Newsletter

Belong Thrive Succeed

Tuesday 5th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Friends of Hill Top Colour Run was a truly amazing event that brought so much joy and excitement to the children. With bursts of bright colours filling the air, laughter echoed across the field as the children ran, played, and celebrated together. It wasn't just about the run- it was about creating unforgettable memories, building community spirit, and giving every child a chance to have fun in a vibrant and supportive environment. A huge well done to everyone involved for making such a fantastic afternoon possible!

Thank you as well to Darren Creswell photography for the wonderful action shots!

Year 4 Residential

Year 4 had a wonderful time last week on their residential trip to Beaumanor, creating lasting memories and enjoying a range of exciting activities. From outdoor adventures to team-building challenges, the children showed great enthusiasm, resilience, and cooperation throughout the visit. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they tried new experiences, and they returned full of smiles and stories to share. Thank you as well to our staff, without whom these activities could not take place.

SATS

Next week our year 6 children will take their SATs with the last test on Thursday 14th May 2026.

Top Tips for the Week Before

- **Prioritise Sleep & Diet:** Ensure consistent, early bedtimes as the week progresses. A healthy breakfast each day is vital to keep the children focused.
- **Avoid Over-revision:** Keep revision light and short (20-minute bursts). The weekend before should be totally free of schoolwork.

- **Keep Calm & Positive:** Avoid acting stressed yourself. Reassure them that SATs are just a "snapshot" of their ability.
- **Reduce Anxiety:** Let them air worries. Remind them these tests do not define them and are not linked to their secondary school place.
- **Prepare Ahead:** Get school bags and clothes ready the night before to avoid rushing in the morning.
- **Focus on Effort, Not Results:** Remind them to try their best and that you are proud of their progress this year.
- **Plan a Post-SATs Reward:** Plan something fun for when the week is over, rather than linking rewards to high scores.

READ, READ, READ

As always, families play a key role in helping children develop and make progress, especially when it comes to reading. Please do encourage your child to read at home. Reading is the one thing that has the biggest impact on children's outcomes as they grow! The more you read with your child or listen to them read, the more their minds will grow!

Reading with your child

Sharing a book with your child is fun! It's a time for closeness and talking together.

- Read yourself! It doesn't matter what it is- pick up a newspaper or a magazine, take a look at a cookery book, read an instruction manual, enjoy some poetry or dive into a detective novel. Get your children to join in- if you are cooking, could they read the recipe? If you are watching TV, can they read the listings?
- Give books as presents and encourage your children and their friends to swap books with each other. It will give them a chance to read new stories, and get them to talk about their reading.Visit the local library together (there is one in Ashby!) It's always fun choosing new books to read- keep and eye out for special events like visiting authors/poets!
- Encourage your child to carry a book at all times. That way, they'll never be bored!
- Have a family bookshelf, if possible have book shelves in your child's bedroom too.
- Keep reading together, just because your children are older, it doesn't mean you have to stop sharing a book together!
- Don't panic if your child reads the same book over and over- they are developing their fluency!

Scooters and Bikes

It's great to see lots of children coming to school on scooters and bikes. Please remember that they should be **pushed on the school grounds and not ridden**. This is for everyone's safety.

SCAN ME

External Defibrillator Fund Raising

We have partnered with **AEDdonate** to fundraise for an external defibrillator that would be accessible 24/7 to the local community if ever needed. Over 30,000 people in the UK suffer a sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital each year and we want to be able to support anyone in the community in a life-saving situation. Donations can be made by scanning the QR code.

Remember, if you 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!

Easter Break		
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	3.25pm
Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!		
24 August	School reopens for children	8.45am