



January / February – Spring 1

Dear all,

As we reach the end of this half term, it is a perfect time to reflect on the incredible learning and enrichment opportunities that have taken place across the school. It has been a truly busy and exciting few weeks, filled with engaging lessons, creative projects, and fantastic experiences for our children. Throughout this newsletter, you will see just a glimpse of the wonderful activities and achievements that have taken place.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our dedicated staff team, who continue to work incredibly hard to provide the very best education and experiences for our pupils. Their commitment and enthusiasm have been instrumental in ensuring we continue to make great progress towards our school development priorities, and I am incredibly proud of all that has been achieved so far.

Looking ahead to Spring 2, we have even more to look forward to! Our calendar is already packed with exciting events, including World Book Day, where we will be celebrating our love of reading in creative ways, and Science Week, which promises to be full of hands-on investigations and inspiring learning opportunities. Our Year 5 pupils are eagerly anticipating their residential trip, and the Year 3/4 children are busy preparing for their upcoming production, which I'm sure will be a fantastic showcase of their talents.

We are also hoping to share some exciting news early next term regarding the 2026 School Council project! Watch this space! Hopefully, as we move into the spring months, we will also see an improvement in the weather, making playtimes and outdoor learning even more enjoyable.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Kind regards,

Mr S England
Headteacher



Our school events are now shared on the website calendar.

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

➤ **13th February – Neurodiversity Afternoon**

Half Term

16th – 20th February

- **23rd February – Volleyball Enrichment Day**
- **25th February – Y5 CIEC Lesson 3**
- **26th February – Y3 Intergenerational Project**
- **3rd March – Y5 Maths Challenge**
- **4th March – Cyber Security & Fraud Day**
- **5th March – World Book Day**
- **9th March – Science Week**
- **9th March – Y6 Mock SATs Week**
- **11th & 12th March – Y5 Police Talks**
- **13th March – PTA Mothers' Day Shop**
- **17th & 19th March – Parents Evening**
- **23rd – 25th March – Y5 Residential (Burwell)**
- **25th & 26th March – Y3/4 Production**
- **26th Y5 CIEC Visit**
- **27th March – End of Term (1pm)**

Easter Break

30th March – 14th April February

- **13th April – INSET DAY**
- **14th April – Start of Summer Term**
- **15th April – Reception Height, weight, vision & hearing screening**
- **20th April – Y2/5/6 NSPCC Workshops**
- **23rd April – Y3 Intergenerational Project**

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.

School Meal Price Increase

We have recently heard from HCL that from 1st April 2026 there will be price increased to KS2 school meals.

New Prices

Nursery £2.71 (unchanged)
Key Stage 2 £3.60 (increase of 10p)



Staffing Information

Recently we have welcomed some new members of staff to our team. Welcome to:

Miss Gross – EYFS Learning Support Assistant
Miss Northern – Learning Support Assistant
Mrs Burton – Learning Support Assistant

Year 2 History Experiences

As part of their history learning, Year 2 enjoyed a visit to Ashwell Village Museum. They found out about the 1850 Fire of Ashwell and related this to their class work on the Great Fire of London. They also explored the museum's collection of historical artefacts and learned more about life in the past from the knowledgeable museum staff. The children were fascinated by the unique items on display and thoroughly enjoyed their visit.



A reminder that the museum is open on Sunday afternoons and is well worth a visit.

As part of their history learning, Year 2 pupils took part in a Florence Nightingale workshop led by North Herts Museum. The children found out what life was like in hospitals during the Crimean War by exploring a range of fascinating historical artefacts. They also learnt how Florence Nightingale transformed conditions for injured soldiers by improving cleanliness, caring for the wounded, and introducing better nursing practices. Through role play, they discovered more about Florence's life and the lasting impact of her remarkable work.

Half Term & Easter - Holiday Camps

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

- Monday 16th – Thursday 19th February
- Monday 30th March – Thursday 2nd April
- Tuesday 7th April – Friday 10th April

More information is available at:

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



Nursery Admissions

Join our School

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 and Year 4 where there is 1 space.

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](#)

[On-Line Application Form](#)



Year 2 Florence Nightingale Workshop

Year 5 – History Workshop

Last week, Year 5 had an exciting hands-on history workshop, bringing the world of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings to life!

