



April / May – Summer 1

Dear all,

Welcome to our April / May newsletter. The first half of the summer term has been exceptionally busy, filled with exciting enrichment events that have supplemented learning across the curriculum.

Our children have embraced numerous opportunities to extend their classroom experiences. Year 1 enjoyed their educational visit to Shepreth, where they engaged with wildlife and nature in an immersive learning environment. Year 3 demonstrated their mathematical prowess during the Maths challenge, showcasing the problem-solving skills they have developed throughout the year. The whole school participated enthusiastically in Walk to School Week, promoting both physical activity and environmental awareness. Year 4 experienced a particularly memorable adventure during their Celtic Harmony residential, where they explored historical themes through hands-on activities and collaborative learning.

I am delighted to celebrate several notable achievements from recent weeks. Our Chess Club members have excelled in competition, demonstrating strategic thinking and sportsmanship that reflects the values we champion at Ashwell Primary School. Additionally, I am pleased to report significant progress on the School Council's new adventure trail project. This initiative, driven by our children's own ideas and enthusiasm, is almost finished and will soon provide an exciting new resource for outdoor learning and play.

Looking ahead, the second half of the summer term promises to be equally busy, with further trips and enrichment events planned to continue supporting our curriculum delivery. This period holds particular significance as it represents the final term for our Year 6 cohort. These children will soon embark on their Isle of Wight residential, a fitting culmination to their primary school journey that will create lasting memories and strengthen friendships before they transition to secondary education.

Thank you for your continued support in making these opportunities possible for our children.

Kind regards,

Mr S England
Headteacher



Our school events are now shared on the website calendar.

<https://www.ashwell.herts.sch.uk/cal>

HALF TERM

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

- 2nd June – INSET DAY
- 3rd June – Start of Summer 2
- 3rd June – Year 4 MTC Week
- 4th June – Year 6 Street Engineering
- 5th June – Year 6 Houses of Parliament Trip
- 9th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening
- 9th June – Reception Wimpole Trip
- 10th June – Year 5 Duxford Trip
- 10th June – Class Photos
- 13th June – PTA Fathers' Day Shop
- 17th June – Year 2 Science Trip
- 20th June – Lacrosse Enrichment Day
- 20th June – Reception Class Assembly
- 23rd June – New Reception Parents Induction
- 24th June – New Nursery Parents Induction
- 24th & 25th June – Year 6 Bikeability
- 27th June – Year 5/6 District Sports
- 27th June – Year 4 Class Assembly
- 30th June – 4th July – Year 6 Isle of Wight
- 30th June – Year 3 Verulamium Trip
- 10th July – Transition Day
- 11th July – Annual Reports Out
- 16th July – Year 5/6 Performance 1
- 17th July – Year 5/6 Performance 2
- 18th July – PTA Summer Fete
- 21st July – Sports Day
- 22nd July – Year 3 Music Concert
- 23rd July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- 23rd July – End of Term (1pm)

Thank You Volunteers

A huge thank you to all our parents who have given their time to volunteer in any capacity across the durations of this half term, from parent readers to help on trips or sorting of our library – we are truly grateful for all of your help.

SEND Lite Bites – Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)

What is Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)?

APD is a condition that affects how the brain understands sounds, even though hearing is often normal. Children with APD may find it hard to follow spoken instructions, especially in noisy environments, or mix up words that sound similar. This can affect their learning and understanding in class. Common signs include asking for things to be repeated, slow responses to speech, or struggling to focus when there's background noise.

We use strategies like giving clear, simple instructions, reducing distractions, and using visuals to support children with APD.

For more information, you can visit the [NHS website](#) or watch this [short video](#) explaining APD in simple terms.



Year 2 Scooter Training

Year 2 were hugely impressive during their scootability training recently. They worked hard to gain knowledge and skills required to ride a scooter safely in the local area as well as having the opportunity to play some fun games about road safety. This activity is part of our wider curriculum offer at Ashwell which enables children in every year group to develop important life skills around road safety and awareness.



Half Term - Holiday Camps

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

➤ Tuesday 27th May – Friday 30th May

Holiday camps will also be running throughout the summer break, details of dates will be published shortly.

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 and Reception – September 2025 Intake is on our website [here](#).

Please note that we are now full in all year groups across the school other than Year 5 and 6 where there are a few spaces.

Reception – September 2025 Intake

Applications now closed

All admissions are via:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Nursery – Current

*PLACES STILL AVAILABLE for current Nursery cohort.

[On-Line Application Form](#)

Nursery - September 2025 Intake

*PLACES STILL AVAILABLE for Nursery 2025 cohort.

