



June / July – Summer 2

Dear all,

As we reach the end of what has been an exceptionally busy half term, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the remarkable achievements and experiences that have defined our academic year at Ashwell Primary School.

This half term has been particularly intensive, with our children demonstrating exceptional resilience and determination. Year 4 children completed their multiplication tables check with great focus, whilst Year 6 approached their SATs with the maturity and preparation we have come to expect from them. Year 1 children showed considerable confidence during their phonics screening, a testament to the solid foundations they have built throughout the year.

Beyond these statutory assessments, our children have embraced a huge range of extracurricular activities and educational visits that have enriched their learning experiences immeasurably. Year 6 had the privilege of visiting the Houses of Parliament, providing them with invaluable insights into our democratic processes. Our lacrosse day brought energy and enthusiasm to the school grounds, whilst our class assemblies showcased the confidence and creativity of children across all year groups.

The Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight created lasting memories and strengthened friendships as our oldest children prepared for their transition to secondary school. Their production of Star Warts, performed alongside Year 5, demonstrated remarkable talent and teamwork, providing entertainment and pride for our entire school community.

I am delighted to report that this has been a hugely successful academic year where every child has made progress and thrived. The school is very happy with progress towards our development priorities as we continue to strive to deliver the best education and experience possible for all our children.

As we come to the end of the academic year, it is time to say goodbye to some of our children who will be leaving us, and we wish them the best of luck in their new schools. We also say goodbye to Year 6 and send them on their way fully prepared for their move to secondary school, confident that they will continue to flourish.

I am incredibly proud of all of our staff for their hard work, passion and dedication. They truly are an amazing team, and we are very lucky to be part of such an amazing community.

I would like to thank parents for all of their support throughout the year. Our relationship is essential to our collective success, and your partnership has been invaluable.

Have a lovely summer. We look forward to starting all over again in September.

Kind regards,

Mr S England
Headteacher

Our school events are now shared on the website calendar.

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

- **22nd July – Year 3 Music Concert**
- **23rd July – Year 6 Leavers Assembly**
- **23rd July – End of Term (1pm)**

2025-26

- **3rd September – INSET DAY**
- **4th September – Autum Term Starts**
- **9th September – Meet the Teacher Sessions**
- **15th September – PTA AGM**
- **16th September – Individual Photos**
- **22nd September – Harvest Festival**
- **23rd September – R-Y6 Flu Vaccinations**
- **30th September – N-Y2 Phonics Workshop**
- **2nd October – Y6 Health Checks**
- **10th October – Y4 Shuttleworth Trip**
- **14th & 16th October – Parents' Evening**
- **24th October – Y6 Class Assembly**
- **27th – 31st October – Half Term**

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 your help.



Summer Reading Challenge



This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme, Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors, will encourage children to explore the magical connection between storytelling and nature, all while addressing the dip in reading levels that can often occur during the summer holidays.

Throughout the summer, children joining 'Story Garden' can discover new books, participate in free activities at their local library, and explore the link between reading and the great outdoors.

The Challenge runs at all Hertfordshire Libraries until Saturday 6 September. Children are encouraged to read six library books and collect exclusive stickers along the way. Those who complete the Challenge will receive a medal and certificate - while stocks last - and a chance to win tickets to an interactive workshop with award winning author, Sean Taylor. Keep an eye out for pop-up Maker Stations at select libraries during the summer holidays, offering simple and sustainable nature inspired activities.

For Details, visit:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SummerReadingChallenge

Staff Achievement

Congratulations to Miss Meehan, who has recently completed and been awarded her NPQSL (National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership). The NPQSL is a rigorous qualification designed to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for effective senior leadership in schools. This achievement demonstrates Miss Meehan's commitment to professional development and her dedication to educational excellence. Her enhanced leadership capabilities will undoubtedly benefit our children and contribute to the continued success of Ashwell Primary School. We are proud of her accomplishment and look forward to the positive impact this will have on our school community.



Summer Holiday Camps

There will be a Premier Camps Multi-activity Holiday Club at Ashwell School across the summer break.

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](#)



Key Stage 1 Sports Festival

Our Year 6 pupils hosted a fantastic KS1 sports festival as part of their Sports Leadership programme.



Children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took part in a carousel of fun, energetic multi-skills activities, all thoughtfully designed and led by the Year 6's. It was a brilliant opportunity for our oldest students to demonstrate responsibility, teamwork and leadership—and they certainly rose to the challenge! We were incredibly proud of their maturity and enthusiasm throughout the event. Meanwhile, our youngest children thoroughly enjoyed a morning full of movement, laughter and sporting fun. Well done to everyone involved!



