



Ash class newsletter

First half Autumn term 2026

Mrs Borton

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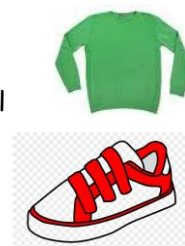


Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone and a very warm welcome to our newest members of Ash class, Mabel, Jasper, Hugo, Autumn, Colby, Lennie and their families. We are looking forward to getting to know you over the next few weeks. We truly value two- way **communication** between home and school, as we know that this can maximise children's progress. There are several ways to keep in touch; daily notes in your child's Home/School book, emails to the address above (but please appreciate that I cannot access emails, whilst teaching), or a face-to-face chat before or after school. We do check Home/School books daily and would appreciate if you could do the same, so that important messages are not missed. Thank you. You should also receive Mr Thomas's weekly whole school newsletter, by email, every Friday.

Our online Learning Journeys, **Tapestry** record significant moments within school and aim to highlight progress within the different areas of the curriculum. The children always love looking at their own Learning Journey so please do try to share them together, from time to time. We would also enjoy seeing any posts from home that you may like to share with us. If you have problems in accessing Tapestry, please do get in touch.

Reception children have looked very smart in their new **uniforms** but please could you kindly ensure that everything is named. Thank you. **Reception children will be** changing for 'Big P.E.' with Mr Bardot, **every Tuesday afternoon**. P.E. kits can therefore be left on pegs, in school for half a term. Trainers with Velcro are easiest for the children and most supportive for their feet. On Tuesdays, children can wear their trainers to school to avoid having to leave them with their PE kit. We have 'Little P.E.' for **all** of the children on the other afternoons, and daily 'Let's Move' activities to support gross motor skills such as core strength, balance and co-ordination; but we do not need to change for these. Please do ensure that nursery children come to school wearing shoes in which they can run and play safely though. We would also like to ask that the children do not bring in their special or comfort toys, as this causes a lot of distraction and distress if it is misplaced. Thank you.



Please could parents and carers provide pull-ups, wet wipes etc and/or a change of clothing (to be kept on the child's peg) if **toileting accidents** are frequent. We do keep limited spare clothes and underwear in school too. If you would like advice on toilet training, please do ask and we can also put you in touch with the bowel and bladder nurse, if necessary.

As you know, a member of staff opens the **school gates** for families, at **8.35am**, with the school day beginning with all the children in class at **8.45am**. This includes Nursery children. In Ash class we finish the school day 5 minutes earlier than the rest of the school at **3.10pm** so that parents with older children have time to get back to the front playground, to collect them at 3.15pm. This reduces congestion and also promotes independence for the children in Willow. A member of staff will let Ash parents and carers into the 'buzzer' gate in front of the office just before 3.10 so that you can come up and wait under the shelter until we send your child out to you. Could we politely ask that parents and carers park in the **village hall car park** and walk down the lane to school. Please remind your children to **walk with you**, around our school and on the road, to avoid accidents. Thank you.

The **curriculum** for children under 5 focuses on the prime areas of communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development, before spreading out into literacy, maths, understanding the world and expressive art and design. A useful parents' guide detailing typical progress across the curriculum, can be found here: [What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf](#) There is a copy for reference, on our cloakroom noticeboard but please do ask if you would like your own printed copy.

The Government's statutory **baseline assessment** for all Reception children, will take place on a 1-1 basis with Mrs Borton before October half term. It involves practical activities and discussions rather than more formal testing. A guide for Reception parents is attached but please do ask if you have any queries. Similarly, informal **screening assessments** for language skills and speech, will also take place during this first half term, with Miss Hansford, whilst Mrs Jordan will check fine motor skill development.

Reception children will be starting **phonics** work with our scheme **Sounds-Write** this week. We will be offering a **workshop for parents**. Please could parents of Reception children and any other interested parents, complete and return the **slip below**, so that we can arrange a time that suits most families. Nursery children will undertake listening and sound awareness activities on a regular basis, as these skills are a crucial pre-cursor to phonics, reading and writing.

Every child will have the opportunity to take a **library book** home each week. We hope you enjoy reading them together. Sharing a book daily with your child really does have the most amazing benefits for you both and is proven to be the most important way to support your child at home.



