Ashby Hill Top Primary School

Newsletter

Belong Thrive Succeed

Wednesday 16th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another busy few weeks at school. The autumn weather it's on its way! As you know the British weather can be very changeable so even if the forecast looks milder for the day, we can sometimes have had four seasons by home time! Please make sure that your children **bring a coat to school every day** so that we can take the learning outside- whatever the weather!

Changes to Free School Meal entitlements
Please be aware that from this September, the Government will introduce substantial changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility. Under the new national criteria, all families in receipt of Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals, meaning that more students will become eligible.

Therefore, from September, there will be two categories of benefit-related FSM.

1. **Targeted Free School Meals:**
This category continues to be based on the existing income threshold. Students will be eligible if their household;

- Is in receipt of Universal Credit, and
- Has an annual household income of £7,400 or less.

Only students eligible for Targeted FSM will;

- Qualify for Pupil Premium funding.
- Be eligible for extended rights home to school transport, subject to the eligibility criteria for extended rights travel.

2. Expanded Free School Meals:
This category applies to school meals only and covers pupils who:

- Live in households receiving Universal Credit, and
- Do not meet the income threshold for Targeted FSM (i.e. the annual household income is above £7,400).

Pupils eligible for Expanded FSM will be eligible to free school meals only.

Please do not miss out on support that you may be entitled to for your child please seek further guidance at https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals or contact office@ashbyhilltop.leic.sch.uk for help and support.

Keep us updated…
Please ensure that you keep us updated with any changes of contact numbers and addresses. It is crucial that these are current in case we have to contact you in an emergency. Thank you.

Term Time Holidays
Any requests for time off for a holiday will not be authorised, unless in the most exceptional of circumstances. Ashby Hill Top Primary School follows the statutory guidance for schools which states that Headteachers should not authorise term time holidays. If parents/carers decide to take their child out of school for a term time holiday, it is their statutory duty to inform the school using the Leave of Absence form.

Parents/carers should send the form to the school in a reasonable amount of time before the holiday. It is not acceptable to place the request the day before the holiday commences or on the morning the holiday commences and expect an immediate response. Parents/carers will be informed if the absence is authorised or unauthorised and any further action as below, in a letter from the Headteacher.

Penalty Notices for Term Time Holidays
Leicestershire Local Authority issues the penalty notices to each parent, for each child who is absent from school.

5 consecutive days of term time leave
Penalty notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, and for fewer days where this has happened before.

Per parent, per child
Penalty notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who is absent.

First Offence
The first time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 per parent per child, if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)
The second time a penalty notice is issued for Term time Leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days. There is no option to pay at the reduced £80 level.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)
The third time an offence is committed for Term time Leave or irregular attendance, a penalty notice will not be issued. The case will proceed to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrate fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

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!

Apply for a School Place- Secondary

It is fast approaching the time when Year 6 parents need to apply for secondary school places for their children. To assist you in this, the feeder secondary schools (Ivanhoe School, Ashby School, Ibstock Community College) will hold open evenings over the next few weeks. Information concerning these schools is available from the individual establishments. The deadline for applying for a Secondary School place is **31st October 2026.**

IVANHOE SCHOOL
A journey to excellence

Ashby School
Empowered to Learn

Ibstock Community College
Respect and Pride brings Success

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		
15 Sept	Internation Day of Democracy	All day
22 Sept	EYFS curriculum meeting	5pm
26 Sept	European Day of Languages	All day
October	Black History Month	
5 Oct	Harvest Festival in school	9.10 Red & Yellow 9.55 Blue & Green
7 Oct	Flu vaccinations	
9 Oct	Settling in reports out to parents	
9 Oct	Y5/6 trip to Museum of Justice	
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
29 Oct	Individual and sibling photographs	
6 Nov	EYFS phonics workshop	9am
16 Nov	Start of Anti-Bullying Week Odd Sock Day- children can come to school wearing Odd Socks with their uniforms!	
27 Nov	EYFS reading workshop	9am
11 Dec	EYFS Christmas Celebration	am
15 Dec	KS2 Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church	
Christmas Break		
4 Jan	School reopens for children	8.45am
7 Jan	Young Voices	
13 Jan	Y4 Multiplication Check meeting	3.30pm
15 Jan	EYFS Maths workshop	9am
25 Jan	Y6 SATs meeting	5pm
3 Feb	EYFS tea party	am
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
24 Feb	Beaumanor Residential Meeting	3.35pm

25 Feb	Y5/6 Mayan Day	
5 Mar	World Book Day	All day
8 Mar	British Science Week	
10 Mar	Y1 phonics check meeting	3.30pm
19 Mar	School Council Red Nose Day	
19 Mar	School closes for Easter	3.25pm
Easter Break		
5 Apr	School reopens for children	8.45am
15 Apr	World Art Day	
22 Apr	Earth Day	
28-30 Apr	Y4 Beaumanor residential	
10 May	Year 6 SATS week	
14 May	Y6 Camp Day	
19 May	Festival of Sport	am
21 May	Y6 Warning Zone trip	
25 May	Class photographs	
27 May	EYFS Art Gallery	pm
30 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	
24 June	End of Year reports out	
TBC	Saffron Lane- NWLSSP sporting event, selected KS2 children	
2 July	EYFS Celebration	
7 July	School closes for Summer	
Summer Break- have a wonderful Summer!		
TBC	School reopens for children	8.45am