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



Reception – Wimpole Hall



Reception had a fantastic day out at Wimpole Farm! The children loved exploring the farm, especially meeting the adorable day-old piglets. They were fascinated by the huge combine harvesters and other farm machinery. A highlight was the adventure playground, where everyone had a great time climbing and playing together. The group also enjoyed a peaceful walk through the beautiful walled garden, taking in the colours and smells of summer. After a busy, fun-filled day of learning and adventure, there were lots of sleepy heads on the coach ride home!



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 5 – Duxford Visit

Our Duxford adventure started with being greeted by Neil, a wonderful member of the Duxford staff. We then split into our three groups: one with Miss Howley, Mrs Giles and Mr England. The first activity was called Documentary challenge where we had to learn about The Battle of Britain, we were in the assigned place, and we had to make our own documentaries about it using special devices. After this, we separated into our three groups and set off on our own adventure around Duxford. We saw loads of WW2 planes, such as the B17 Flying Fortress, the Submarine Spitfire and the Hurricane. We also went inside the famous 'Concorde' (the fastest passenger plane). We looked at the women's jobs of WW2 too. At the end of the day, we watched two Spitfires take off! We then had to hastily make our way to the coach! We had the best time!

Written by Jordan and Zion



Attendance

Our current whole school attendance figure is at 95.1% 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	97.8%
Year 6	97.4%
Year 2	97.3%
Year 4	97.2%
Oak (Reception)	96.6%
Year 1	95.8%
Year 3	94.5%
Acorn (Nursery)	93.9%

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



Attendance Matters



Nursery Springs Visit

The Nursery children had a wonderful morning splashing around in Ashwell Springs. They learnt about which objects float or sink and how water moves.

Everyone had wet feet by the end of our visit, but nobody fell in!



News from Year 6

After working incredibly hard in the lead-up to their SATs, Year 6 have certainly earned some well-deserved fun, and what an amazing time they've had! At the end of SATs week, the class enjoyed a fun afternoon at Ashwell Springs. They made paper boats in the morning and raced them on the Springs, as you can see in this photo. We had a lovely afternoon, looking at the fish and paddling in the water.

The school journey to the Isle of Wight was a true highlight for all concerned with a trip they will never forget: five days packed full of adventure, laughter, and glorious sunshine. From theme park thrill rides and beach games to crazy golf, aqua park fun (including pushing the teachers in the water) and all sleeping well through the night, the beautiful weather made every moment even more special.

In June, we enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Houses of Parliament. The children were privileged to watch live debates in both the House of Lords and the House of Commons, gaining a real insight into how our democracy works. It was an unforgettable experience that truly brought their learning to life.

It's been a wonderful end to a busy year for Year 6, packed with memorable experiences, lasting friendships, and a well-earned break after all their hard work.

They've made their teachers proud and created memories that will last a lifetime.

PTA Updates

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated PTA for organising a fantastic array of events this year. Your unwavering support and participation have made a significant impact, allowing us to raise essential funds. These funds have been put to excellent use, subsidising the school trip to the panto at Christmas and enabling us to purchase new seating, a table tennis table, and a football table for our new outdoor play area. Your contributions truly enhance our children's experience at Ashwell Primary School, and we are grateful for your commitment to our community.

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



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 a Roman hypocaust.



A treat from Fabios

We have had some very hot days this summer term. What better way to help cool down than to be treated to gelato from Fabios. Thank you to Fabio and Hannah for thinking of us during the heat and providing every child and member of staff with a much-needed gelato!



District Sports - Athletics

Earlier this term, Miss Meehan took our Year 5 and 6 Athletics squad to compete in the North Herts Athletics meet. We were incredibly proud of their efforts with almost every child coming home with a medal.

Y6 80 meters

Phoebe G - Heat A - Bronze
Emily R - Heat B - Bronze
Luca - Heat A - Silver
Elliot - Heat B - Gold

Y5 600 meters

Florence A - Heat A - Bronze
Dougjie - Heat A - Silver

Y6 600 meters

Holly B - Heat A - Silver
Lottie W - Heat B - Bronze
Seb B - Heat A - Silver

Field Events:

Y5 Long Jump - Hector - Silver
Y5 Speed Bounce - Harry B - Silver
Y6 Speed Bounce - Luca - Bronze
Y5 Ball Throw - Fraser - Silver
Y6 Ball Throw - Holly B - Bronze
Y5 Shot Put - Dougjie - Gold
Y6 Shot Put - Phoebe G - Bronze
Y6 Shot Put - Fletcher - Gold

Y5 Mixed Relay

Liliana/Isabella/Dougjie/Fraser - Bronze

Y6 Mixed Relay

Holly/Phoebe G/Elliot/Seb - Silver

Overall Results:

Boys – 2nd
Girls – 4th



Sports Day Results 2025

It was fantastic to be able to host our annual sports day on Monday despite the risk of rain! It was fabulous to see the children having such fun.

A huge thank you to all staff, volunteers and especially Miss Meehan for organising such a smooth event!

