Ashby Hill Top Primary School

Newsletter

Belong Thrive Succeed

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back! We are delighted to welcome all our pupils, families, and staff back to school for another exciting year of learning, growth, and achievement. We hope everyone has enjoyed a restful summer break and is feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead. We look forward to working together, creating wonderful memories, and celebrating the many successes that this school year will bring.

We are now a week into the new term, and all of our new children have settled into school routines so well. Our new foundation children are enjoying visiting school are already busy with their 'learning jobs' in the classroom!

Last week, class newsletters were sent home. There is lots of information about the children's new class, the staff and the learning that the children will be embarking on. Please make sure to take a look at these newsletters.

Parents Evening

This year parents evening will take place on **Monday 12th October and Thursday 15th October,** the meetings will take place in school and you will also be able to look at your children's books. A short 'Settling in Report' will be sent home on Friday 9th October. This will be discussed during the parents evening. You will be sent more information about how to book your appointment shortly. We are hoping that 100% of parents will attend these meetings; we are excited to share the children's learning with you!

Food for thought…

This year at Ashby Hill Top we are focusing on reducing children's screen time and smartphone use. Every family's situation is different– but one thing is clear: more and more adults and professionals are questioning the impact of too much screentime on our children. In upcoming newsletters, we will be talking about smartphone use and screentime and how we can best support our children with this important issue. After sharing some ideas and guidance, I'd love to hear your views through a short questionnaire. Your feedback will help us work together to find the best ways forward for our school community.

School Dinners

Please remember that the cost of school meals has increased to £3.00. This is due to the rising cost of food/staffing.

Harvest Celebration

We are really looking forward to joining together this year to celebrate Harvest. This year's celebration will take place on Monday 5th October in the school hall. To ensure that we can accommodate all of the children's parents, there will be two assemblies as follows:

9.10am	**Red and Yellow merit teams**
9.55am	**Blue and Green merit teams**

We will be collecting tinned goods, dried foods and other non-perishables to donate to the Ashby Food Bank. Their current wish list is for tinned hot meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fish, jam, tea, custard, laundry pods/tablets, dog food. Donations should be brought to school by the children at the beginning of the day on Monday 5th October

Term dates for 2027 onwards

Leicestershire Local Authority have not yet confirmed term dates for 2027 onwards. As soon as we have them we will share them with you and add them to our website.

Rotary Star Award

This year we will once again be part of the **Rotary Star** programme, which celebrates children who go above and beyond in ways that may not always be recognised in the classroom. Parents and staff can nominate children who have shown kindness, care for others, respect for the environment, initiative, or who have made a positive difference in the community. Rotary Star is all about recognising those special contributions that happen outside the usual school curriculum- whether that's helping a neighbour, supporting a friend, taking part in community activities, or showing outstanding responsibility. By highlighting these achievements, we hope to encourage all of our children to see the value of kindness, citizenship, and community spirit, and to feel proud of the difference they can make.

If you would like to nominate a child for a Rotary Star Award, please email slt@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk explaining the reason for your nomination in your email. This half term certificates and badges will be presented on 15th October in assembly. I can't wait to find out who this terms **Rotary Star Award** winners will be!

EYFS parents (2027 intake) Open Evening

Do you have a child who is due to start school in August 2026? Choosing your child's school is an important decision. This evening is aimed at giving new parents as much information as possible in order to help them make the right decision. Our Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 1st October at 6.00pm**.

There will be a short presentation in the hall, followed by a chance to tour our amazing EYFS classroom and talk informally to staff. We will be advertising this event locally, but if you or someone you know is interested in attending, they can book a place by contacting the school office.

Why good attendance matters

Coming to school every day is really important for your child's learning, confidence, and future success. School is the best place for children to make progress, enjoy new experiences, and spend time with their friends in a safe and supportive environment.

