



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, L4 SMHWP

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Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

As the first half of spring term 2026 draws to a close, we are all hoping to say goodbye to the ice, snow, rain and floods that we have endured. The morning and evenings are a little lighter and we are just seeing signs of spring in the crocuses and daffodils peeking out of the ground.

We would like to thank all those involved for your support in taking children to the Village Hall for dance and PE sessions this term; we know how much the children and staff have valued these sessions and it has been good to further develop our relationships within the community and with the Village Hall.

School Drop Off and Pick Up

We have recently had an incident where children have been left unsupervised in the playground before school. We begin to welcome children into school at 8.30am when we open the doors. If your children are on site before this time, please remember that the gates will be open and that **you** are responsible for them unless you have previously arranged an alternative drop off time with the school and/or agreed with another parent that they are acting in loco parentis.

Similarly, when children are collected from school, they are the responsibility of the person collecting them. We have reminded the children that they are not allowed to take school equipment out of the sheds, or to play with items in the playground after school.

Phonics Teaching

After half term we are very excited that we will be introducing Little Wandle as our new phonics and reading scheme. This is primarily aimed at our younger children, and you will notice some changes in how we teach phonics and in how your children talk about their learning. Staff have been very busy attending training, checking and reading resources and visiting other schools in readiness for the change. We will be sending home more information about resources available to you and how you can support your children with their learning after half term.

Worship Warriors

It is an absolute joy to see how keen our Worship Warriors are to present Picture News Worship; they organise themselves, share out the responsibilities and present

' Achieving Together with Love, Hope and Joy '

the children (and adults!) with interactive quizzes at the end- no wonder there is a waiting list of children for next year!

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. Mr Barrett continues to give guitar, ukulele and piano lessons on Tuesdays; if you would like more information, please contact West Sussex Music or the office.

School Uniform

If you would like to purchase preloved school uniform, please either hand your request to the member of staff on the gate in the morning or call the school office. Please state what you would like and the size required and we will do our best to help you. Similarly, if you have clean uniform in good condition you wish to donate, please hand it to either a member of staff on the gate in the morning or bring it to the school office.

Medicines in School

Please would parents and families remember that any medication that you request we administer to your child/children needs to be brought by an adult to the office and you will need to complete the relevant form. This is the case for both cough sweets and lip balms. We also would like to remind you that medicines need to be named and in the original packaging with the PIL (Patient information leaflet).

Parking

Thank you for supporting our use of the no parking notices outside School House. We would still like to remind you that access to the stables and to local resident's homes is via the gravel drive opposite so please only use it for brief drop off and pick up as it restricts their access.

Wellies

Please could you make sure that you child has a pair of wellies that fit and are not split in school please. There are a few children who do insist that their parents do not mind and that they do not need them. However, we will continue to go to the field as much as we can and we want to keep our indoor carpeted area as mud free as possible.

After school clubs

Thank you to those of you who have already signed up; all the clubs run from 3.30-4.15pm and we appreciate your prompt collection afterwards.

Swimming Sessions

We are pleased to continue our partnership with Steyning Grammar School and 'MXT Swimming' to offer swimming sessions for Y3 in the second half of the Spring term. Please remember your child will need a verruca sock if they have a verruca and a swimming hat (they will not be permitted to swim without a hat). Transport will be provided by minibus, and a packed lunch will be required on these days.

Requests for Absence from School

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).

Fire and Emergency Lockdown Procedures

We are delighted to report that our Fire and Emergency Lockdown Procedures practices have gone very smoothly, and all children responded promptly and calmly.

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 Welstead and Mrs Sansbury direct or via DSL@ashurstcofe-pri.w-sussex.sch.uk.

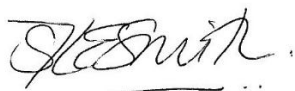
Dates for your diary

Just a reminder that Monday 23rd February 2026 is our 3rd INSET Day.

We are very much looking forward to our Pyjama Day on Wednesday 25th February. Children can come in their pyjamas, dressing gowns/bathrobes and bring slippers to wear indoors. There is a suggested voluntary contribution of £1.00 to FAPS for the privilege! We are also going to be sharing books and reading at different times throughout the day, so children have been asked to bring in a favourite book from home to share with others or read themselves.

We hope you have a peaceful half term and that the opportunity to enjoy some better weather presents itself!

Kindest regards,



Mrs S Smith
Headteacher