Final Sports day results

Key Stage 1 & Reception

1st – Blue Team (610)

2nd – Yellow Team (590)

3rd – Red Team (470)

4th – Green Team (430)

Key Stage 2

1st – Blue Team (970)

2nd – Green Team (810)

3rd – Yellow Team (770)

4th – Red Team (660)

Overall

1st – Blue Team (1580)

2nd – Yellow Team (1360)

3rd – Green Team (1240)

4th – Red Team (1130)



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.



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 5th 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 – Tuesday 9th September!**

Improvement Works - Summer

Thankfully, we have a much quieter summer ahead of us compared to recent years as a result of being able to have our new adventure trail and Year 5/6 area installed during this term!

This summers works include:

- ✓ New carpet and flooring throughout the New Block
- ✓ New carpet and flooring in EYFS

Year 5/6 Production

On Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th July our Year 5 and 6 children put on spectacular performances of 'Star Wars'. 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, £304.50 will be donated to our chosen charity – Garden House Hospice.



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 or buying new uniform.

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

IMPORTANT – PE Kit

A reminder that PE kit should comprise of the following ONLY:

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

***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)**



A reminder that children DO NOT need bags or rucksacks. A simple book bag and drawstring PE kit is all that is needed. This will help keep our classrooms clear and tidy.

Scouts to the Rescue!

It was lovely to be approached by the Ashwell Scouts earlier this term. We were incredibly grateful for them giving up two of their evening meetings to volunteer their time to help us complete some much-needed jobs around the school. It was particularly nice to see past students return, alongside present students! Thank you to Mr Repka for organizing this. The scouts put the community hours towards achieving their badges with the end goal being the chief scout award.



School Development Priorities



This year our main school development priorities have been:

Main Priority 1: To continue to raise the attainment of pupil in writing across the school.

Main Priority 2: Continue to fully embed the intended high quality, ambitious curriculum ensuring the ongoing development of teacher expertise and subject knowledge.

Main Priority 3: To further develop leadership at all levels, strengthening distributed and balanced leadership across the school.

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 2025-26 priorities.

Year 6 Bikeability

Year 6 had PCSO Chris Brabrook come in and run three bikeability sessions after half term. Children completed our Level 1, which teaches us to maintain our bikes, control our bikes when riding, and be aware of our surroundings.

In our sessions we learned how to:

- ✓ check our bikes to make sure they are safe to ride
- ✓ safely place our bikes on and off the road
- ✓ break in emergency situations.

We played a few games to help boost our confidence on the road. We also learnt how to look behind us and pedal one handed! It was so much fun.



Year 2 Science Museum

Year 2 had a fantastic trip to the Cambridge Science Museum last month. The class took part in an interactive workshop learning about the 5 senses with a taste and hearing test, followed by an exploration of the gallery. There were over 20 hands-on exhibits for the children to explore and enjoy. The children showed enthusiasm and inquisitive minds whilst extending their learning of the world around them.



Year 1 Creepy Crawly Day

Year 1 had a fun packed Creepy Crawly Day dressed as their favourite bug! Throughout the day, the children made lots of different creepy crawly crafts with paints, recyclable models, collage and objects from nature. The children also enjoyed using the outdoor learning area to go on bug hunts and collect their data in tally and pictograms. Year 1 demonstrated lots of creativity and resilience throughout the day.



School Games Mark – Silver Award

We are delighted to be able to share that we have been awarded the School Games Mark – Silver award for 2024-25. This is a fantastic achievement for a small school and reflects the hard work from our staff and sporting offer our children have. Congratulations to Miss Meehan for her achievements with this.



Scuba Success – Fletcher J (Y6)

We are thrilled to celebrate Fletcher in Year 6 for his outstanding accomplishments in the world of diving! Fletcher has qualified as both an open water diver and a dry suit diver, showcasing his dedication, and passion for adventure. We are incredibly proud of Fletcher and look forward to seeing where his diving journey takes him next. Well done, Fletcher!



Celebrating Grounds Developments!

This term has seen the completion of our recent ground's improvements, which have significantly enhanced our outdoor spaces! Thanks to the generous funding from the Henry Colbron Trust and £11,000 of ring-fenced funding from our previous PTA under Mrs. Wright, we have installed a fantastic new adventure trail, extending our playground area for all children to enjoy. Additionally, we have created a bespoke outdoor play space specifically designed for our older children outside the Year 5 and 6 classrooms. Both of these projects have been led by our School Council.





Ashwell Primary School

**has achieved the Silver School Games Mark
award for their commitment, engagement
in the School Games for 2024/25.**



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)



An effective & fun therapeutic mobile intervention improving pupil anxiety

- ★ Instant access through a mobile app
- ★ **Based on highly effective Cognitive Behavioural Therapy**
- ★ Helps breakdown fears and worries into manageable steps
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Helps pupils learn life-long skills to self-manage worries and build resilience



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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

4
weeks
missed!

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.

