

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
ASHURST CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL LANE, ASHURST, WEST SUSSEX, BN44 3AY



Headteacher: Mrs S Smith BA (Hons) RE & English, PGCE, CNPQH

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25th April 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

Firstly, welcome back after the Easter break - we hope you were able to enjoy some good weather and that you and your children have had the opportunity to rest and to spend time together. As usual we have a busy term ahead of us and we are very much looking forward to all that has been planned.

Staffing Updates

At the end of this half term, we will say farewell to Mrs Andrews as she begins her retirement. We are so very grateful for the skills, wisdom, insights and expertise that she has so willingly and calmly shared across the whole school over the last five years. We know she will be missed enormously by staff and children alike, but are delighted that she has agreed to be available for occasional class cover teaching if required.

Community Involvement

It was a real pleasure to see how enthusiastic Owl class were for their cake sale last term which was linked to their Jigsaw and PSHE learning. The sale was in aid of Chestnut Tree House, one of our chosen charities. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise £134. We are also very grateful for your kind donations on World Book Day of food items, and we aim to deliver these to The Wholesome Warehouse in the very near future.

We have received several emails thanking us for the Easter cards which the children designed and signed for residents of local care homes. If you were unaware, each Christmas and Easter, our children design a card in school for a competition. The winning cards are then printed, signed by the children and delivered to local care homes. It is only a small thing for us to do, but it brings great joy to those who receive them, especially when they may not have very many visitors. We are looking to extend our delivery service next year to include, among others, The Wholesome Warehouse. If you have any personal contact with a local care home, and you think that they would like to receive Christmas and Easter cards from the children, please do let Mrs Smith know and she will contact them directly.

VE Day Thursday 8th May

To mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, we will be holding a special assembly in Kings Grove at 10am. Please could all children dress in red, white and blue - one colour or a combination of two or three would be great. Do not feel you have to include all three colours

if your wardrobe does not already! Please do come and join us, and stay to enjoy some refreshments afterwards.

FAPS News

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our FAPS team for arranging the splendid Easter Egg Hunt on the last day of the Spring term; the sun shone, stamps were stamped, entries handed in and eggs were gleefully received and, I think, rather quickly eaten!

There is more exciting news from FAPS this term and I am delighted to be able to tell you that, through their hard work and diligent fundraising, they have arranged for the whole school to go on a trip to the theatre on Thursday 12th June!

We will be travelling by coach to Theatre Royal in Brighton to see 'The Baddies' by Julia Donaldson and we will send more information nearer the time.

In case you were not aware, as a Church Aided School, 10% of the Devolved Formula Capital Grant allocation is not provided by state funds; FAPS therefore raise and provide this amount to the school's Governing Body. We are very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and committed FAPS team who fundraise to support our school in this way. If any of you missed the announcement regarding 'Easyfundraising', please support us if you can by registering today at <http://efraising.org/WtYquPNypZ>

Science Week 16th- 20th June

We are planning a science week for the second half of term and would like to ask if anyone in our school community (or their friends/colleagues) has a particular background within science that they would be willing to come into school and share with us - we would love to hear from you. Having real experts coming into school certainly adds to the children's learning experience and enables them to broaden not only their understanding but to consider different subjects and roles in the future. We are delighted that we have already had an offer from one grandparent!

Governor News

Ms Burfoot was recently elected as a Diocesan Foundation Governor, and we thank her for her interest and her commitment to further supporting our school with her expertise and many skills.

Music Tuition

Mr Smith continues to give private flute and saxophone lessons in school on Monday afternoons and has spaces available. If you would like more information, please contact the school office. Ms Oberman continues to give guitar and ukulele lessons in school on Wednesday mornings; if you would like more information, please contact West Sussex Music or the office.

eSchools Lite App

Did you know that a very quick and easy way to access school dates and information is by downloading the eSchools Lite App? It has links to the school calendar, latest newsletters, online safety information and school contact details.

Absence from School

At Ashurst, we firmly believe that regular school attendance is vital for children to thrive both educationally and personally. The benefits are unmistakable - being in school helps our children learn how to make friendships, to practise kindness, to become confident, to work together happily, and to feel proud of their school.

