Our residential trip gave children memories they'll treasure for years to come.
- OPAL has been transforming how our children play and interact with each other.
- We've had children taking part in the local Park Run, getting active and building confidence.
- Rock Steady has brought music and creativity into school in a really engaging way.

None of this would be possible without the support of so many people. I want to say a big thank you to all of our children for their enthusiasm and hard work. Thank you to our staff who go above and beyond every single day. Thank you to our parents and carers for your support and partnership. And thank you to our governors who give their time and expertise to help steer the school forward.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 24th August.

Best wishes,
Rachel Mckeown
Headteacher

EYFS

Foundation Stage have had a busy final term! We have loved exploring the world around us, looking for minibeasts and finding out about how we can care for our environment. The children have taken great care of our pet caterpillars and loved watching them transform into butterflies. We were excited to release them and watch them fly off into our garden area.

All the children were fabulous ambassadors for Ashby Hastings on our visit to Rosliston Forestry Centre. They were able to show off some of their amazing minibeast facts whilst hunting for creatures in the gardens and meadows there.

The children have spent time this year watering the plants in our allotment. They have enjoyed picking and tasting some of the salad and vegetables that have been grown.

Have a fantastic summer, Foundation Stage, after a wonderful first year at school!



Class 1

This half term in history, Class 1 have been learning about how transport has changed over time. We explored different types of transport from the past and compared them with the vehicles we use today, discussing how inventions and technology have improved the way people travel. One of the highlights of this half term was our exciting trip to Statfold Museum. The children enjoyed exploring the collection of historic trains and vehicles, taking part in hands-on activities and learning more about how transport has changed over time. The visit brought our History learning to life, and the children represented our school brilliantly with their excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day.

During our special "Dads to School" event, we were delighted to welcome our adults into the classroom to help us design and create our own Wacky Racer cars. We worked together to build and decorate our vehicles, showing fantastic creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

In Science, we have enjoyed learning about different animal groups. We explored the characteristics of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians, and practised sorting animals into the correct groups using our growing scientific knowledge. Throughout the half term, we have developed our observation, questioning and discussion skills. We have shown great curiosity about the world around us and have enjoyed sharing our ideas and learning with our classmates.

In English, we explored the poem The Magic Box and used it as inspiration to write our own imaginative poems. We thought carefully about the special objects, sounds, sights and memories we would keep in our own magic boxes, using descriptive language to bring our ideas to life. We were so impressed by the children's creativity and wonderful imaginations. We have made a class Poetry book so that future classes can read our poems too.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of money and time through a range of practical and engaging activities. We have learnt to recognise and count different coins and notes as well as beginning to find small totals. We have also been learning to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour, using both analogue clocks and real-life contexts to build our confidence and understanding.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience and positive attitudes the children have shown across all areas of learning this half term. Their creativity, engagement and willingness to try new challenges have helped make Summer 2 a wonderful half term.



Class 2

What a fantastic last half-term we have had in Class 2! We had lots of fun this half-term with our fascinating trip to Statfold Country Park; a fun day adventuring in Forest School and a competitive morning building towers during "Dads to School"!

In English, we have created poems based on the book "Shen and the Magic Paintbrush". The children came up with some brilliant ideas about what they would paint if they had a magic paintbrush and even attempted to use rhyme! We also practiced our persuasive writing by creating a leaflet for Statfold Country Park.

In Science, we have been thinking about how we can protect the environment. The children enjoyed carrying out experiments to test how much water we use when washing our hands. In PSHE, we have been learning about the difference between "wants" and "needs", whilst also learning about the importance of saving money.

We really enjoyed our structures topic in DT, where we were challenged with building a chair suitable for a baby bear! We tested the stability of different 3D shapes before creating our chairs out of newspaper.

Mrs Roberts and I have been extremely impressed with Class 2's enthusiasm, hard work and positive attitude to learning throughout the year. Have a wonderful summer and thank you for making my first year at Ashby Hastings so special!



Class 3

Class 3 have ended their year working extremely hard. This term in English they have written myths about how Ashby got its name based on a Leicestershire folktale called 'The Griffin of Griffydam'. They included adverbials of time, place and manner, descriptive features such as similes and metaphors and even some direct speech. These myths showed how diligently Class 3 have worked this year and how ready they are for the new challenges of Year 4.

Thanks to 'Dads to School', the children constructed castles made from the nets of 3D shapes, complete with retractable draw bridges, turrets and battlements. They used excellent attention to detail and care to create their masterpieces.

