



## April & May 2023

Dear all,

Despite now being almost half way through our summer term, we are still waiting for that summer feeling to arrive weather wise!

It was wonderful to open the school and see so many people come and visit us during Ashwell at Home last Sunday.

So far this term we have had class assemblies, history workshops, the Knex challenge and many other curriculum enrichment activities. There are many more planned in what promises to be an extremely busy, active second half to the summer term full of learning and fun!

Last week saw the return and beginning of our more formal statutory assessment period in school. I am incredibly proud of how the Year 6 children and the staff have worked tirelessly to prepare for their SATs. They really applied themselves last week and tried their hardest which is all we ask of them. It has been the turn of Year 2 this week, they have been as equally impressive!

It will not be long before we are boarding coaches for our Year 4 and Year 6 summer residential trips and I know that the excitement is building amongst the children (and staff!) Follow our Twitter feed to see regular updates while the children are away. In addition to this, we have a number of other curriculum enrichment activities taking place next half term. It starts off with a Junk percussion music workshop fully funded by our PTA on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

At the end of this half term, we sadly say goodbye to Miss Smith (Reception TA). We wish her the best of luck in her new job and then look forward to welcoming Mrs Paige who will be joining us.

I look forward to seeing many of you at some of the events that are coming up later this term.

Thank you for taking the time to read this latest newsletter.

Wishing you all a lovely half term!

Mr S England  
Headteacher

## EVENTS

### ➤ 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May – Y4 Celtic Harmony Residential

#### Half Term

- 5<sup>th</sup> June – INSET Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> June – Year 1 Phonics Screening
- 6<sup>th</sup> June – Junk Percussion Music Workshop
- 7<sup>th</sup> June – Year 5 Duxford Trip
- 8<sup>th</sup> June – Year 3 Verulamium Trip
- 12<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 Multiplication Check
- 12<sup>th</sup> June – Science Workshop (All Years)
- 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Bikeability
- 13<sup>th</sup> June – Y6 Isle of Wight Parent meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> June – Class Photos
- 16<sup>th</sup> June – PTA Fathers' Day Shop
- 20<sup>th</sup> June – Ridlins Athletics Event
- 21<sup>st</sup> June – New Nursery Parent Induction
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June – New Reception Parent Induction
- 28<sup>th</sup> June – Y5/6 Production (Evening)
- 29<sup>th</sup> June – Y5/6 Production (Afternoon)
- 30<sup>th</sup> June – International Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Isle of Wight residential
- 10<sup>th</sup> July – Reports Out
- 10<sup>th</sup> July – Year 1 Knebworth Trip
- 11<sup>th</sup> July – Whole School OTG Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> July – Transition Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> July – PTA Summer Fete
- 17<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- 21<sup>st</sup> July – End of Term

### A plea for Lego sets!

If anyone has any unwanted full sets of Lego that they are willing to donate we would be very grateful to receive them. They are a fantastic resource that Mrs McBeal uses with group work that she delivers to support building social skills, confidence and self-esteem. Please pop them into the office if you are able to help.



### Year 4 – Cave Art

This term, Year 4's topic is Stone Age to Iron Age.

So far, we have learned about the long period of prehistory known as the Stone Age, looking at artefacts and cave art, and finding out what they tell us about the prehistoric diet and lifestyles of Neanderthal man.



The children enjoyed converting our classroom into 'cave walls' and using charcoal and chalks to represent symbols and drawings just like those that were discovered in the Lascaux caves in France.



The children are now really looking forward to their 2 day / 1 night residential which will bring their learning to life! A super way to finish off the half term and topic!



### Easter Holiday Club - Premier

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

➤ Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

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](#)**



### Choir Sing at the Royal Albert Hall

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April our school choir took part in the Hertfordshire Schools Gala at the Royal Albert Hall. They joined other school choirs and hundreds of musicians to put on an extravaganza of musical talent in Hertfordshire!



It was a long day for them but an amazing experience that was thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to Miss Back and Miss Meehan for taking them.





## PTA Updates

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA last Sunday at Ashwell@Home.

