Ashfield Junior School

Inspiring our children to dream big, be extraordinary and change the world

14th November 2025

Headteacher's Message

It has been a very busy week at Ashfield. We started the week with our **Remembrance Day Assembly** which was led by our Year 6 children who read out '*In Flanders Field*' and explained the importance of Remembrance Day. This was followed with some of the Forces children paying their respects at the War Memorial at the bottom of School Lane where they laid a wreath and some beautifully decorated 'Remembrance Day' stones. This week, was also **Antibullying Week** and the children had an assembly to learn more about bullying and the impact that this has on people. The theme this year was '***kindness***' (one of our school values) and about being an 'upstander'. Finally, it is great to see the children enjoying themselves and displaying great sportsmanship at our Tag-Rugby Tournament. More information will be shared in next week's newsletter.

Have a lovely weekend, Mr Dourado

A very happy birthday to: Cian (5C)

Attendance Matters!

Our attendance for this week is **96%** which is below the Government target of **96.1%**.

Congratulations to **4V** who led the way as our Attendance Champions with a fantastic attendance of **98.8%** Well done!

A big well done to **5D** who are our Punctuality Champions.

Please help us by ensuring your child's arrival is prompt. The school gates open at 8:35am and close at 8:50am. If possible, please schedule doctors or dentists appointments after school.

Special Achievements

It is always a pleasure to hear about children's achievements outside of school.

Congratulations to **Armina (3M)** who has passed her Stage 3 at swimming. Well done!

If your child has any achievements out of school that they would like to share with us in our Friday special assembly, please email it into the office admin@ashfield.herts.sch.uk

House Points

It is always lovely to see so many children be awarded individual house points for excellent work or effort, modelling the school values or going above and beyond in the classroom.

Attenborough	-	115
Blackman	**-**	**135**
Fiennes	-	114
Storey	-	134

Well done to Blackman

Achievement Assembly

The following children were given special mention for wonderful work or behaviour by their teachers this week. Children in Year 6 are split into groups therefore will be given a certificate by either teacher.

Year 3: Rosie (3M) and Immanuel (3AC)

Year 4: Jack H (4C) and Macie (4V)

Year 5: Gigi (5C) and Crina (5D)

Year 6: Jack & Mia-Nevaeh (6K) and Ralph (6H)

Writer of the Week!

This week, the following children were awarded a certificate for being the Writer of the Week! Children in Year 6 are split into groups therefore will be given a certificate by either teacher.

Year 3: Kiaana (3M) and Matteo (3AC)

Year 4: Ella (4C) and Anna (4V)

Year 5: Alma (5C) and William (5D)

Year 6: Alex (6H) and Veronika (6K)

DSPL9 Parent & Carer Newsletter

NEW

Welcome to the DSPL9 newsletter. This provides families with all recent and current local SEND information. The newsletter will be published fortnightly. Please click on the link below to be re-directed to the newsletter.

Newsletter

This can also be found on our website

Remembrance Day Assembly

On 11th November, Year 6 led an assembly to help us learn more about Remembrance Day. They shared why it was important to remember, poppies, a song and recited On Flanders Field. After the assembly, Mr Dourado, Mrs O'Mahony and some Forces children went to the war memorial at the bottom of School Lane to lay a wreath and some stones that they painted.

Year 4 Trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor

As part of our RE study of Hinduism, we have arranged a visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor, the Hare Krishna Temple on **Thursday 4th December**. This is an opportunity for the children to gain an insight into Hinduism as a living faith. Please login into The School Gateway to make payment and give consent.

https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login

4C Cornet Performance

This year, Class 4C have been learning the cornet with our fantastic music teacher, Ms Oliver. They would like to show off their skills and hold a performance for parents on **Tuesday 2nd December** at **9:05am**. The performance will be about 30 minutes long. If you are interested in attending, please enter the school at the lower gate from 9:00am where you will be escorted to the performance.

