



## June & July 2023

Dear all,

Another academic year passes us by in a flash! It has been so busy this summer term that I have struggled to share all of the wonderful things that have been going on! In this bumper edition, I have attempted to show you some of the exciting events and opportunities that have taken place but I am unable to cover everything as there has been so much going on this term!

This week, it was so lovely to be able to enjoy our sports day and share it with so many parents. We just about got away with the weather, although the short down pour saved itself for the parents race at the end of the morning. Thank you to those that joined in and for all being such good sports! This afternoon, we have been treated to a musical showcase where Year 3 shared the progress they have made in their recorder lessons this year. It was also lovely to see some of our other children who learn instruments perform before Year 6 representatives of the choir sung us to a conclusion.

Tomorrow, we say goodbye to another wonderful cohort of children and prepare to welcome the next new cohort as well as a number of other new children across the school.

As a school we are delighted with the progress that we have made this year, we have achieved an incredible amount during the course of the year and have many things to celebrate including some fantastic academic attainment results across the school in statutory assessment year groups.

I want to finish the year by thanking our amazing staff team, our Governors and everyone in our school community for their continued hard work, dedication and support. It takes all stakeholders in our community to provide the very best education and experiences for our children.

I wish you all a lovely, well deserved summer break and look forward to doing it all over again with you in September.

Best wishes to you all.

Mr S England  
Headteacher



- 21<sup>st</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- 21<sup>st</sup> July – End of Term

### SUMMER HOLIDAYS

2023-24

- 1<sup>st</sup> September – INSET DAY
- 4<sup>th</sup> September – INSET DAY
- 5<sup>th</sup> September – Autumn term starts
- 7<sup>th</sup> September – Meet the Teacher
- 14<sup>th</sup> September – PTA AGM
- 19<sup>th</sup> September – Individual Photos
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Harvest Festival

### Summer Reading Challenge

Parents, if there is one thing you can do to support your child's education over the summer period it is to:

#### KEEP THEM READING!

This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme is Read, Set, READ!

Get ready for a whole load of team spirit, your fave sporty (or not!) heroes, and plenty of fun with our latest collection for the 2023 sports and games themed Summer Reading Challenge: *Ready, Set, Read!*

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/chat/blog/hertfordshire>



### Year 4 – Celtic Harmony Camp

Year 4 had a wonderful time at Celtic Harmony just before the half term break. We were transported back to the Iron Age, learning survival skills such as building a den, watching how to create fire, making soup with herbs and other native plants, archery, and other skills such as orienteering, weaving and warrior training. We spent one night in an authentic roundhouse and enjoyed roasting marshmallows on the fire before spotting bats on our bat walk before bedtime. The children had a fantastic time – and so did the staff!



Year 4 also enjoyed a walk to Arbury Banks this term, just a short walk from our school and the site of an historic Iron Age hillfort. We used an Ordnance Survey map to navigate to the site and spot landmarks from the view up on the hill. The children found lots of chalk and flint on our walk up there, and used their imagination based on aerial photographs of the site to draw what they thought the settlement might have looked like in the Iron Age.



### Summer Holiday Club - Premier

There will be a Premier Camps Multi-activity Holiday Club at Ashwell School on the following dates:

➤ Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August

This will be open to children aged 4-11 and more information is available at:

<https://www.premier-education.com/holidaycamps>



### Nursery Admissions

The admissions information for our Nursery – September 2023 Intake is all on our website [here](#).

Nursery - September 2023 Intake

PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

[On-Line Application Form](#)



### Sports Day 2023

It was fantastic to be able to return to a completely normal sports day following COVID and then extreme heat this time last year! It was fabulous to see the children having such fun. After a dominant display in 2022, with the blue team taking all three trophies, this year the others were determined to fight back. There was even talk around the school of the other colours joining forces to derail the blues! Thank you to all of the staff and especially Miss Meehan for organising the events.

#### Final Sports day results

##### Key Stage 1 & Reception

1<sup>st</sup> – Blue Team (540)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Yellow Team (480)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Green Team (460)

4<sup>th</sup> – Red Team (330)

##### Key Stage 2

1<sup>st</sup> – Yellow Team (810)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Blue Team (780)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Green Team (720)

4<sup>th</sup> – Red Team (510)

##### Overall

1<sup>st</sup> – Blue Team (1350)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Yellow Team (1330)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Green Team (1200)

4<sup>th</sup> – Red Team (850)





### Goodbye to Year 6

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you and farewell to our Year 6 pupils.

We are all so very proud of their time at Ashwell, we have thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow and develop and we wish them the best of luck in their new schools.



### Junk Percussion Workshop

Our Junk Percussion workshop took place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June and was a smash hit! Our workshop leader Ronald was full of enthusiasm and the children demonstrated fantastic listening skills as well as great teamwork during rhythm practise. The workshop finished with a bang as the children played together as a class, singing the words "There was thunder in the kitchen!" A huge thank you to the PTA who fully funded this workshop giving the children this additional opportunity.



### PTA Updates

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our PTA at their final event of the year last Friday. It was a real shame that their grand plans had to be change at the last minute as a result of the weather, however we did not let this stop us!



