



November / December – Autumn 2

Dear all,

Well... where did that term go!?

The last few weeks have been action packed with so many different activities taking place across the school. As we come towards the end of our Christmas activities it is a time to reflect and celebrate.

It was an absolute pleasure welcoming the parents of our EYFS children into school to watch their performance of 'Knock, Knock! The Nativity' and then to welcome the KS1 parents to their performance of 'Prickly Hay' I was incredibly proud of the children and staff for all their hard work and fantastic productions.

On Tuesday last week, we welcomed the visiting Panto! The children were treated to a performance of Peter Pan. A huge thank you to our PTA for funding this opportunity for our children. We had a fantastic time as a whole school!

This edition of our newsletter covers both November and December events so there is lots to read about that has happened this half term including class trips, sporting success and lots of other educational and extra-curricular achievements.

It was so lovely to see so many parents join us in church on Tuesday for our Christingle Service. I hope those who could make it enjoyed it as much as we all did.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a fantastic festive season with your families. I hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you in 2026, on Tuesday 6th January for the beginning of our spring term.

Kind regards,

Mr S England
Headteacher



Our school events are now shared on the website calendar.

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

➤ 19th December – End of Term (1pm)

Christmas Break 22nd December – 2nd January

- 5th January – INSET DAY
- 6th January – Spring Term Begins
- 14th January – Y1 History Workshop
- 15th & 16th January – STEM Enrichment Days
- 27th January – Parent Maths Workshop
- 26th January – Y5 Distraction Training
- 28th January – Y5 History Workshop
- 28th January – Y6 @ Houses of Parliament
- 30th January – Y3 Class Assembly
- 3rd February – Y2 History Workshop
- 6th February – PTA Disco (TBC)
- 9th February – Inclusion Awareness Week
- 10th February – Dance Club Festival
- 11th February – Safer Internet Day
- 13th February – Neurodiversity Afternoon

Half Term

16th – 20th February

- 23rd February – Volleyball Enrichment Day
- 4th March – Cyber Security & Fraud Day
- 5th March – World Book Day
- 9th March – Science Week
- 13th March – PTA Mothers' Day Shop
- 17th & 19th March – Parents Evening
- 23rd – 25th March – Y5 Residential (Burwell)
- 25th & 26th March – Y3/4 Production
- 27th March – End of Term (1pm)

Parent Volunteers



Thank you to those who have contacted the office to offer some time and your support. If you have not yet had a chance to, please let us know ASAP as we are co-ordinating parent helpers with the class teachers so that we are able to target needs across the school.

Fundraising Totals

Charity Fundraising Totals from recent events

Children In Need £1,378
School Raffle £740.00
Christmas Bazaar £500.15
Garden House Hospice £807.50
(EYFS&KS1 shows & Choir)

Thank you for supporting these events.

Remembrance Reflections

It was wonderful to see our Year 6 school council reps take part in the village Remembrance Service this year and place a school poppy wreath at the memorial. During week beginning 10th November, children spent time in lessons and assemblies reflecting on what Remembrance means to us. We came together as a whole school to hold a 2-minute silence at 11am on the 11th with the last post being played. It is always powerful coming together to observe it with such respect shown by all. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the poppy appeal.



Ashwell School Advent Window

Our school Advent window – with thanks to Miss Robinson & Year 1



Christmas - Holiday Camps

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

➤ Monday 22nd – Tuesday 23rd December

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 2026 Intake is on our website [here](#).

Please note that we are now full in all year groups across the school other than Year 6 where there are 3 spaces.

If you would like to book onto a Reception tour, please use the link below:

[Reception Tours](#)

Deadline for applications – 15/1/26

Allocation Day – 16/4/26

All admissions are via:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Nursery – Current

*PLACES STILL AVAILABLE for our September 2025 Nursery Cohort.