Music Lessons

If your child would like to learn a musical instrument, you can now book lessons via Herts Music Service (HMS). As well as violins, guitar, cornet and woodwind, we are also fortunate to have a piano teacher. If you are interested and want further information, you can click on the HMS website.

Hertfordshire Music Service

Autumn Term Dates

We would like to share with you all, a few things that are coming up this term.

Saturday 6th December - Winter Fair at Merry Hill organised by FOMH.

Tuesday 2nd December - 4C Cornet Performance

Wednesday 10th December - Year 3 Christmas Production for Parents at 1.45pm

Friday 12th December - Open classrooms. This will give you an opportunity to come into school and look through your child's books. We will have one session from 9:00am to 9:30am and from 2:30pm to 3:00pm.

Monday 15th December - Staff and pupils have been invited to St James' Church to sing a few Christmas carols (no parents).

Wednesday 17th December - Children will be invited to wear a festive jumper and enjoy a lovely Christmas lunch

Year 6 - 2026 Manor Adventure

The remaining balance is now available to pay on the School Gateway You have until the payment deadline of **31st January 2026** to make this payment. You can make the payment in full or gradual instalments. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login.

Open Classroom - Save the date!

Parents will be invited into the classroom to see their child's work on **Friday 12th December.** Our morning invite is open from 9:00am to 9:30am and our afternoon is open from 2:30pm to 3:00pm. Further information will be shared with you soon.

Year 3 Visit to Bushey Library

Year 3 will be visiting Bushey Public Library and will walk there and back.

3AC will visit from 1.30pm - 2.30pm on Monday 24th November

3M will visit from 1.30pm - 2.30pm on Wednesday 26th November

To enable children to get the most out of this visit, they will have the opportunity to look around the children's library and choose a book to borrow and read at home. A membership form will be sent home with the children next week and should be returned to school by **Friday 21st November**.

Membership of Hertfordshire Libraries is free.

Inset Day

There will be no school for children on **Friday 28th November**.

End of Term

Just a reminder that we break up at **1:30pm** on **Friday 19th December** and return to school on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

NEW Chess Club

Does your child like Chess? If yes, or if you are curious about learning how to play. The club will run on a Monday afternoon (3:20pm to 4:20pm) starting in January 2026. Please look out for the information that will be shared with parents soon on how to book a place.

Handwriting Pens

Handwriting pens can be purchased from the school office at a cost of 3 for £1.00.

Christmas Post Box

From **Monday 1st December** the Ashfield Post Box will be available for children who wish to send cards to their Ashfield friends. The children can post their cards at break time and lunchtime. Children should remember to put the full name and class of the child to whom they are sending the card. If they just write "Doris" on the card, the Year 6 post children will not know which class to deliver it to. The last day for posting is **Monday 15th December**.

St James Carol Concert

Children and staff will be walking to and from St. James' church on **Monday 15th December** for our Carol Concert (no parents). Please make sure that your child is wrapped up warm, has a coat and appropriate footwear.

If your child normally does PE on a Monday, they should still come to school in their PE kit wearing a warm coat and trainers.

We require a small numbers of helpers. If you are available to help on the day please contact the school office by email admin@ashfield.herts.sch.uk

Year 3 Christmas Performance

Year 3 will be Performing for parents and carers on **Wednesday 10th December at 1:45pm**. The school gates (bottom gate) will be open from 1:35pm for you to take your seats. I am really looking forward to this performance and looking forward to seeing you all there.

Christmas Jumper Donation

If you have any freshly washed, good condition Christmas Jumpers that you no longer need or the children have grown out of and are happy to donate please can you bring into the school office by **Friday 12th December**.

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Our traditional meal will be on **Wednesday 17th December**. There will be music, festive hats, delicious food and laughter as staff get involved in serving the children! Children are welcome to wear their Christmas Jumper on Wednesday 17th December over their school uniform or PE kit.

All children are welcome to have Christmas dinner. Please tick on the form that has been sent home with your child's choice and return to the school office by Wednesday 19th November 2025.