I want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Wright for chairing our PTA once again this year. Her hard work, support and dedication is greatly appreciated. She has given so much to the school over the 4 years that she has been chair and I want to thank her and her supporting committee for this. It was lovely to be able to thank her at the fete on Friday. The outgoing PTA committee also presented the school with a cheque for £10,000 which is being set aside for a big project – news coming in 2023-24!

**Date for your diary: PTA AGM 15<sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm**



Remember you can still support the school by using the link below when shopping online:

<https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashwellschool/>

Or by donating @

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=FMN6V7N9XZDVY](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=FMN6V7N9XZDVY)

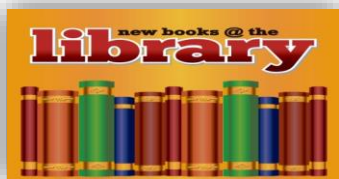
### Move Up Morning - Transition

It was lovely to welcome children into their new classes for our move up morning. Children enjoyed the morning meeting their new teachers and support staff. They had a sample of lessons with their new teachers and talked about the year ahead. All being well, parents will have an opportunity on 7<sup>th</sup> September to find out more about their children's new class and teacher at our 'Meet the Teacher' session and a letter about this will come out on the first day back. A letter will come out about this as soon as we return but **please save the date – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September!**

## Donate a Book to our Library

Book donations continue to come into the school from our wish list.

A huge thank you to everyone who has already purchased a new book for the school library. To see our children's wish list and to donate a new book please see: <http://amzn.eu/OR6HXL4>



## Athletics Success

Earlier this term, 25 children from Years 2 - 6 were chosen to compete in a district schools athletics tournament. They competed in various track and field events, collecting points for our school team. We were delighted to be awarded overall 3<sup>rd</sup> place for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year running. Congratulations to the athletics team!



I am also delighted to be able to share with you that through Miss Meehan's hard work as PE Leader. She has secured the school the Bronze Sports Mark for 2022-23.



## Attendance

Attendance at Ashwell continues to be good with our whole school figure at 96.3% for 2022-23.

**May I remind parents to avoid booking holidays or medical appointments during school times wherever possible.**

Class	%
Year 4	97.1%
Year 6	97.1%
Year 3	96.9%
Year 2	96.8%
Year 5	96.0%
Year 1	95.9%
Oak (Reception)	95.6%
Acorn (Nursery)	94.0%

Congratulations to Year 4 & 6 who finish joint top of the attendance table this year and earn a non-uniform day next term! Unfortunately Y6 won't be here!



## Farewell to Hector

Sadly, earlier this term we had to say goodbye to Hector. He has been visiting school now for a number of years and it has been a joy having him around. He dearly loved hearing children read, visiting EYFS and the playground. Hector worked with us through Pets as therapy. We thanked him and his owner Tricia, in a goodbye assembly where the children presented him with thank you cards and a doggy gift. He will be very missed but we are incredibly grateful for the time he has given to supporting our children. If anyone has a dog with a temperament that they feel might meet the requirements, we would urge you to look into Pets as therapy and also come and speak with us as it is a hugely powerful provision for our children. We would love to hear from you if you have any time to spare!





### Chess Club

We are incredibly grateful to all of the parents who have helped out and enable there to be a Chess club at school this year. Thank you for giving up your time, the children have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Five children from Ashwell (Nathaniel G, Jack E-C, Matthew C, Hector S, Rider P) took part in the Cambridge Megafinal stage of the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge recently. They all did really well, especially showing a great team spirit supporting one another and resilience in bouncing back from defeats! They have all benefited enormously from the experience.



### Year 3 – Verulamium Visit

This half term year 3 visited the Verulamium Museum, in St Albans to find out about Roman life in Britain. They took part in a museum workshop called 'At the Market'. The children enjoyed dressing up in Roman costumes before visiting different market stalls selling the type of food, clothing and household objects that would have been sold during Roman times. They handled and discussed the artefacts to help them discover what life was like for the Romans living in Verulamium almost 2000 years ago! After the workshop the children enjoyed looking around the museum to find out more about the Romans. This was followed by lunch in the park and a visit to the ruins of a Roman theatre, shops and town house.



### Isle of Wight

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Year 6 set off for their week long residential trip. Destination – The Isle of Wight. During the course of the week the children completed the following activities:

- Aqua Park & Footgolf
- Alum Bay
- Blackgang Chine
- Goodleaf Tree Climbing & Vortex golf
- Robin Hill Country Park
- Carisbrooke Castle

The children were an absolute credit to the school and it was a really amazing week for everyone. A huge thank you to the staff who made the trip possible.



### International Day



On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, we held a whole school international day.

The children were divided into a number of different groups and had the opportunity to work with children across all classes.

Each class was allocated a country and 'travelled' around to visit four different countries each during the day, learning interesting facts and completing activities linked to that countries culture. Lots of fun had by all.

See end of newsletter for a gallery of photos from across the school and day!



### Year 6 Bikeability

As part of our wider curriculum offer, Year 6 completed their level 1 Bikeability training with PC Chris Brabrook this term.