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, the school have organised a Junk Percussion Music workshop for each class. This is a great curriculum enrichment activity that is being fully funded by the PTA.

*"Our Junk Percussion workshop is a wonderful way for children to learn to question whether an item is 'rubbish' or 'reusable' whilst pushing the limits of music and rhythm to another level. After being introduced to the instruments, the children will have fantastic fun playing them whilst gaining valuable experience of working as a team and learning how old pots, pans, brushes and boxes can all be recycled to form a "Junk" orchestra."*

Key Dates:

- ✓ Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Fathers' Day Shop
- ✓ Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Fete



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

<https://www.easypundraising.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)

## Ashwell@Home / Coronation work

It was lovely to see so many people from the village and beyond last Sunday at Ashwell @ Home. A huge thank you to our PTA and their volunteers who put on a magnificent lunch spread that received huge praise and lots of positive comments.

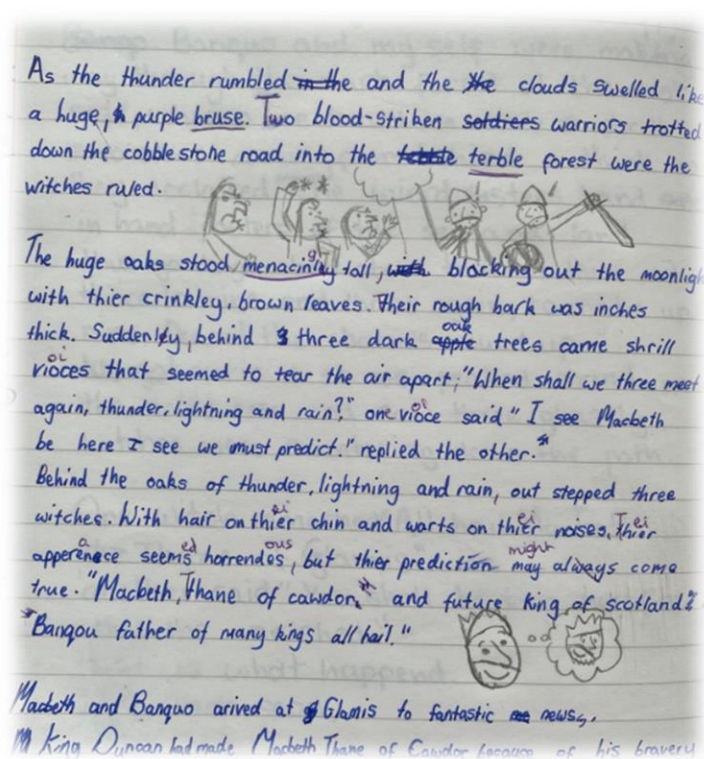
During the day, our children's Coronation work was on display in the hall for people to see. It looked great!



## Year 5 – English work

Year 5 have been learning about the story of Macbeth as part of their literary heritage over the last 3 weeks, and last week, wrote their final piece.

The finished product of their writing is astounding! They should be extremely proud of themselves!



By Arthur A

## Year 3 Maths Challenge

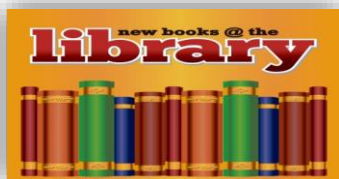
A group of our Year 3 children took part in the HfL 2023 Maths challenge earlier this term. This consisted of a number of challenging rounds where they had to work as a team to solve problems.



## 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/OR6HXLX>



## New Website Preview

We are busy finalising our new school website which we hope to launch before the end of the school year. Below is a sneak preview!



### Welcome to Ashwell Primary School

Welcome to our school website. Ashwell Primary School is a nurturing school where the children are at the heart of everything we do. Set in the idyllic village of Ashwell we work closely in partnership with the other local schools, nurseries and playgroups. We cater for children aged 3 to 11 years and currently have 220 children on role. We provide a creative curriculum approach to learning with great emphasis placed on valuing and developing the whole child. The spiritual, creative, academic, sporting and social talents of each individual are recognised, developed, valued and celebrated.