[On-Line Application Form](#)



Ashwell School Chess Competition

Every year, all children who attend Chess Club take part in the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge. Thousands of children aged from 6 to 18 are brought into chess annually in this national event.

We hold an in-school tournament over several weeks to give all the children a taste of playing chess under competitive conditions. All children receive a badge on which they earn gold spots according to the number of points scored.

Congratulations to, Hector S (Year 5) Marlo B (Year 4) Albert M (Year 3) and Rowan C (Reception) who were this year's age group winners.

A huge thank you to Harriett Hunt and the parent helpers for making this possible and giving the children this opportunity.

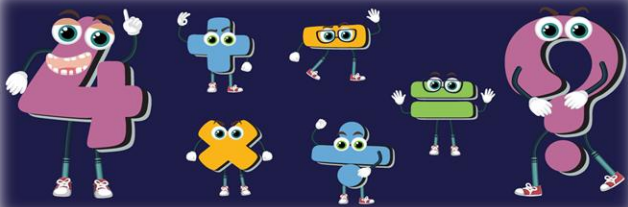


Year 3 & 4 Maths Challenge

This half term, we have been proud of our Year 3 and Year 4 team of Mathematicians. They have competed in one of the many heats of this UK wide inter-school's competition this term, run by the Herts Education maths team.

There were two problem solving rounds and two arithmetic rounds, one visual estimation round and a shape problem solving activity.

The teamwork between the children was excellent - good discussions, sharing out roles for each two-minute timed question and listening to each other's explanations.



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.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Year 4 Pedestrian Training



On 13th May, a representative from the HCC Safer Travel team took all of Year 4 outside the school in three separate sessions, educating them about road safety. This involved the mantra: Stop, Look, Listen, Think and then waiting for the adult to confirm it was safe to cross.

The session also covered the importance of being seen as well as being able to see traffic, and practicing road crossing in different areas, with new hazards every time we crossed. We are grateful to our parent volunteers for accompanying us on this training and also HCC for leading these sessions to help keep our children safe.



Donate a Book to our Library

LIST UPDATED - 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/OR6HXLXLA>



Year 4 Celtic Harmony Residential

Year 4 had a wonderful time at their one night residential at Celtic Harmony on 22nd and 23rd May. They were transported back in time to the Stone Age to Iron Age periods, learning survival skills such as den building, making soup with herbs and other native plants, archery and other skills such as orienteering, bracelet making, drumming and warrior training.



They spent the night in an authentic roundhouse and enjoyed roasting marshmallows over a fire before enjoying a bat walk around the grounds before bedtime.

The children were a credit to our school, showing great enthusiasm and getting stuck into every activity.



Attendance

Our current whole school attendance figure is at 95.9% for 2024-25. This is in line with last year and remains above the national average.

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

Class	%
Year 5	97.6%
Year 6	97.4%
Year 4	97.0%
Year 2	96.8%
Oak (Reception)	96.3%
Year 1	96.0%
Year 3	94.5%
Acorn (Nursery)	94.4%

Congratulations to Year 5 who finish the half term with the best class attendance and earn a non-uniform day.



Nursery Music Session

Our Nursery children enjoyed a fantastic music session when Julia Mitchell came to do some story telling with them.

The children helped to tell a story about kings and queens, animals and magic. The children also listened while Julia played some relaxing music on her harp.



Ashwell Music Festival

During the Ashwell Music Festival week, we were fortunate enough to take part in the 'Young Musician' concert. Both our Year 1-3 and Year 4-6 choirs performed brilliantly. In addition to this, there were outstanding performances from both Bella and Ben R.



PTA Updates

A huge thank you to the PTA for running the recent Summer Disco and the Makers Market during Ashwell at Home.

Upcoming Dates

Friday 13th June – Fathers' Day Shop
Friday 18th July – Summer Fete

You can view the PTA website to access information and their shop - <https://ashwellpta.co.uk/>

If you would like to contact the PTA:

info@ashwellpta.co.uk



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

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashwell-school/>

Year 5 – DT & Computing Project

In Year 5, we've been exploring how to use Micro:bits in our Design and Technology lessons. A Micro:bit is a small programmable device that can be used to create digital projects, such as step counters, games, or sensors.



We researched animals that need to live in carefully controlled temperatures, such as reptiles, and thought about how technology could help monitor their environments. Using the Micro:bit website, we programmed our devices to alert us when the temperature gets too cold or too hot. We then downloaded our programs to the Micro:bits to test if they worked—just like real engineers.



Year 1 – Shepreth Trip

Year 1 had their class trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park as part of their “animals and humans” learning in science.