The children explored real and replica artefacts, tried on traditional clothing, and even took part in a mock battle to understand how these warriors fought. They learned about daily life, gods and goddesses, food, trade, battles and the impact of Viking raids on Anglo-Saxon England. The morning ended with a brilliant and dramatic story about Beowulf and Grendel. It was a fantastic day of discovery, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for our history topic!



Year 5 Distraction Training

This half term, Year 5 spent an afternoon learning about the dangers of being distracted when out in the village. Children experienced what it was like to navigate a course while trying to compose a text message on a mobile phone. They then completed the course with and without 'device distraction'! This is an important part of our safer travel curriculum within school.



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**



KAPLA STEM Workshop

On 15th and 16th January, classes from across the school took part in our Whole School STEM themed workshops. The workshops were a unique, 3D hands on learning activity where every single child participated. Each class worked on a specific construction together under the guidance of a KAPLA expert. At the end, we created our own unique exhibition, a sort of a museum display showcasing each child's artistic contribution to a monumental masterpiece. It was wonderful to be able to welcome parents in to see the finished piece. A huge thank you to the Ashwell Show Committee who funded this opportunity and gave the children this fantastic experience. If you did not get to see our time-lapse video of the 1.5 days you can view it here:

<https://youtu.be/plBaZeMT56w>



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>



Science Club - KAPLA

Following on from the inspiration of our KAPLA STEM workshops, our science club have also spent time getting creative and exploring our new KAPLA resources. One group here have been investigating forces and structures.



Modeshift STARS Accreditation

We are delighted to be able to share that we have been awarded our Modeshift STARS accreditation.

Modeshift STARS (Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition Scheme) is the UK's national accreditation scheme for school, business, and community travel plans. It provides a structured framework for organisations to develop, deliver, and monitor initiatives that promote active and sustainable travel.



Attendance

Our current whole school attendance figure so far this year is 96.8%. 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	98.2%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	97.4%
Year 3	97.3%
Reception (Oak)	96.7%
Year 2	96.5%
Year 4	96.1%
Acorn (Nursery)	92.8%



Attendance Matters



Year 6 Houses of Parliament Trip

On 28 January, Year 6 enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to the Houses of Parliament, where they had the chance to explore the heart of British democracy. We visited the House of Commons and the House of Lords, where we watched a live debate about whether the government should review funding for music and dance schools. We were also delighted to meet our local MP, Chris Hinchliff, who met for brief questions at the end of our visit. It was a memorable day that brought learning about government and citizenship to life.



Sports Hall Athletics

On 21st January, a team of Year 6 pupils proudly represented the school at the NHSSP Sports Hall Athletics competition, held at KTS. Throughout the evening, the children competed with enthusiasm and determination across a range of track and field events. We are delighted to report that our boys' team achieved a fantastic 1st place, while our girls secured an impressive 3rd place. Combined, these results gave the school an excellent overall 2nd place finish, missing the top spot by just three points. A huge well done to all the pupils who took part for their outstanding effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.



PTA Updates

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA disco on Friday 6th February. The children had an amazing time.

Future Events

- Mothers' Day Shop – 13/3/26
- PTA Disco – 5/6/26
- Fathers' Day Shop – 19/6/26
- Summer Fete – 17/7/26

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/>

Dance Festival

On Tuesday 10th February, our Year 4/5 Dance club, took part in the NHSSP Dance Show at St Francis Theatre. The girls have been working hard on their routine for a number of weeks and, wow, did their hard work pay off. They pulled off a stunning performance to 'The Greatest Show' The Greatest Showman as part of a themed event where the theme was 'A night at the movies'. I was one very proud headteacher alongside many proud parents. A huge thank you to Miss Meehan for her dedication and hard work to give the children this fantastic experience and to Miss Carroll for supporting them during the event.



Year 3 Speed Stacking Competition

On Thursday 5th February, our Year 3 speed stacking team took part in the NHSSP Speed stacking event at KTS. Well done for all your hard work practicing. The children each took part in 2 individual competitions and 2 team competitions.



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/



Year 3 Intergenerational Project

This half term 8 children from Year 3 enjoyed the first Intergenerational session at the URC hall. It was an arts and crafts session where the children sat with people from Ashwell community to design and make a winter scene picture. The year 3 children had fun using their craft skills whilst chatting and helping the adults. Throughout the afternoon there were smiles, giggles and lots of fun! Throughout the rest of the year, all the children in Year 3 will have 2 sessions with the Intergenerational project, enjoying crafts, cooking, games and small animal handling.



