



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

ASHURST CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL LANE, ASHURST, WEST SUSSEX, BN44 3AY

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8th September 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

Firstly, a very warm welcome back to the new academic year to all families, especially those new to the school. We are also looking forward to welcoming Miss Evans-Clarke later in September as an additional Teaching Assistant in Squirrel Class.

We also thank all staff and those (including the Diocese, PH Beck and Martyn Abbott) who have worked so hard to redecorate the outside of our school, and complete the building work for a new door ahead of our canopy installation which is scheduled for October half term. It really is an amazing project that will enable our younger children to have a larger area for continuous provision which is sheltered and safe. I would also like to thank the Cove family for building the most wonderful 'mud kitchen' in Kings Grove, again for our younger children, although actually we all want to play in it!

We hope that all families and children are safe and well and are looking forward to all that is planned for 2026-2027. This term Mouse Class (EYFS/KS1) children will be finding out 'What happens in the Enchanted Woods' and 'Why did London burn?', Squirrel Class (Y3&Y4) is learning all about 'The Dawn of Man' and the wise Owl Class (Y5&Y6) will be exploring 'The Romans' and 'Reaching the Peak'.

'New Beginnings' Service

We would like to invite you to join us at our 'New Beginnings' Service this year.

School will attend a church service at St. James', Ashurst on Wednesday 9th September. The service will be from 2.45-3.30pm. If you are able to attend, you may take your children home with you at the end of the service, but please notify us of this so that they have their belongings. If you are unable to attend, we will walk back up to school in time for 3.30pm collection as usual. If the weather is unkind the service will take place in school at the same time, and you will be very welcome to join us. During the service, children will be invited to come and collect some wildflower seeds to link with the 'New Beginnings and Growing' theme.

Annual Sponsored Walks

This year the Mouse class (EYFS/KS1) walk will be on Thursday 17th September with Squirrel & Owl classes' (Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6) walk on Tuesday 15th September. Children should wear suitable footwear and may wear home clothes. We recommend long trousers, a couple

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of layers in case the weather changes, a plastic bag to sit on and certainly a raincoat. All Juniors will require a packed lunch for Tuesday 15th which they will carry, so we recommend a small rucksack. Sponsor forms and details of how to support our chosen beneficiaries will be emailed to you.

After/ before School Clubs

This term, thanks to the generosity of staff, we are delighted to be able to offer a morning choir group (8.30-8.55am) and range of afterschool clubs from 3.30-4.15pm. Details of the clubs and how to sign up have been sent to you ahead of this newsletter.

Tuesday am	Choir	Y2-Y6
Tuesday pm	Gardening Club	Y2-Y6
Wednesday	Dance and Drama	Y3-Y6
	Puzzle Club	Y3-Y6
Thursday	Sports Club	Y1-Y6
Friday	Construction	Y1-Y4

Swimming Sessions

We are pleased to continue our partnership with Steyning Grammar School and MXT Swimming to offer swimming sessions in the first half of the Autumn term for Y5/6 and in the second half of Autumn term for Y4. Sessions for Y3 will be in 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). Those children swimming in shorts should not wear loose fitting 'beach shorts', and those children wearing an all-in-one costume should ensure that they can put them on themselves. Transport will be by minibus, and a packed lunch will be required on these days.

FAPS (Friends of Ashurst Primary School)

We hope that new families will join us for the FAPS AGM. The date for this is to be confirmed and we will let you know as soon as possible. As a Church of England Aided school, Ashurst is required to provide a contribution of 10% of the school's annual building work and maintenance costs. The Friends of Ashurst Primary School (FAPS) was set up to help provide this funding and also support the school with any additional needs. Over the past couple of years FAPS were able to fund a trip to the theatre for the whole school and purchase additional art materials for our Wellbeing Days.

Throughout the year they organise and run both small and large events and are able to not only provide the school with the extra funding it needs, but to go over and above their fundraising target whilst creating exciting events we can all enjoy.

RE Curriculum update:

From September 2026, we will be including Humanism as one of the worldviews our children learn about in RE lessons. I want to reassure you that this addition strengthens our RE provision while maintaining our strong Christian foundation.