For reasons such as these, and to support every child's success, the Department for Education requires all schools to monitor attendance closely and to contact parents/carers when a child's attendance falls below the threshold of 90%. For all the reasons above, our school's expectation is at least 95%. We completely understand that some absences, like illness or bereavement, are unavoidable and these are recorded appropriately. However, when attendance drops too low, children can miss valuable learning which may affect their progress.

Being on time to school is also important, as late arrivals can add up and affect attendance. Our school day starts at 9:00 am, and arriving on time helps children settle in, enjoy a smooth start, and make the most of their learning. It also ensures the class is not disrupted, creating a positive experience for everyone.

May I also take this opportunity to say that we would much prefer it if families gave a genuine reason for absence, rather than notifying us that children are unwell when they may not be. As you may expect, your children are the first to tell us that they were on a plane or on holiday when we were still in school. This does not apply to many families, but several children have been very upfront about their holiday details over the last term!

We do thank you for ensuring that your recent requests for absence from school, including late arrivals and early departures due to medical/dental appointments have been accompanied by an absence request form (these are available to download from our website or paper copies are available from the school office).

After school Clubs

Once again, I would like to thank you for signing up to, and supporting your children to attend our afterschool clubs. We are able to offer a wide range of activities and this is down to the commitment, goodwill and generosity of the parents and staff who support us. We do not charge for afterschool clubs and to ensure the smooth running of these activities we do appreciate it if, once signed up, your child/ren do continue to attend.

After school clubs do not run in the first or last week of each full term but continue to run to the end of each half term and the start of each half term (see dates below).

Parents' Consultations and reports

This term parents' consultations are for those children completing EYFS and Y6. These will take place for EYFS (YR) on Tuesday 8th July and for Y6 on Wednesday 9th July 2025.

In working towards being a paperless office, this year we will be sending children's annual reports home via email. If you would prefer a paper copy, please do contact the office and we will arrange this for you.

Y6 Leaver's Service at Christs' Hospital

This year our Y6 Diocesan Leaver's Service will be at Christ's Hospital on Monday 30th June at 10.45. Y6 parents are warmly invited to attend and to join us for lunch afterwards, hopefully, at 'Stooks Restaurant', Newbridge Garden Centre, Billingshurst Rd, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham RH12 3LN.

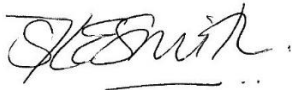
If you are unable to attend the service, please bring your child into school as normal and we will arrange transport to the service and lunch in staff cars. Similarly, if you are only able to attend the service, we will arrange to transport them to their lunch. Menus and more information will be available shortly.

Safeguarding

As always, should you have any concerns regarding your child/children, please contact the school as soon as possible in order that matters may be quickly and effectively resolved. Should you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the DSL team, Mrs Smith, Mrs Sansbury or Mrs Welstead direct or via DSL@ashurstcofe-pri.w-sussex.sch.uk.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and hope that this information proves helpful.

Kindest regards,



Mrs S Smith
Headteacher

Uniform requirements for Academic Year 2024-2025

We ask that all children wear the Ashurst school uniform every day. The requirements have remained the same and have not changed for over 7 years. We are very proud of our school and ask for your support in maintaining the correct uniform.

If your child has a particular need which necessitates an adaptation or change to the school uniform listed below, please make an appointment to discuss this with Mrs Smith.

Please ensure that all items are named we spend a lot of time trying to identify the owners of sweatshirts and hoodies, particularly those that have been acquired through our pre-loved school uniform stockist, Mrs Green.

Whilst the children can sometimes identify their items by smelling them, staff do not share this skill! Lost property items are kept in a box in the library.

Grey skirt, culottes or pinafore dress
Grey tailored trousers (long or short)
Green sweatshirt with school badge or green sweater/ cardigan (not their PE hoody).
White shirt/ blouse/polo shirt
White, black or grey socks
White, grey or green tights
Sensible shoes or sandals
Green and white checked dress/checked 'playsuit'
Wellies for the field when it is muddy. These, like all other uniform, should be named.

