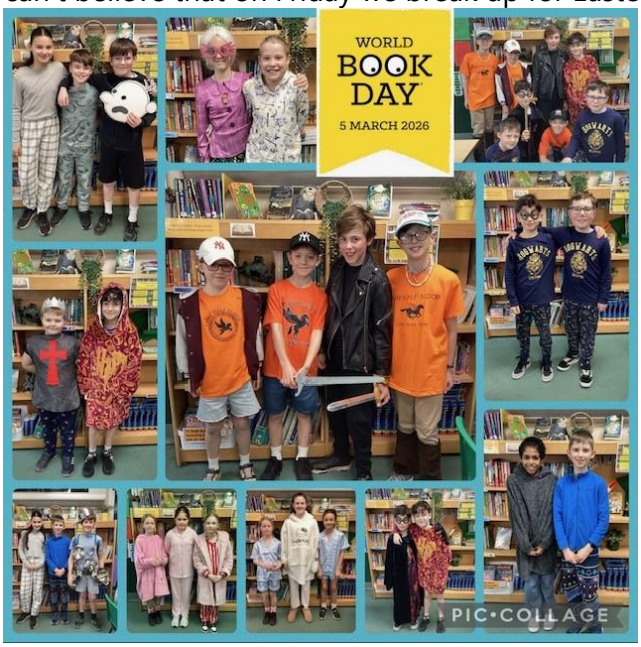
Newsletter

Belong Thrive Succeed

Monday 23rd March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy few weeks here at Ashby Hill Top Primary School, with lots of exciting things happening. I can't believe that on Friday we break up for Easter- this term has gone so quickly!



World Book Day 2026

Last week we celebrated World Book Day. Our school transformed into a magical land of literary wonders as children and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters, or came dressed in their comfortable clothes, ready to read. From Harry Potter to Alice in Wonderland, the creativity and enthusiasm was simply outstanding. It was a day filled with imagination, adventure, and a whole lot of fun! Everyone loved the book raffle and the FoHT Golden Tickets- it trusly was a woonderful day!

Junior Speak- Rotary Club Event

Wow!!! Well done to the fantastic Key Stage 2 children who participated in Ashby Rotary Club's Junior Speak event this week. Four of our children gave a speech on a chosen subject in front of an audience of peers, children and grownups from other schools. We were absolutely blown away by their confidence! Well done children!

Operation Encompass

I wanted to let you know about an important update to Operation Encompass, the national scheme that helps schools provide timely support for children who may have been affected by domestic abuse. From 23 February 2026, the senior leadership team will receive an automatic notification from Leicestershire Police if they attend a domestic incident where a child on our school roll is present. The purpose of this notification is to allow our staff to provide appropriate care and support for any child who may need it the next day, such as check-ins, pastoral support, or wellbeing monitoring.

Why this matters

Operation Encompass is designed to ensure schools can act quickly and sensitively when a child may have experienced something upsetting or frightening at home. It does not involve sharing information with other parents, pupils, or staff who are not directly responsible for safeguarding your child.

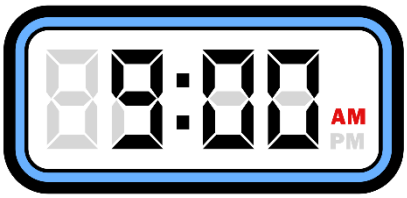
What this means for you
You do not need to take any action. This process will happen automatically and securely between Leicestershire Police and the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

If you have any worries about how your information is used, or if you would like support around domestic abuse, please contact the school's safeguarding team or visit local support services such as UAVA (0808 80 200 28) for confidential help.

If you feel your child needs extra support for any reason, including experiencing domestic abuse, please continue to reach out to your school's safeguarding team.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep all children safe.

Time keeping
Over the last few weeks, we have seen an increasing number of children arriving late for school in the mornings. This is incredibly unsettling for the children and does not allow them to enjoy a smooth start to the school day with their peers.



We always give any late comers a warm welcome, but it can be upsetting for children to enter the classroom after everyone else. It also means that the reception area can become very congested and busy first thing in the morning. Please be aware that teachers often focus on some of the most important things for children early in the morning because research shows this is when they are at their most receptive. If your child is regularly late for school, they will consistently miss this important part of their learning!

Remember, gates shut at 9.00am!

Smartphones
In partnership with other local schools in the area, we are beginning to explore the increasing reliance on smartphones. Parents have raised concerns about the increasing pressure on children to have smartphones and access social media at younger and younger ages. This can have a negative impact on children's wellbeing, friendships, sleep, concentration and mental health.

As part of our commitment to supporting pupils' wellbeing, we are looking at how we can work alongside families to promote healthy, age-appropriate use of technology and reduce some of the pressures children feel around phones and social media.

Some parents across our school community are involved in the local group supporting this initiative. If you would like to connect with them, learn more, or be part of local conversations about how we support children's digital wellbeing, you can join via the link below:
Join "Ashby De La Zouch - Smartphone free Childhood movement"

Nut Free School
Please remember that we have some children in school with very serious nut allergies. We are a nut free school and do not allow nuts or nut-based products in school at lunchtimes or at break times. Thank you for your support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. It is your involvement and encouragement that make Ashby Hill Top Primary School a truly special learning environment for our children. Remember, if you ever have any questions, please phone school or email office@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk

Regards,

Sylvie Newman
Headteacher

2025-2026 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please find below dates for this academic year- we have tried to include as much information as possible here! This information will be added to the bi-weekly newsletter and will also be available on the school website. New dates will be added in green!

3 March	**Phonics check meeting for Year 1 parents**	**3.30pm**
5 March	World Book Day	All day
5 March	FOHT World Book Day Wonka Bars	
9 March	British Science Week	
9 March	**Year 5 Bikeability - letters have gone out to parents**	**During the school day.**
24 March	EYFS Classroom showcase	3.00pm
27 March	School closes for Easter	3.25pm
Easter Break		
13 April	School reopens for children	8.45am

13 April	Y5/6 Greek workshop in hall	
15 April	World Art Day	
24 April	FOHT Rainbow Run	
29– 1 May	Y4 Beaumanor Residential	
4 May	School closed for Bank Holiday	All day
7 May	EYFS Classroom showcase	8.30am
11 May	Year 6 SATS week	
15 May	Y6 Camp Day	
21 May	EYFS Art Gallery for parents	pm
22 May	School closes for half term	3.25pm
May Half term		
1 June	School reopens for children	8.45am
1 June	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
3 June	Sports Day	am
8 June	Year 1 phonics check week begins	
9 June	FOHT School Summer Disco	pm
10 June	Musical Evening	pm
TBC	Saffron Lane- NWLSSP sporting event, selected KS2 children TBC	
12 June	Y6 Warning Zone trip	
22 June	Whole School Picnic	
24 June	Reserve Date for Sports Day- in case of wet weather	
25 June	End of Year Reports out to parents	
29 June	KS1-KS2 transition meeting	3.40pm
29 June	EYFS Classroom showcase	8.45am
30 June	EYFS-KS1 transition meeting	3.40pm
2 July	Move up day for whole school (Y6 to high school)	All day
2 July	Meet the Teacher evening	4-5pm
3 July	EYFS celebration	
6 July	Y6 Leavers Assembly	am
7 July	School closes for Summer	
Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!		
24 August	School reopens for children	8.45am