Top 10 Tips for a Sustainable Christmas

1. Make your own Christmas decorations

Each Christmas, approximately 12,500 tones of Christmas decorations are discarded into landfill.

Many plastic decorations cannot be recycled due to the glue and glitter on them.

Why not make your own decorations and/or use natural materials such as dried fruits, pinecones or even recycled paper. You could even make edible decorations!

When buying new decorations, look for those made from sustainable materials such as glass and wood.

More festive tips:

- 8 easy hacks to make Christmas more sustainable this year – Bower Collective

2. Reduce festive food waste

Every Christmas, millions of tonnes of food are wasted, including approximately 5 million puddings, 2 million turkeys and 74 million mince pies.

Most of this food waste ends up in landfill, thereby creating methane and other greenhouse gases as it decomposes.

Reduce your food waste by planning your Christmas menu carefully. Think about portion sizes and using seasonal and locally grown ingredients which have a lower carbon footprint.

Dispose of any leftover food in a food waste collection and/or compost it, instead of sending to landfill.

More festive tips:

- Sustainable Christmas | Soil Association
- Christmas Leftovers Recipes | Good Food

3. Going crackers for a sustainable Christmas

Crackers contain excess plastic packaging, along with a large amount of single use plastic 'toys'.

Each year, more than 100 million crackers get thrown away. Many of these cannot be recycled and end up in landfill.

Why not consider plastic-free crackers? Look out for the forestry logo on the packaging to recognise sustainable sourcing of materials.

You could also try making your own sustainable Christmas crackers and fill them with home-made paper hats and plastic-free gifts! Don't forget to include a tree-mendously funny joke in each cracker too!

More festive tips:

- Eco-Friendly Christmas Crackers | Love Your Footprints
- Christmas Cracker Kit (set of 6) | Planet Friendly Living

4. Sustainable gifting

Giving gifts is a key Christmas tradition but can also lead to over- consumption and waste.

The manufacture and transportation of products also create greenhouse gas emissions.

Why not consider sustainable gifting by:

- Giving fewer gifts that are more meaningful.
- Choosing items that are useful, or experiences, rather than material gifts.
- Thinking about the materials used – avoid single-use plastics, look for organic food and clothing.
- Why not consider pre-loved gifts?

More festive tips:

- Top tips for a sustainable Christmas | WWF

5. Greening your gift wrap

Each year, wrapping paper is often used only once, and approximately 200,000 miles of gift wrap is thrown away.

Furthermore, Sellotape cannot be recycled, and ribbon contains harmful synthetics.

Why not try using the following alternatives for wrapping:

- Fabric wraps (e.g. furoshiki - Japanese wrapping cloth).
- Foil-free and glitter-free paper, brown kraft paper or old newspaper, all of which can be recycled.
- Natural decorations, such as twine, dried flowers, compostable brown tape and/or compostable garden twine.
- Avoid gift tags and write names on the presents instead.

More festive tips:

- 15 Eco-Friendly and Zero-Waste Gift Wrapping Ideas - Mindful of the Home

6. Lighting the way to sustainability

When selecting Christmas lights try to use LED lights as they use less energy and last longer.

Choose lights that are powered by a plug rather than batteries.

When using batteries, use rechargeable batteries rather than buying new batteries each time.

Make sure that Christmas lights are turned off at night. Not only is this much safer for you, but it will also save you money and electricity.

More festive tips:

- Top tips for a sustainable Christmas | WWF

7. Dress to impress, both stylishly and sustainably

This party season we know you want to dress to impress! But when selecting your party outfits, choose sustainably.

Choose pre-loved clothing from second hand shops and/or clothing apps or borrow from your friends and family!

Why not donate an old item for someone else to find or try to sell some items.

Remember … You definitely CAN wear the same thing twice!

More festive tips:

- Top tips for a sustainable Christmas | WWF

8. Christmas cards, cards and more cards

Did you know that in the UK, over one billion Christmas cards are thrown away every year.