PE Kit:

Green or white shorts/skorts, white T-shirt with a round neck, white socks, trainers, green hoody and green joggers.

Trainers are the preferred footwear as they are more substantial than black plimsoles. Leggings, joggers and shorts/skorts in other colours are not permitted unless this has been previously discussed and agreed with Mrs Smith. We continue to ask that PE kits be worn to school on days that your child has PE or is attending the after-school sports club.

Sports Club is on Thursday.

PE: Mouse Class - Thursday & Friday, Squirrel Class - Thursday & Friday, Owl Class - Tuesday

Jewellery/ hair wear

Jewellery should not be worn by children with the exception of stud earrings which should be removed or covered with tape for PE.

Hairbands/scrunchies are to be green, white, grey, black, navy or brown. Children's hair should be completely tied up once it is long enough to do so and this applies to both boys and girls.

May we also ask that children have a coat, a water bottle and school book bag (order via the school uniform link on the website) in school every day. These fit in the children's drawers and help letters, homework and reading books make the journey home safely!

Ashurst CE Aided Primary School Dates for your Diary Summer 2024-2025

First Half Summer Term	Tuesday 22 nd April - Friday 23 rd May
Half term	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May
Second Half Summer Term	Monday 2 nd June - Friday 18 th July
INSET DAYS	Monday 21 st July 2025 and Tuesday 22 nd July 2025.

Christs Hospital Performing Arts Day -by invitation	Wednesday 30 th April
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 5 th May
Y5 Taster Day at Steyning Grammar School	Thursday 8 th May
VE Day Assembly and refreshments in Kings Grove - all welcome 10am	Thursday 8 th May
Family Service 'Rogation' on Ashurst Recreation Ground	Sunday 11 th May
Y6 KS2 SATS WEEK	Monday 12 th -Thursday 15 th May
Celebration Assembly 3.00pm - all welcome	Friday 16 th May
Open Afternoon 2.30pm - all welcome	Monday 19 th May
Chanctonbury Music Festival for Y5Y6 @ 5.30 SGS	Wednesday 21 st May
HALF TERM	26 th to 30 th May
Y4 Multiplication Check week	2 nd June - 6 th June
Y5Y6 Horsham Stoolball Tournament by invitation	Wednesday 4 th June
Family Service St James' Church Ashurst 10.30am	Sunday 8 th June
Phonics Screening Check week	9 th June - 13 th June
WHOLE SCHOOL THEATRE TRIP	Thursday 12 th June
SCIENCE WEEK	16 th June - 20 th June
Celebration Assembly 3.00pm - all welcome	20 th June
Y6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT TO SWANAGE with Mrs Smith and Mrs Welstead	23 rd June - 27 th June
Y6 Leavers' Diocesan Service @ Christs Hospital 10.45	Monday 30 th June
Squirrel Y3Y4 visit to the Weald and Downland Museum	Tuesday 1 st July
SGS Transfer Day and 'Move up Taster Day' for APS	Wednesday 2 nd July
Whole school photograph	Monday 7 th July
Parents consultations for EYFS	Tuesday 8 th July
Parents consultations for Y6	Wednesday 9 th July
Full Governing Body Meet @ 5:00pm with Y6 and YAGS 5:30pm start of Full Governing Body Meeting	Thursday 10 th July
WHOLE SCHOOL SPORTS DAY (AFTERNOON)	Friday 11 th July
Leavers Service in St James' Church 2.45pm all welcome	Wednesday 16 th July
Y6 ROUNDERS TEA PARTY 1.30pm	Thursday 17 th July
Y6 Leavers Performance in school 9.15am	Friday 18 th July
INSET DAY # 4	Monday 21 st July
INSET DAY # 5	Tuesday 22 nd July

Extra-Curricular Activities Summer Term 2025

<u>Gardening Y1-Y6 Tuesday 3.30-4.15pm</u>	
29 th	April
6 th 13 th 20 th	May
3 rd 10 th 17 th 24 th	June
1 st 8 th	July

<u>Sports Club Y1-Y6 Thursday 3.30-4.15pm</u>	
1 st 8 th 15 th 22 nd	May
5 th 12 th 19 th 26 th	June
3 rd 10 th	July