[Read More](#)

[Meet The Team](#)

## Attendance

Attendance at Ashwell continues to be good with our whole school figure at 96.4% for 2022-23.

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

Class	%
Year 4	97.4%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 6	96.9%
Year 3	96.6%
Year 5	96.1%
Year 1	95.9%
Oak (Reception)	95.7%
Acorn (Nursery)	93.8%



### Calendar Dates

[See Full Calendar](#)

**31st March**

Last day of spring term  
⌚ All Day

**17th April**

INSET Day  
⌚ All Day

**18th April**

First day of summer  
⌚ All Day

### Our Latest Tweets

[Full Twitter Feed](#)



### Contact Us

Ashwell Primary School  
Silver St, Ashwell, Baldock





## Walk to School Week



During the week 15th – 19th May, our children took part in the annual walk to school week. During the week, each class collated their school travel data (see example below).

Walk to School week encouraged families to increase their 'green journeys', with many children walking, scooting or cycling to school each day. The children collated their class's travel methods on a poster and discussed with their teachers the benefits to themselves and the environment of adopting greener modes of transport. In total we made 827 green journeys to school this week! Year 1 came out as the 'greenest' with 92% of their journeys either walking, scooting or cycling.

There have been some great discussions about the benefits of walking to school over other methods of transport. Our school council have also asked if additional bike/scooter storage facilities can be considered which we will do once the heating works project has been completed. Thank you for supporting us with this initiative and thank you to Mrs Andrews for co-ordinating.



## Year 2 Scooter Training

Year 2 have recently taken part in their scooter training. This involved a range of practical activities that taught the children how to handle and travel on a scooter safely.



## Year 5/6 K'Nex Challenge



Year 5 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed their K'Nex STEM challenge. The children were given a brief of engineering a type of crane that had to lift a mass up and down and pivot side to side. They could use anything in the K'Nex box that was available to them on their table and only an hour of which to build it! The classes worked extremely well together in their pairs and came up with some astonishing designs!



## Year 4 Pedestrian Training

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Year 4 worked with a trainer from HCC to learn about various highways safety rules. They spent time taking part in practical activities which supported them to consider safe road crossings. They then completed follow up work in class around this subject.



### Science Week Competition

We were delighted to discover that two of our children were successful with their science week competition designs. Miss Harber sent off the entries to a national competition. Darcy and Lilly finished as runners up!



### EYFS Pirate Day

As part of this term's EYFS Topic, they celebrated a 'Pirate Day' on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. This included a range of pirate themed activities. There was a real buzz of excitement in the setting.



### 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.



### Heating work update

Unfortunately, we are still experiencing severe delays with the completion of our Heating works. This is for a variety of complex issues that I won't bore you with! I just wanted to thank everyone for their patience while this work is completed and apologies for any inconvenience that it is causing. I can assure you that we all want our school tidied up and back to normal as soon as possible! The good news is that as a result of some of the issues, we are able to create a wider pathway around the school and install a new boarder and security fencing.



### Staffing – September 2023



We have almost finalised our staffing structure for September 2023. We are aiming to share this with parents as soon after half term as we are able to.

### Transition Information

The county transition day is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July. We will hold our usual 'Move up morning' where children will spend the morning with their new class teachers. Further information will be shared nearer to the time along with information about our new Nursery and Reception parent induction meetings.





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For 7-12 year olds  
(School Years 3-7)



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and build resilience



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(Children & Young People's Digital Wellbeing Service)

To find out more visit: [www.withyouth.org/lumi-nova](http://www.withyouth.org/lumi-nova)

or Scan QR code to sign up for instant access to Lumi Nova now.



# Please park **SAFELY**

**We need everyone to play their part in keeping the roads near schools safe.**

## **DRIVERS SHOULD NOT:**

- park on yellow zig zag markings.
- park on double yellow lines at any time, or on single yellows during restricted hours.
- park or drive on footpaths.
- park within 10 metres of a junction, as this decreases visibility.
- block driveways or dropped kerbs.

You may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Thank you for your cooperation.