[On-Line Application Form](#)

Nursery - September 2026 Intake

If you would like to book onto a Nursery tour, please use the link below:

[Nursery Tours](#)

Deadline for applications – 9/2/26

Allocation Day – 9/3/26

[On-Line Application Form](#)



Ashwell Show Committee Funding

A huge thank you to the Ashwell Show Committee who have agreed to fund the following from the 2025 show proceeds:

- A class set of dictionaries and Thesaurus
- Geography Resources – Class Globes
- Additional resources for support SEND children in literacy.
- Funding to further improve and replenish our stock of high-quality reading books
- Whole School KAPLA STEM Workshop

In total they have granted £2280.75. We are truly grateful and appreciative of their hard work and any parents who have supported the show to enable us access to these funds.



Children In Need

On Friday 14th November, we joined together to celebrate and raise money for Children in Need. Events during the day were organised by our School Council.

During the morning, our school council led us in an assembly, they shared information about the history of Children in Need and also about the important work that they do to support children across the country.

Unfortunately, this year, the weather was not on our side so we were unable to host the usual Year 6 vs Staff Basketball match. Instead, Mr England hosted a Children in Need Disco in the school hall during the lunch hour.

During the afternoon each class completed their Challenge 25 activity and much fun was had.

We are delighted to be able to share that a total of £1,378 was raised. We are incredibly grateful for your support.



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



Wellbeing Ambassadors

We're excited to welcome our new Wellbeing Ambassadors, who have started supporting our weekly Chill and Chat sessions. They are doing an amazing job creating a safe and friendly space where children can talk about anything that's on their mind, including worries or concerns. Each ambassador was carefully interviewed and has received training from Miss Sohal in active listening, ensuring they are well-equipped to offer empathy and support. We're proud of the positive impact they're already making!



Anti-Bullying Week

Between Monday 10th and Friday 14th November, we celebrated national Anti-Bullying week. Children took part in a range of lessons across the week, learning about the importance of this year's theme of respect. There were also discussions about what bullying is, and what to do if you feel you or someone else is being bullied. Children also created their own Anti-Bullying Superhero characters. Check out our school video here:

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



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/OR6HXLX>



Year 6 Christmas Bazaar

Year 6 were delighted to host a Christmas Bazaar for the rest of the school recently, raising funds to support a range of School Council-led projects in the year ahead. Working in small teams, the children planned, designed and ran an exciting variety of festive stalls. From games and challenges to creative activities, seasonal treats and even face painting, there was something for every child from Nursery to Year 5 to enjoy. Their hard work, teamwork and enthusiasm helped create a wonderful festive atmosphere, and the whole school had a fantastic time taking part. A special thank you goes to the parents of our Year 6 children for their time, generosity and encouragement throughout the preparations of the stalls. The event wouldn't have been possible without you.



Attendance

Our current whole school attendance figure so far this year is 97.3%. This is slightly above this time last year and remains well above the national average.

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

Class	%
Year 1	98.5%
Year 5	98.1%
Year 3	98.0%
Reception (Oak)	97.3%
Year 6	97.2%
Year 2	97.2%
Year 4	96.4%
Acorn (Nursery)	92.7%

Congratulations to Year 1 who finish the term with the best class attendance and win a non-uniform day.



Attendance Matters



Year 3 Fitzwilliam Museum

This term year 3 have been finding out about the Ancient Egyptians. As part of this topic, they looked at Ancient Egyptian artwork and found out about the colours, symbols and patterns they used. They then designed their own Ancient Egyptian inspired pictures and used pastels to draw them on to papyrus paper.

Year 3 enjoyed a trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge in early November. The museum had a special 'Made in Ancient Egypt' exhibition featuring jewellery, ceramics and sculptures- the children were lucky enough to get up close to some amazing artefacts. We also participated in a brilliant art workshop, recreating Egyptian images on papyrus paper.



EYFS Production

Our EYFS children shone brightly in this year's nativity performance, *Knock Knock – The Nativity*. Nursery and Reception pupils took to the stage with confidence, sharing joyful songs that even included Makaton signs they had been practising. The hall was filled with laughter, smiles, and proud moments as the children brought the story to life. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and it was clear they loved every minute of it. A wonderful celebration of teamwork, creativity, and festive fun!