We are making this change so that we comply with the statutory guidance that our school's RE curriculum should reflect the diversity of beliefs in modern Britain and that we should teach non-religious worldviews in RE. Many people across the UK identify as Humanist or hold similar non-religious beliefs. By learning about different worldviews, including non-religious ones, children begin to think critically about big questions such as What makes life meaningful? How do we decide right from wrong? What happens when we die?

Understanding Humanism helps children respect and understand people with different beliefs, preparing them for life in diverse, modern Britain.

Our Christian Distinctiveness does not change, and I want to be clear: we are adding Humanism, not removing Christianity. Our Christian foundation remains strong:

Christianity remains 50+% of RE curriculum and daily collective worship continues as usual.

Our Christian values underpin our ethos and everything we do and our close links with St James's Church remain central to our school life. We will continue to celebrate major Christian festivals (Harvest, Advent, Christingle, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, etc.) School prayers and grace will continue, and our Worship Warriors and Picture News Worship will stay exactly the same.

Parent Workshops: 23.09.2026 and 25.11.2026

This term we are delighted to be able to offer two parent workshops; The series is intended to empower parents with practical knowledge and strategies to support their children's emotional, social, and physical development. Each session focuses on a specific topic to support parents, offering insights, tools, and opportunities for discussion.

The first of these is on Wednesday 23rd September at 2.30pm and is on 'Supporting my Child to Emotionally Regulate'. This workshop explores the importance of emotional regulation and what is developmentally appropriate for children at different ages. It supports parents in recognising behaviour as a form of communication and introduces healthy, constructive ways to respond and manage behaviour effectively.

The second one is on Wednesday 25th November at 2.30pm and is on 'Healthy Relationships and Friendships'. This session will help parents support their child in navigating friendships and relationships. It emphasises the importance of ongoing conversations about the connections children are forming, and guides parents in helping them distinguish between healthy and unhealthy friendships. The session also addresses the influence of social media and explores the dynamics of unhealthy relationships.

Sign up sheets for these will be coming out shortly.

Music Tuition

Mr Smith continues to give private flute and saxophone lessons in school on Monday afternoons and has spaces available. Guitar, ukulele and piano lessons will continue this year with Mr Barrett on Tuesdays; he will be contacting existing pupils' parents directly. If your child is interested in having instrumental lessons and you would like more information on music tuition in school, please contact the school office.

School Website

<http://www.ashurstcofe-pri.w-sussex.sch.uk>

The school website is updated regularly (at this time of year, some areas are under review) and is where the most up-to-date information can be found including: Newsletters, OFSTED and SIAMS reports, PE/Sports Funding statements, Statutory School Policies and Pupil Premium and Local Offer statements.

Celebration Assemblies

This term we would like to invite parents and carers to our Celebration Assemblies. These are an opportunity to recognise our children's achievements both in and out of school. It is the forum for awards, certificates and birthdays and you are all very welcome to attend! Details are in the calendar of dates at the end of this newsletter and you will also find them on the weekly Ashurst Diary email from the office.

INSET Days

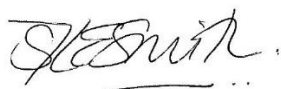
This year our INSET days are enabling school staff to undergo Safeguarding training, Managing Medicines training, RE subject training, to attend workshops and training with our locality schools and moderation of children's learning. We will also be reviewing and updating our curriculum planning and assessment as well as reviewing and evaluating our progress against our School Development Plan targets.

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.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Kindest regards,



Mrs S Smith
Headteacher

Uniform requirements for Academic Year 2026-2027

We ask that all children wear the Ashurst school uniform every day. The requirements have remained the same and have not changed for over 8 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 as already this term we are trying to identify the owners of several sweatshirts and hoodies. Whilst the children can sometimes identify their items by smelling them, staff do not share this skill!

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'

PE Kit:

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

Green hoodies should not be worn during the rest of the week. Trainers are preferred footwear for PE as they are more substantial than black plimsoles. Leggings are not permitted, nor are joggers and shorts/skorts in other colours.

PE: Mouse Class - Thursday & Friday, Squirrel Class - Thursday & Friday, Owl Class - Tuesday. After-school Dance & Drama Club is on Wednesday, Sports Club is on Thursday.