In the UK, each person sends and receives an average of 17 Christmas cards. However, around 75% of these cards are usually not recycled and end up in landfill.

Why not send your loved ones cards that can be recycled or reused.

You can also send E-cards rather than paper cards.

Plantable cards are a great way of helping the environment and not contributing to landfill.

More festive tips:

- Christmas Waste Facts: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle This Holiday Season

9. The perfect Christmas tree

There are many options for Christmas trees, some more sustainable than others.

An artificial Christmas tree is only sustainable if it has a life span exceeding 10 years. They are usually made from plastic or PVC, which are non-biodegradable and often have a larger carbon footprint than real trees due to the manufacturing process.

Locally sourced real Christmas trees are 100% recyclable and biodegradable. If purchasing a real tree, then make sure it is a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certified tree.

Why not consider a wooden Christmas tree to add something unique and sustainable to your home.

More festive tips:

- Choose a sustainable Christmas tree | Soil Association

10. Sustainable Secret Santa

Secret Santa is great fun and is a great way to save money and the environment.

Setting a budget for Secret Santa helps buyers be precise and think of useful gifts.

Try and source gifts in recycled packaging, or gifts that have a long lifespan.

You could also consider pre-loved or second-hand gifts too.

More festive tips:

- Sustainable Christmas - Secret Santa | Plastic Free

What we will be learning next week

Year 3

English: We are going to be planning our own free verse poems based on 'The Magic Boc' by Kit Wright.
Maths: We will be finding strategies so we can subtract 2 digit numbers mentally. We are also working hard on learning the 4x table.
Trip: We will be going on our trip to Bushey Library.
Science: We will be identifying the different properties of rocks.

Year 4

English: We will be creating flow charts using adverbial phrases.
Maths: We will continuing with factors of numbers and practicing our times tables.
RE: We will be looking at the story of Rama and Sita and the triumph of light over dark.

Year 5

English: We will be writing to Tashi to convince her to work in the tea fields for her mother. We will be using descriptive language and adverbials to create multi clause sentences in our writing.
Maths: We will be learning about prime and composite numbers and using what we learn to find the prime factors of numbers up to 100.
History: We will be starting our History unit about the Ancient Greeks. We will be creating timelines to understand the chronology of all the History periods we have learnt about in previous years.

Year 6

English: Mr Hardy's Group will continue to explore authorial techniques to describe a setting. Mrs Kothary;s Group will be applying their learning about authorial techniques in their writing.
Maths: Mr Hardy's Group will be exploring factors and multiples. Mrs Kothary's group will be exploring rounding with decimals.
History: We will be learning about Mayan culture.
Science: We will be learning about how organisms are adapted to their environment.

School Meals

Please see below the dinner menu for the week ahead. Please ensure that you keep your Caterlink account in credit. As a reminder; meals cost £3.41 each day and dinner money is payable in advance.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
RED	Macaroni Cheese	Chicken Enchilada Bake with Paprika Wedges	Sausage, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Mild Caribbean Chicken with Golden Rice	Fishfingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
GREEN	Lentil Curry with Rice	Tomato Pasta	Vegan Sausage, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Caribbean Stew with Golden Rice	Red Pepper Fritata with Chips and Tomato Sauce
BLUE	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling
All served with a selection of fresh vegetables, salad selection and desserts available daily.					

Contact Us

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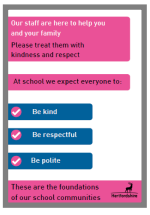

[School Blog]

[Amazon Wishlist]

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 18th November	**4V Swimming**
Monday 24th November	**Forces Club**
Monday 24th November	**Year 6 Height and Weight**
Monday 24th November	**3AC Visit to Bushey Library**
Wednesday 26th November	**3M Visit to Bushey Library**
Friday 28th November	**Inset Day**
Thursday 4th December	**Year 4 Trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor**
Saturday 6th December	**Winter Fair (11am to 2pm)**