PTA Updates

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the recent PTA Fireworks and Wreath making event. Lots of fun was had by all.



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/ashwellschool/>

Key Stage 1 Production

During the week beginning 8th December, our Key Stage 1 children put on three performances of 'Prickly Hay'. They performed to the whole school and then two shows to parents. A huge thank you to everyone who attended either performance. The money from our ticket sales is being donated to our chosen charity – Garden House Hospice.



Choir Christmas Events

Mrs Lee has been extremely busy with the school choir this term. It was so lovely to see them singing at the Village Christmas Carol concert on Wednesday 10th December. Earlier that day, our school choir ventured into the village to do some busking! They sang a selection of Christmas songs and traditional carols to a large audience with enthusiasm and smiles. Passers-by also stopped to listen and delight in the festive singing. The children really enjoyed this new experience and had fun spreading the Christmas cheer! Congratulations to the children for the performances and a huge thank you to Mrs. Lee for her hard work and support with the choir clubs this term.



Christingle Service

It was an absolute treat to be able to gather together for a Christingle service in church this week. What a lovely way to end the term. A huge thank you to all of the parents who came and especially to Rev Chris for hosting us and providing all of the Christingle sets for the children to make in school.

ANTON – Free Learning Platform

ANTON The free learning platform for all. ANTON makes learning easy and fun.

The platform offers personalised learning that enables you to progress at your own pace and level, unlocking games and rewards along the way.

With a comprehensive curriculum across key subjects, learners can practice, improve, and gain confidence throughout their school journey.

ANTON strives for equitable digital learning. Our core teaching and learning content is always free for everyone. https://anton.app/en_gb/



EYFS Little Cities Experience

EYFS had the most amazing morning in the little city experience. The hall was set up beautifully into lots of different stations: a shop, a doctors, a post office, a vet, a garage, a salon, an emergency services office, a builders yard and a cafe to name a few! It was a fantastic way to embed our learning on people who help us and take on the role of these people for the morning! A huge thank you to our PTA for funding this experience for our youngest children who sometimes miss out on enrichment activities that are not age appropriate!



Year 5 Learning Report

In Geography, we have been answering an enquiry - how the recreational activities of Ashwell compare to that of a Himalayan village. On Wednesday morning, we walked through Ashwell; our first stop was The Rec. We observed cars and what was around us, measured the width of the path and predicted what recreational activities would be done there. We repeated this for the rest of our journey through Ashwell. We stopped at The Springs and then The Rose and Crown. Over the next few topic lessons, we will collate our data and create graphs and evaluate whether we have better recreational activities than that in The Himalayas.

By Hugo and Lennon

Year 5 invited Harriet Hunt to come in and talk to the class about her job and her experiences in the mountainous regions of Ethiopia. She also spoke to the class about her job at Kew Gardens. She told us about an extraordinary plant called 'Enset' that grows in Ethiopia. It can grow up to 7meters tall and Ethiopian children, as young as seven, can climb it to cut down the strong leaves. They are studying this plant at Kew Gardens because they can extract the nutrients from it for the village and also make flour from the stem. She also told us how Ethiopian people use the leaves for their roofs on houses. It links with our mountain topic because Enset usually grows high up in the Ethiopian Highlands. We definitely learnt a lot that morning!

By Martha and Imogen C



Year 3/4 Football Tournament

On Tuesday 4th November, our Year 3/4 football team took part in the Rural Schools Sports Football Tournament. We were incredibly proud of how fantastically they performed as a team and were delighted to see them come away as the overall tournament winners.

Results:

Ashwell 1 – 0 Codicote
Ashwell 0 – 0 Breachwood Green
Ashwell 3 – 0 Gravely
Ashwell 3 – 0 St Ippolyts
Semi Final Ashwell 1 – 1 Pirton (2-0 penalties)
Final Ashwell 2 – 0 Codicote



Congratulations to William who was our top scorer with 5 goals and player of the tournament.