Heart Health Month

Breezee – Health Division run Beezee Families, a FREE healthy lifestyle programme that our nutritionists deliver across Hertfordshire. The 12-week programme supports families to build healthy habits around food, physical activity, and how to have fun while doing so! Their current programmes are in full swing, but you can secure your FREE spot now for April. Places fill up fast so make sure to book soon! If you can't wait to get started on your healthy lifestyle journey, you can learn at your own pace over on our Academy website. [Visit our website for more details](#)



Maths Parent Workshop

We were absolutely delighted to welcome over 100 parents to our recent Parent Maths Workshop – a fantastic turnout that truly reflects the strength of our school community. Mrs Clark delivered an engaging and informative presentation before parents joined their children in classrooms to see maths in action, bringing learning to life in a very special way. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, curiosity and collaboration, once again highlighting just how dedicated and engaged our parents are in supporting their children's education.



Year 1 Learning

This half term, Year 1 have been exploring the topic 'Toys'. The children have loved investigating toys from the past and present, and a highlight was the History Toy Workshop delivered by Ashwell Museum. The class enjoyed rotating around different activities, handling real toys from the museum and discovering how they worked. We have also been comparing old and new toys and learning how they have changed over time.



In English, we have been reading 'Stanley's Stick' and 'Ruby's Worry' to help us write our own narratives and begin learning how to write a recount. In Maths, the children have been busy working on geometry, measurement, and addition and subtraction within 20.

In PE we have been looking at orienteering and working as a team. The children have enjoyed exploring the school grounds to find various symbols and they have worked brilliantly together, showing cooperation and great communication skills.



PCSO Visit in EYFS

Our Acorn and Oak classes enjoyed a very special visit from PCSO Chris and Hannah, who came to talk to the children about their important roles within the police force and how they help to keep our communities safe. They explained how officers can be identified; the different vehicles and animals used in the force and shared important messages about personal safety and "stranger danger." The children also learned how to seek help if they ever feel unsafe and were encouraged to begin learning a trusted adult's phone number and their home address.



The excitement continued outside, where the pupils had the opportunity to see the police vehicle up close, watch the flashing lights, hear the sirens, and even sit in the front of the police truck wearing Chris's police hat. They were also able to explore some of the equipment officers use, including holding a protective shield.



It was a fantastic and memorable morning, and we would like to thank PCSO Chris and Hannah for taking the time to visit and share such valuable information with our pupils.



Netball News

We are committed to providing regular opportunities for pupils to take part in friendly fixtures throughout the year, helping them to build confidence, develop their skills, and gain valuable experience in preparation for more competitive events. Recently, our Year 4 netballers and the Year 5 C Team visited St Francis' College for a host evening of friendly tournaments, where pupils were coached through competitive style matches. The Year 5 team delivered an excellent performance, winning their matches with impressive double-digit scores, while our Year 4 players demonstrated fantastic progress, showing growing confidence and determination on court.

Unfortunately, no photo on this occasion - sorry!

Inclusion Awareness Week & Neurodiversity Afternoon

This week, our whole school took part in Neurodiversity and Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, exploring the theme of Belonging. Throughout the week, pupils engaged in activities celebrating our different strengths, ways of learning and the importance of kindness and inclusion. Every child contributed to a whole-school display by decorating a unique brain template to show what makes them special. On Friday afternoon, the children took part in a carousel of workshops led by staff, learning about neurodiversity, sensory differences, physical disabilities and the ways people experience the world. We ended the week by welcoming families into classrooms to share in the children's learning and see the wonderful work created.

*Thank you for all your support.
We wish you a safe and happy
half term break*



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 Club: Gardening Staff: Ms Coates Yrs: 3 Max No: 10 Location: Yr 2	Team Games Premier Yr 3&4 20 MUGA Club: Chill & Chat Staff: Miss Sohal & Mrs Andrews Yrs: All Max No: N/A Location: Ash	Team Games Premier Yr 3&4 20 MUGA Team Games Premier Yr 3&4 20 MUGA		
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 Club: Dance Staff: Miss Meehan Yrs: 1 to 3 Max No: 30 Location: Hall	Team Games Premier Yr R-2 20 MUGA	Team Games Premier Yr R-2 20 MUGA Club: Choir Staff: Mrs Lee Yrs: 2 to 6 Max No: 20 Location: Hall	Team Games Premier Yr R-2 20 MUGA Club: Speed Stacking Staff: Y6 Sports Leaders Yrs: 3 to 4 Max No: 20 Location: Ash	
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)