If your child has shown an interest in mark making or writing letters, then please do bear the following in mind, in order to give them the best possible start. Patterns are the first, crucial steps in handwriting. Children should be encouraged to draw **anticlockwise** circles, draw vertical lines starting at the **top** and going **down**, or horizontal lines from **left to right**, before moving on to zigzags, waves and loops. This may sound very specific but consolidating these pattern-making habits will make handwriting so much easier for the children! Similarly, we refer to letters by their **sounds** rather than their names and always write children's names with just a single capital letter at the start. We are sending home a name card to new children and letter formation sheets for all, to refer to at home. All Reception children have begun writing their names and I am sure will love practising at home with you but we are sending sheets to all of the children, for future reference, or if they are very keen! Forming letters correctly from the word go, may take a little while to master but is less frustrating for your child, than having to re-learn a different way, later! Forming letters correctly will also ease the transition into joined handwriting in Willow class.

Our topic this half term is **Friends and Families**. We will be concentrating on social and emotional development, in order to settle the children into their learning, with the help of stories such as 'Sharing a Shell,' 'Owl babies,' 'The Smartest Giant,' and 'Elmer.' All of the stories explore emotions, friendship and differences and will provide an EYFS friendly way to introduce topics such as **diversity**, community and justice. We will learn about Harvest and spot seasonal changes as we head further into Autumn and hopefully fit in another visit to **Cleave farm**.



Please ensure the children always have appropriate clothing in school, according to our very variable weather; either **sunhats or raincoats**! Likewise, a **named water bottle** should be provided for all children please. We are hoping to take several trips out to the village field and a **welly walk** to the woods, weather permitting, on **Monday 21st September** from 1pm. If you are able to walk with us, then please do let us know. Thank you.

Every **Friday** the whole school (except Nursery) goes to church at **9am** for our weekly **Celebration assembly**. Each class, has a **Star of the Week**, chosen by the teaching team and they will receive a certificate during the assembly. If your child has been chosen, we will send home a note on the Wednesday, to let you know. Our Reception class will begin attending this Friday celebration on the 25th of September. This is to allow the children to settle and in a formal environment and learn more skills in speaking and listening. As for Nursery, we feel that children benefit more from immediate rewards for their efforts, such as stickers and we will of course keep you posted on their special achievements in the Home/School book and on Tapestry. All children are assigned to a school 'House,' either **Attenborough (blue)** or **Anning (red)** with siblings in the same

'team.' Children can be awarded **Housepoints** for their behaviour or learning achievements and a school total for each House is reported in our **weekly school newsletter**. Each half term the House with the most points is awarded a non-uniform day to celebrate!



Story and Rhyme times are back! **All** Ash parents and any local parents and carers with pre-school aged children are invited to join our class, from **2.40pm** on **Thursday 24th September** and **Thursday 22nd October**. Nursery children who do not attend on Thursdays, are also very welcome to come along with an adult too.

Your child's '**Red Book**' is a great record of their progress and if you have not already done so, we would appreciate the opportunity to look at it, alongside their **2 year progress check** please. These documents help us to build a better picture of your child and to be aware of any support that may be required. If you drop them in to school, we promise to get them back to you for the end of the day. The system for undertaking 2year old Health and Development Reviews has recently changed and so we will be chatting with you individually about this, if your child joins us this academic year, as a Rising 3 year old. Similarly, if your child's **medical needs** have changed, please could you ensure you let us know, so that we are able to care for them appropriately. Thank you.

Over the year, the children enjoy honing their art skills through collage and junk modelling activities. If you ever have **small 'junk,'** eg kitchen roll inner tubes, toothpaste boxes, egg boxes or the front covers of **birthday cards**, please send them in to be recycled! Thank you. We would also love to hear from any friends and family who may be able to come and give a mini performance on a **musical instrument** for our children, across the year. We feel it would really enhance their learning experiences.

Finally, please do come and ask if you have any queries, big or small. The end of the school day is often more convenient and private but if it is urgent please do not hesitate to contact me or see Miss Hansford, Mrs Jordan (Ash Teaching Assistants), in the mornings. We are all here to listen and help, if we can.

Looking forward to working with you and your child,
Kind regards,
Sharon Borton and the Ash Teaching Team

Parental workshop on phonics (reading and spelling skills).

Please note this 1 hour workshop is for adult family members/carers only. If childminding is difficult, however, please do let us know. **Please tick your preference:**

I would prefer the workshop to be: on Monday 28th September

between 5-6pm

between 6-7pm

Name of child Signed