Musical Showcase

In November we hosted our very first Showcase Wednesday - an informal music concert for musicians of any standard to perform a piece of music to other children. On Wednesday 26th and 3rd December lunchtime, lots of children and staff from across the school gathered in the hall to enjoy listening to a variety of instruments. We heard fantastic performances on the piano, violin, clarinet, steel pan, guitar, recorder, voice and acoustic drum kit. Well done to all the performers for taking part in such a wonderful musical extravaganza! You all showcased your talents!

We will be hosting another Showcase Wednesday in the Spring and Summer terms.



Year 5/6 Football Tournament

On Tuesday 2nd December, we were fortunate enough to be able to take all Year 5 & 6 footballers to the Rural Schools Sports Football Tournament. We were incredibly proud of how fantastically both teams performed. Our B Team showed huge improvements as the morning progressed. Well done to our A team who came away as the overall tournament winners.

A Team Results:

Ashwell 4 – 0 Wymondley
Ashwell 3 – 1 St Ippolyts
Ashwell 6 – 0 Cockernhoe
Ashwell 2 – 0 Preston
Semi Final Ashwell 2 – 1 Codicote
Final Ashwell 0 – 0 Wymondly (2-1 penalties)



Congratulations to Fraser who was our top scorer and player of the tournament for the A team and to Ed and Jordan who were joint players of the tournament for the B Team.

Year 6 Crucial Crew

Year 6 had an exciting visit to a school in Letchworth to attend a Crucial Crew workshop run by the emergency services. They learned about many important ways to keep themselves safe and how to help others, including CPR, cybercrime awareness, staying safe on the railway, the dangers of alcohol, and much more. The experience was designed to ensure children understand how to react correctly in dangerous or threatening situations and to appreciate the vital role of the emergency services. The children really enjoyed the morning and came away with valuable knowledge they can use in everyday life.



Netball News

The netball season is now well underway with two teams from across Y5 and Y6 playing in the rural school's netball tournament this week. Our 1st team narrowly missed out on a top 3 place with it coming down to a 'sudden death' penalty shootout at the end, but playing brilliantly, nonetheless. Despite the freezing cold, all children gave it their all, but Miss Meehan's players of the match were: John L-F, Lexi P and Scarlett B - a dynamic trio of attackers! Well done, Netballers!



Farming Talk & Tractor Visit

Thank you to all of the children who took part in the design a Christmas Tractor competition recently.

Congratulations to Imogen P (Y5) who was a runner up winner in the design a Christmas Tractor competition. As a result of this, we were fortunate enough to win a visit that included an assembly and talk on farming and a class visit to the tractor. We hope lots of you were able to then visit the tractor trail for Christmas. Well done, Imogen.



Spotlight on SEND

Supporting Children Who Stammer: Understanding and Helping at Home

We are committed to helping all our students become confident communicators. This term, two of our staff, Miss Meehan and Mrs Page, attended training on Stammering (sometimes called stuttering). We want to share some key information to help parents understand and support children who stammer.

What is Stammering?

Stammering is a difference in the way a person speaks. It involves the flow of speech being interrupted and can include:

- Repetitions: Repeating sounds or parts of words (e.g., "c-c-cat").
- Prolongations: Stretching out sounds (e.g., "sssnake").
- Blocks: An unintended pause where no sound comes out.

Stammering is not caused by anxiety, shyness, or poor parenting, although a child may feel anxious *because* they stammer. It is influenced by a combination of factors, including differences in brain function, genetics, and how the speech muscles work.

- Around 8% of children experience a stammer at some point.

Practical Ways to Support Your Child

The most important thing you can do is to create a relaxed, listening environment at home. Simple changes to your own communication style can make a huge difference:

- Slow Down Your Own Speech - Modelling a calm, unhurried pace can help reduce pressure on your child.
- Give Plenty of Time - Avoid interrupting, rushing, or finishing their sentences. Let them take the time they need to express themselves fully.
- Focus on *What* They Say - Show that you are interested in their message, not *how* they are saying it. Maintain natural eye contact and a calm attitude.
- Use Positive Language - Use the child's preferred term (like "stammer" or "bumpy talking") and let them know that it's okay to stammer. Normalising it reduces shame.