Finally, we were so proud of Class 3's sportsmanship and teamwork in the KS2 Sports Day - many children stepped outside of their comfort zone and showed resilience and perseverance. It has been a pleasure to teach Class 3 this year and I can't quite believe that our year together is over already!

Have a wonderful summer, Class 3!



Class 4

As another fantastic school year draws to a close, Class 4 have enjoyed looking back and reminiscing about the many wonderful experiences we've shared together. It has been lovely to hear the children enthusiastically talking about their highlights, with many choosing our unforgettable residential visit, as well as our exciting Egyptian and Anglo-Saxon theme days, as some of their favourite memories.

This half term has been very busy! We had a fantastic time taking part in a Quidditch session, where everyone showed great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. Sports Day was another highlight, with the children giving their all and encouraging one another throughout the events.

In Design and Technology, we put our problem-solving skills to the test by building working torches before designing and making moving cars. A huge thank you to all the dads and father figures who joined us for our "Dads to School" event. The children thoroughly enjoyed working alongside you, and creating some brilliant vehicles with you.

In English, we have loved writing Haiku poems, carefully choosing our words to create vivid images, while in Maths we have been developing our understanding of coordinates and translation through a range of practical and engaging activities.

It has been a pleasure to teach such a kind, enthusiastic and hardworking class this year. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved and the progress they have made, and we wish them all the very best as they move on to their next adventure in Class 5.



Sports Days

A big thank you to all of our parents and carers who came to cheer on the children at our annual Sports Days. The children absolutely loved taking part and cheering each other on.



Message from the Governors

As we reach the end of another successful school year, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our teachers, support staff, PTA, pupils and families for your continued hard work, commitment and support.

Throughout the year, the Governing Board has carried out a number of monitoring visits across the school, including in Maths, Science, Early Years Foundation Stage, finance and other key areas. These visits have given us the opportunity to see first-hand the excellent learning, dedication and progress taking place across the school.

One important decision made by the Governing Board this term was to freeze the cost of Breakfast Club for the next academic year, helping to continue providing affordable support for our families.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to wish you all a relaxing and well-deserved summer break.

Charlotte Owen and Richard Harrison
Chair and Vice Chair of Governors

Staff Structure 2026/2027

As shared in our Weduc message earlier this month, we are delighted that Mrs Foster will be taking on the role of Deputy Headteacher from August.

Miss Frances will be leaving us for a little while to have her baby; we are thrilled for her and her family, and can't wait to welcome the new addition to our school family. Mr Grice will be our Acting SENCO while Miss Frances is on maternity leave,

We are also looking forward to welcoming Mrs Bailey and Miss Taylor to our teaching team from August.

Senior Leadership Team			
Mrs Mckeown	Mrs Foster	Mrs Snow	
Headteacher	Deputy Headteacher	School Business Manager	
Office / Admin Staff			
Mrs Rothwell		Mrs Temple-Roberts	
	Class Teacher	Class Learning Support Assistant (LSA)	
Foundation Stage	Mrs Foster	Mrs Thompson	
Class 1	Mr Cooper	Mrs Temple-Roberts	
Class 2	Miss Laing	Miss Armstrong	
Class 3	Miss Taylor	Mrs Buchan	
Class 4	Mr Grice	Mrs Hart	
Class 5	Mrs Bailey	Mrs Cooke	
Cover Staff			
Mrs Amour	Mrs Blundy	Mrs Hart	Mrs Buchan
SEND LSAs			
Mrs Blundy	Miss Woodhead	Miss Smith	
Mrs Gibbs	Mrs Hart	Miss Atkins	
Breakfast Club			
Mrs Buchan	Mrs Hart	Miss Smith	
Lunchtime Play Leaders			
Mrs Hart	Mrs Buchan	Mrs Thompson	Mrs Walton
Mrs Cameron	Mrs Jordan	Mrs Blundy	Miss Smith
Miss Woodhead	Miss Atkins	Mrs Gibbs	

Diary Dates for the new school year will be shared with you when we are back in August.

Please note that the school office will be closed until Wednesday 18th August. If you send in a message during the holidays, it will be picked up from that date.

Message from the PTA

Thank you all for supporting our Summer Fair again this year, what a great turn out! We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did! We raised over £650, and look forward to sharing exciting plans for the funds in the coming term!

We will be holding our AGM in the new school year, open to everyone to attend, for a full year review and plans for the next.

Our next event will be the incredible Bonkers Bingo in the Autumn Term - we look forward to seeing you all there!!

Thanks so much again, Your PTA

Online Safety

Now that the summer holidays are upon us, please visit the following website to find ways to support you to help keep your child safe online:

[Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters](#)

Have a wonderful break over the summer, and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 24th August, ready for the new school year!