The children were extremely excited (most of all by taking the train!?) and they displayed exemplary behaviour throughout the day, a credit to us all.



They took part in workshops titled “who eats who?” and “camouflage”, listening most intently when they saw a polar bear skull! Thank you to our parent volunteers and to you all for sending the children prepared for the warm weather.



Walk to School Week

Our Active and Green Travel Team worked with Mrs Andrews to plan an exciting and meaningful week for the school community during Walk to School Week. Their theme was “Travelling Sustainably – Caring for Our Planet”

Monday to Wednesday – Nature Walks

Children were encouraged to walk, scoot, or cycle to school while appreciating and observing the natural world around them.

Thursday – Litter Pick Day

On Thursday, we asked families to take part in a **litter pick** on their walk to school.

Friday – Decorate Your Ride!

To finish off the week with a splash of creativity, we held a fun competition. Children were encouraged to decorate their bike, scooter or skateboard in a green or eco-themed design and ride it to school.



Congratulations to our winners and runners up.

Winners

1st Nyla Rae (Year 1)

2nd May P (Year 2)

3rd Toby E (Year 2)

Runners Up

James (Year 1)

Alma (Year 3)

May P – Eco Journey!

Possibly the most creative ‘green journey’ to school we’ve seen all week!



Laser Tag

At the beginning of this term, each year group participated in a Laser Tag workshop, which represent a new and innovative approach to physical activity for our children. The sessions were funded through our Sports Premium allocation, demonstrating our commitment to providing diverse and enriching physical experiences beyond traditional sports.



The workshops offered our children the opportunity to engage in a physically active pursuit that combines strategy, teamwork, and cardiovascular exercise.

This initiative aligns with our ongoing efforts to broaden the range of physical activities available to our children, ensuring that we cater to different interests and abilities while promoting healthy, active lifestyles.



EYFS Pirate Day

On Friday 23rd May, our Early Years Foundation Stage children participated in a wonderful pirate-themed day, which served to enrich and enhance their current learning experiences. This immersive approach allowed our youngest children to engage with their curriculum in a creative and memorable way, bringing their classroom learning to life through hands-on activities and imaginative play.

Such themed days demonstrate our commitment to providing engaging educational experiences that capture children's natural curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. I am pleased to see how these opportunities continue to support our children's development across all areas of the curriculum.



Staff Organisation 2025-26

This time of year, in school is always busy, and we appreciate that once we enter the summer term, children, parents and staff begin to cast one eye to the next academic year. We are currently in the process of working with Governors to set the 2025-26 school budget and alongside this we will also begin to explore our staffing structure for the 2025-26 academic year before turning our attention to focus on transition within the school. As ever, we will endeavour to communicate staffing organisation for 2025-26 as soon as we are able to finalise it. This is likely to be just after the summer half term.