If you would like to learn more, these external resources are highly recommended and offer excellent advice for parents:

- British Stammering Association (STAMMA):** This organisation provides a wealth of information, helplines, and support for the stammering community.

Website: <https://stamma.org/>

- Action for Stammering Children:** A charity dedicated to ensuring every child who stammers has access to help.

Website: <https://actionforstammeringchildren.org/>

Spring Term Clubs

Spring Term Club Timetable 2026

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Before School			Dodge Ball (20) (Yr 1-3) Premier Sport Hall	Dodge Ball (20) (Yr 4-6) Premier Sport Hall	Club: Chess Staff: Dr Hunt Yrs: 1 to 6 Max No: 20 Location: Library	
Lunchtime 11:45 – 12:15		Club: Mindfulness Staff: Mrs Andrews Yrs: 6 Max No: 20 Location: Ash	Team Games Premier Yr 3&4 20 MUGA	Team Games Premier Yr 3&4 20 MUGA	Team Games Premier Yr 3&4 20 MUGA	
		Club: Gardening Staff: Ms Coates Yrs: 3 Max No: 10 Location: Yr 2				
Lunchtime 12:15 – 12:45	Club: Dance Staff: Miss Meehan Yrs: 4 to 5 Max No: 30 Location: Hall	Club: Kapla Staff: Mrs Clark / Miss Howley Yrs: 3/4 & 5/6 Max No: 20 & 20 Location: Yr 5 & 6	Team Games Premier Yr R-2 20 MUGA	Team Games Premier Yr R-2 20 MUGA	Team Games Premier Yr R-2 20 MUGA	Club: Speed Stacking Staff: Y6 Sports Leaders Yrs: 3 to 4 Max No: 20 Location: Ash
		Club: Dance Staff: Miss Meehan Yrs: 1 to 3 Max No: 30 Location: Hall				
After school 3:15 – 4:15	Club: Musical Theatre Staff: TheatreTrain Yrs: 4 to 6 Max No: 20 Location: Hall	Club: Gymnastics Staff: Premier Yrs: 1 to 3 Max No: 20 Location: Hall	Club: Science Staff: Miss Howley Yrs: 3 to 6 Max No: 10 Location: Yr 5	Club: Football Staff: Premier Yrs: 5 to 6 Max No: 20 Location: Outside	Club: Musical Theatre Staff: TheatreTrain Yrs: 1 to 3 Max No: 20 Location: Hall	Club: Netball Staff: Premier & Mrs Giles Yrs: 4 to 6 Max No: 30 Location: Playground

Dates: 5th January to 23rd March 2026 (Half term 16th – 20th February)

We are delighted to be able to share our incredible progress towards our School Development Plan Main Priority 1

Making a Difference: The Impact of Our Inclusion Action Plan

In Autumn 2025, a comprehensive plan enhanced teaching quality and inclusive environments to meet diverse learner needs.

Enhancing Teaching & Learning



Skilled TAs Now Foster Greater Independence

Following targeted training, TAs effectively use strategies that promote student autonomy, not just task completion.

Adaptive Teaching is Now Embedded

Teachers consistently use visuals, scaffolding, and technology to help all learners succeed independently.



Pupil Confidence & Self-Belief Soars

Pupils, especially reluctant writers, now show greater pride and produce longer, more fluent work.

Creating an Inclusive School Culture



Calmer, More Purposeful Classrooms

Simplified displays and calm corners have reduced cognitive load, improving student regulation and focus.

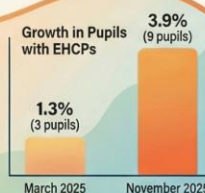


Stronger Parent & Community Partnerships

SEND coffee mornings and information events have successfully improved transparency and parental engagement.

Successfully Meeting a Growing Need

The school is proactively supporting a significant increase in pupils with high-level needs.



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



JUST 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



luminova.app



For 7-12 year olds
(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
- ★ Development funded by the NHS



Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency



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



Get Access

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.