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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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)

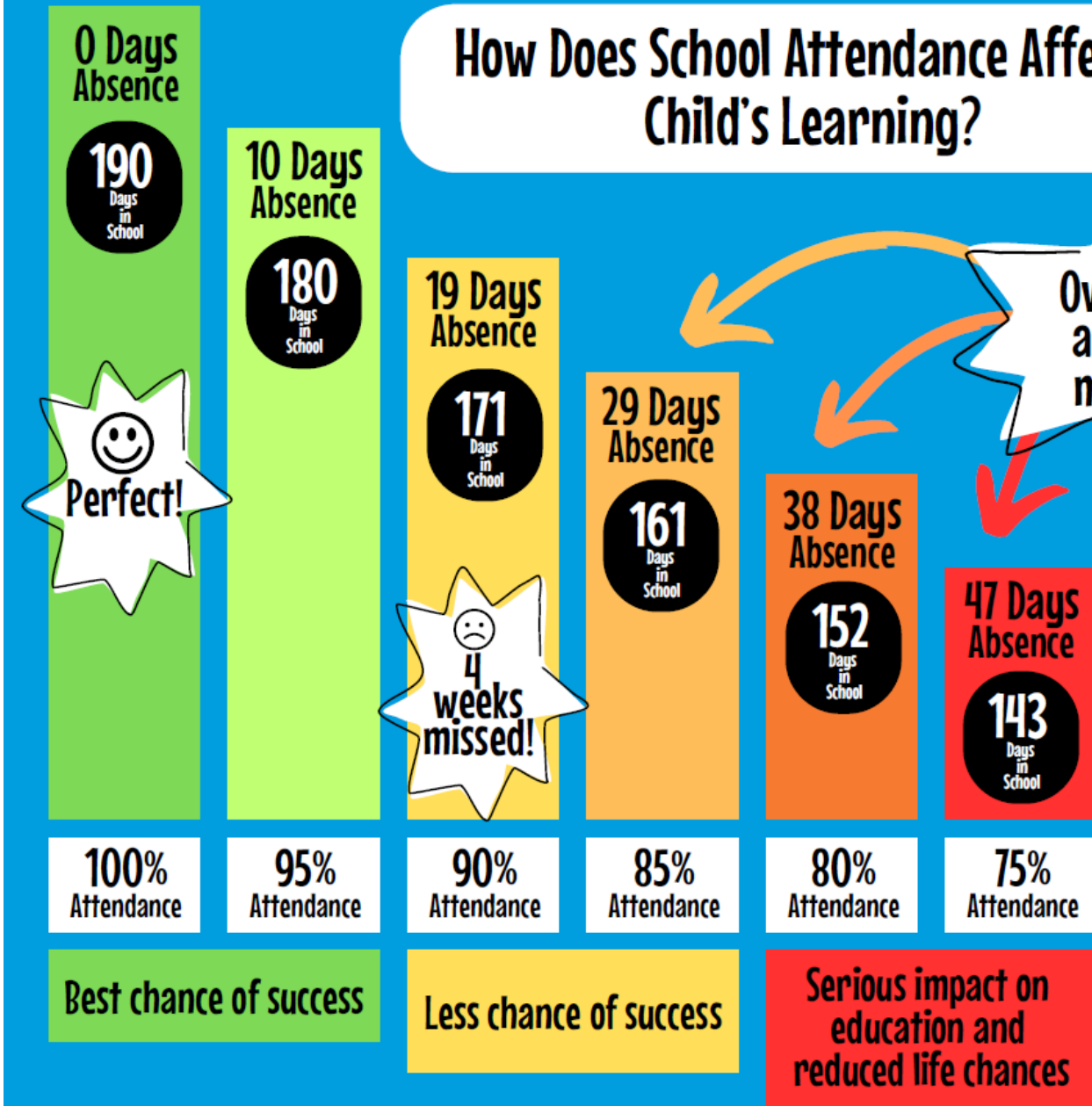
To find out more visit: www.withyouth.org/lumi-nova

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



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.