When children miss school, even a few days here and there, it can be harder for them to keep up with lessons, friendships and routines. Regular attendance helps them achieve their very best, feel part of the Hill Top community, and build good habits for the future.

We keep a close eye on attendance and are always here to work with families if any difficulties arise. If you ever have concerns about your child's attendance, please talk to us—we're here to help.

Punctuality is also important. Gates open at 8.45am and **close at 9.00am.** Children arriving after that time will need to enter via the office. Many classes undertake important learning first thing in the morning whilst the children are bright and fresh, and it can be unsettling for children who arrive late.

If your child is unable to attend school, it is vitally important that you inform us of this and let us know *why*, before 9.00am on the day of absence. Please email office@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk or call the school, giving your child's name, class and a brief reason for absence. Please also arrive promptly to collect your child(ren) at 3.25pm.

Apply for a School Place – Primary/Secondary
It is fast approaching the time when Year 6 parents need to apply for their secondary school places. To assist you in this, the feeder secondary schools will have open evenings over the coming weeks – details on their websites. The deadline for applying for a Secondary School place is **31st October 2026**.

The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is **15th January 2027**. For both applications, the simplest way is online at: *https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions*

If you need any further information, please contact the Admissions team on admissions@leics.gov.uk or 0116 305 6684.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, please telephone school or email office@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk

Regards,

Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher

2026-2027 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. ***Dates to be added in green: Saffron Lane, Flu vaccinations, Christmas dinner, EYFS & Y6 height and weight, Disability awareness week.*** **New dates will be added in green!**

Dates for 2026-2027 School Year		
31 Aug	Bank Holiday- School Closed	
1 Sept	Norfolk Residential	4 days
14 Sept	British values week	
15 Sept	Internation Day of Democracy	All day
25 Sept	European Day of Languages celebration in school	All day
October	Black History Month	
1 Oct	New EYFS Open Evening 2027 intake	6.00 pm
5 Oct	Harvest Festival in school	9.10 and 9.55 am
9 Oct	Settling in reports out to parents	
12 Oct	Parents Evening	3.30pm to 7.00pm
15 Oct	Parents Evening	3.30pm to 7.00pm
15 Oct	Break up for half term	3.25pm
16 Oct	School closed to children for INSET Day	
October Half term		
26 Oct	School reopens	8.45am
16 Nov	Start of Anti-Bullying Week Odd Sock Day- children can come to school wearing Odd Socks with their uniforms!	All day
5 Dec	New intake EYFS open morning	Saturday a.m.
18 Dec	Break up for Christmas	3.25 pm
Christmas Break		
4 Jan	School reopens for children	8.45am
7 Jan	Young Voices concert Birmingham	pm
13 Jan	Multiplication Check Meeting - year 4 parents	3.30 pm
25 Jan	SATS meeting for Year 6 parents	5 pm
5 Feb	Mid Year Reports out	
8 Feb	Parents Evening	3.30pm to 7.00pm
9 Feb	Safer Internet Day	
11 Feb	Parents Evening	3.30pm to 7.00pm
12 Feb	School closes for half term	3.25pm
February Half term		
22 Feb	School reopens for children	8.45am
5 Mar	World Book Day (we are celebrating on the Friday)	All day
8 Mar	British Science Week	
19 Mar	School closes for Easter	3.25pm
Easter Break		
5 Apr	School reopens for children	8.45am
10 May	Year 6 SATS week	

14 May	Year 6 camp day	All day
19 May	Festival of Sports	a.m.
21 May	Year 6 Warning Zone trip	All day
26 May	Festival of Sports (reserve date)	a.m.
28 May	School closes for half term	3.25pm
May Half term		
7 June	School reopens for children	8.45am
7 June	Year 4 Multiplication check window	
14 June	Year 1 phonics check week begins	
TBC	Saffron Lane- NWLSSP sporting event, selected KS2 children	
7 July	School closes for Summer	
Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!		
TBC	School reopens for children	8.45am