They worked in groups to learn how to check their bikes were safe to use before moving on to learning about safely mounting and dismounting, signaling and riding safely in preparation for using the roads.



### Year 5/6 Production

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Our Year 5 and 6 children put on spectacular performances of 'I'm an 11 year old – get me out of here!'

The performances were full of outstanding acting, funny jokes and superb singing. The main cast of Year 6, ably supported by our Year 5 children really entertained their audience. A huge thank you to parents who purchased tickets, £250 will be donated to our chosen charity – Garden House Hospice.



### Safeguarding

In school, we constantly remind our children that they can report any concerns they have about themselves or someone else to any adult in school. We encourage parents to report their concerns too. A reminder that our Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mr England & Mrs Andrews.



### School Building Improvements

Over the summer, we will continue to see the heating replacement works progress. The final phase of this works involves the installation of a mini substation in the school car park. This is being completed by UKPN and will involve road closures around the junction outside of the school. It will include, Bear Lane, Silver Street and Back Street towards the end of August. Please note that the main car park will be out of use during this works. We hope that once this is completed, the final work will be undertaken and the project will finally come to an end after more than a year since starting! Following this we are expecting a full kitchen refit around the October half term.

In addition to the above, we are having several other areas improved and refurbished this summer. These include:

- ✓ EYFS Toilets
- ✓ Key Stage 2 Toilets
- ✓ EYFS Outdoor Music area

This work is courtesy of funding from the Henry Colbron Trust.

### Year 5 – Duxford Visit

Year 5 rounded off their World War II topic this term with a fantastic day out at Duxford. It really brought their learning to life as they explored the exhibits that linked to the areas that they had been learning about.



## PE Kit & Uniform Reminders

We know that many of you will be looking to purchase new school uniforms over the summer. Please can we ask that you check our uniform policy carefully prior to ordering/buying new uniform.

<https://ashwell.herts.sch.uk/parents/uniform-equipment/>

### IMPORTANT – PE Kit update

We have recently noticed a huge variety of clothing items being worn as PE kit. In particular, we are concerned about the type of shorts that some children are wearing. Please note, PE kit should comprise of the following ONLY:

- ✓ Navy tracksuit bottoms / leggings / shorts\* / skirt
- ✓ Plain white T-shirt
- ✓ Plain trainers
- ✓ Navy tracksuit top

*\*An update to our policy will come in the autumn but please note that shorts should **NOT** be cycling or gymnast type shorts and need to be of an appropriate length (see below the expected style)*



## School Development Priorities



This year our main school development priorities have been:

**Main Priority 1:** Continue to fully implement and embed the intended high quality, ambitious curriculum which inspires all children; optimising their social, emotional, creative and academic outcomes.

**Main Priority 2:** To continue to accelerate the progress of all pupils, increasing the number of children who are working at age related expectations and beyond so that they return to pre-covid standards across the school.

**Main Priority 3:** Further develop the expertise and subject knowledge of all teachers to ensure high quality delivery across all curriculum areas

We are delighted with our progress towards these priorities and a recent HfL external adviser visit agreed with the school's views on progress towards these priorities. In the autumn term, we will share with you our 2023-24 priorities.

## Ashwell Primary School – National Test and Performance Data 2023

I am delighted to be able to share with you the outcome of our 2023 national assessment cycle data across the school. Please note the text in red is 2022 national data as this is not yet available for 2023. I want to thank everyone across the school for their part in making these achievements possible. We are incredibly proud of the children for how hard they have worked. I also want to thank parents for their support.

### Early Years Foundation Stage 2023

	Ashwell	National
Good Level of Development	79.3%	65.2%

### Year 1 Phonics Check 2023

	Ashwell	National
Passed Phonics Check	89.3%	75.5%

### Key Stage 1 SATs Results 2023

	Met Expected Standard +		Beyond Expected Standard	
	Ashwell	National	Ashwell	National
Reading	72.4%	67.2%	37.9%	18.1%
Writing	48.3%	57.9%	24.1%	8.1%
Maths	65.5%	67.9%	34.5%	15.2%
R/W/M Combined	44.8%	53.4%	24.1%	6%

### Year 4 MTC

	Ashwell	National
% of students scoring 25	42.3%	31.1%
Mean Average Score	23.62	20.27

### Key Stage 2 SATs Results 2023

	Met Expected Standard +		Higher Level of Attainment		Average Scaled Score	
	Ashwell	National	Ashwell	National	Ashwell	National
Reading	93.5%	73%	51.6%	27.8%	109.6	105
Writing	71.0%	71%	19.4%	12.8%	NA	NA
Maths	83.9%	73%	38.7%	22%	107	104
GPS	83.9%	72%	45.1%	28%	106.9	105
R/W/M Combined	67.7%	59%	16.1%	7%	NA	NA



## International Day Gallery



***Tulip painting in Holland***



***Tri-golf in USA***



***Nursery – India***



***Pizza making – Italy***



***Origami - Japan***



***Aboriginal Art – Australia***



## OTG Day Gallery