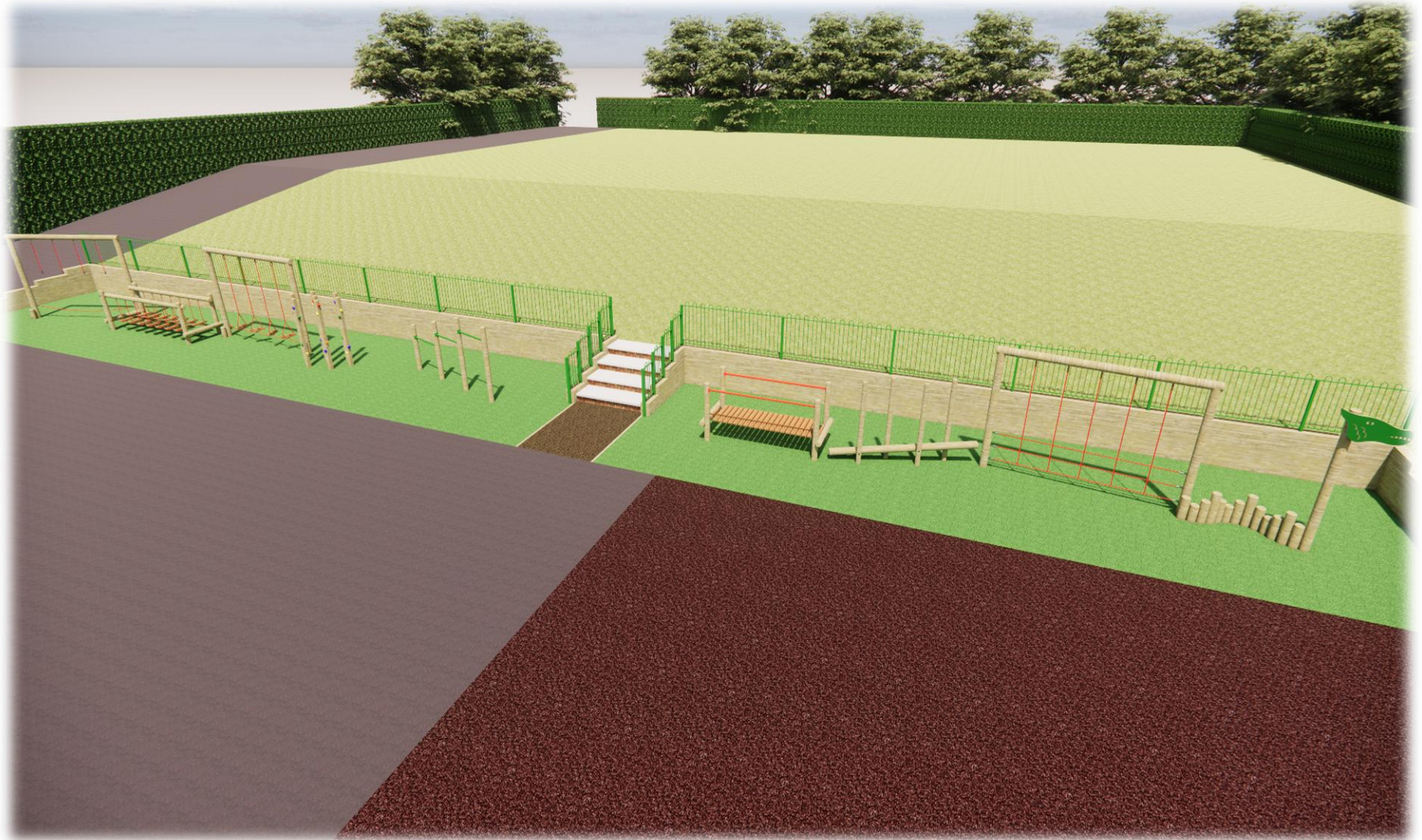
School Council Adventure Trail & New Play Area

This year, our school council have been working towards a special project. As a result of old play equipment around the meadow becoming unusable, they set about designing a new adventure trail that would see an extension to the playground, enabling it to be used all year round. Early in the year, our Year 6 School Council reps pitched their ideas to the Henry Colbron Trust trustees in a bid to secure funding for the project. The project has also been supported by £11,000 that was ring-fenced from the previous PTA committee led by Yvonne Wright. The project is now near completion and the children are extremely excited to begin using their new space. Take a look at the project's journey below.



Coming Soon... Summer 2025

Over the Easter Break, groundwork will begin on the installation of our new playground extension and adventure trail. We are hoping that it will be completed just before half term.



Mental Health Support for Hertfordshire's Children and Young People




JUST TALK

If you're young and feeling a bit low, or worried, find the help you need in Herts.



www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealthsupportforhertsyoungpeople




TALK

Find advice and help If your child is feeling low, anxious or generally struggling



www.justtalkherts.org

If your child or teenager is feeling low, anxious, or generally struggling, there are lots of services available to help them all year round. Please always encourage them to talk and ask for help if they need it.

The services listed on Just Talk's webpage are all free and don't need a professional referral, so they can be contacted directly by young people and/or their parents/carers. Services listed include Hertfordshire's new With Youth Digital Wellbeing Service for ages 5-18, parents and carers and many more, so please take a look:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealthsupportforhertsyoungpeople



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(School Years 3-7)



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- ★ **Based on highly effective Cognitive Behavioural Therapy**
- ★ Helps breakdown fears and worries into manageable steps
- ★ Development funded by the NHS



Medicines &
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Helps pupils learn life-long skills to self-manage worries and build resilience



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Available across Hertfordshire as part of With YOUTH
(Children & Young People's Digital Wellbeing Service)

To find out more visit: www.withyouth.org/lumi-nova

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



How Does School Attendance Affect a Child's Learning?

365 Days in a Year
190 School Days
175 Non School Days

0 Days
Absence

190
Days
in
School



100%
Attendance

Best chance of success

10 Days
Absence

180
Days
in
School

95%
Attendance

19 Days
Absence

171
Days
in
School



90%
Attendance

Less chance of success

29 Days
Absence

161
Days
in
School

85%
Attendance

38 Days
Absence

152
Days
in
School

80%
Attendance

Serious impact on
education and
reduced life chances

47 Days
Absence

143
Days
in
School

75%
Attendance

Over half
a term
missed!

Having 90% Over 5 school
years, is half a school
year's work missed.

A 2 week holiday in term
time, means that the
highest attendance a child
can achieve is 94.7%



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.