Our school uniform requests that children wear sensible school shoes or sandals. **Trainers should only be worn on PE or sports club days.**

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 touches their shoulders and this applies to both boys and girls.** By so doing hair is kept neat, out of children's faces and minimises the spread of head lice.

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!

Our coat hanging spaces are limited so **please do not bring bags other than school bookbags** into school.

Swimming bags, music bags and overnight bags, if children are staying away from home, are the exception.

Ashurst CE Aided Primary School Dates for your Diary 2026-2027

First Half Autumn Term	Wednesday 2 nd September - Friday 23 rd October
Half term	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October
Second half Autumn Term	Monday 2 nd November - Friday 18 th December
First Half Spring Term	Monday 4 th January - Friday 12 th February
Half term	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February
Second Half Spring Term	Monday 22 nd February - Thursday 25 th March
First Half Summer Term	Tuesday 13 th April - Friday 28 th May
Half term	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June
Second Half Summer Term	Monday 7 th June - Tuesday 20 th July
INSET DAYS	Tuesday 1 st September, Monday 25 th and Tuesday 26 th January 2027, 12 th April 2027 and 21 st July 2027

New Beginnings Service in St James' Church, Ashurst 2.45-3.30		Wednesday 9 th September
Y5&Y6 Swimming packed lunch required		Friday 11 th September
Family Service St James' Church Ashurst, 10.30am		Sunday 13 th September
Squirrel and Owl (Y3-Y6) Sponsored Walk		Tuesday 15 th September
Mouse Class (EYFS Y1/Y2) Sponsored Walk		Thursday 17 th September
Y6 SGS Taster Morning		Thursday 17 th September
Y5&Y6 Swimming packed lunch required		Friday 18 th September
'Supporting my Child to Emotionally Regulate' Parents workshop 2.30pm		Wednesday 23 rd September
Full Governing Body Business Meeting 5.30pm		Thursday 24 th September
Y5&Y6 Swimming packed lunch required		Friday 25 th September
Y5&Y6 Swimming packed lunch required		Friday 2 nd October
Mouse class trip to Wakehurst		Monday 6 th October
Y5&Y6 Swimming packed lunch required		Friday 9 th October
Family Service St James' 10.30am		Sunday 11 th October
Wellbeing Day 1		Monday 12 th October
Parent consultations YR-Y6	YR-Y2 parents may book on either day	Monday 12 th October
Parent consultations YR- Y2		Tuesday 13 th October
Owl Class trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace		Wednesday 14 th October
Y5&Y6 Swimming packed lunch required		Friday 16 th October
Owl Class trip to Glyndebourne - The Barber of Seville		Wednesday 21 st October
Squirrel class trip to Butser Ancient Farm		Thursday 22 nd October
Celebration Assembly 3.00pm		Friday 23 rd October

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HALF TERM	
Family Service St James' 10.30am	Sunday 8 th November
Remembrance Day Service in school	Wednesday 11 th November
Y4 Swimming packed lunch required	Friday 13 th November
Children in Need Day- please bring in a jar or a tin of food for The Wholesome Warehouse as your donation	Friday 13 th November
Full Governing Body Meeting 5.30pm	Thursday 19 th November
Y4 Swimming packed Lunch required	Friday 20 th November
Healthy Relationships Workshop for parents 2.30pm	Wednesday 25 th November
Y4 Swimming packed Lunch required	Friday 27 th November
Advent Service at St James' 2.45pm	Tuesday 1 st December
Y4 Swimming packed Lunch required	Friday 4 th December
KS2 Evening Performance 6pm TBC	Monday 7 th December TBC
KS2 Christmas matinee 1.30pm TBC	Tuesday 8 th December TBC
Y4 Swimming packed Lunch required	Friday 11 th December
Celebration Assembly 3.00pm	Friday 11 th December
Family Service St James' 10.30am	Sunday 13 th December
Open afternoon 2.30pm for parents to look at work	Tuesday 15 th December
Y5Y6 Christmas Bazaar 2.30-4.00pm	Tuesday 15 th December
Mouse Class Nativity dress rehearsal 9.15am	Wednesday 16 th December
Mouse Class Nativity 9.15am	Thursday 17 th December
Children's Christmas Party 1.00pm	Thursday 17 th December
Talent Show am	Friday 18 th December
Last day of term	Friday 18 th December