Ashburton Primary School Newsletter

Putting Children and Learning at the Heart of Everything We Do

September 2025 Issue #03

admin@ashburton-primary.devon.sch.uk 01364652343

This Week in Our School

It has been another busy week of learning at Ashburton Primary School I have been really lucky to see lots of children who have had headteacher awards for excellent learning. I am hoping to share these on Dojo moving forwards.

It was so lovely to experience Apple Day on Tuesday and the smiles on faces of everyone involved. A huge thank you to everyone who made cakes and for those who were able to buy apple juice or cakes after school.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has provided feedback regarding our communication with families. Your input plays an important role in helping us understand what's working well and where we can improve - thank you. If anyone has not been able to provide feedback but would like to, here is the link https://forms.office.com/e/B7c0LikD3x

I will continue to deputise for Miss Docking next week.

Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Annette Layland, Deputy Head

TEAM PTA

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) are looking for new members. The PTA raise money for the school and contribute towards things such as school trips and events.





Achievements



Writing



School Values



Oracy

TTRS

Class who have played the most this week.....
Year 6!



Teaching Assistant Deployment

I am conscious there have been lots of changes for children and families lately and we are grateful for your ongoing understanding. I have also listened to your feedback and want to keep you all updated.

To ensure children have a calm and purposeful classroom, some changes to our teaching assistant deployment have been made. From Monday, the following staff will be supporting in classes:

Reception - Mrs Trayling

Year 1 - Miss Hannaford

Year 2 - Mrs Hayward

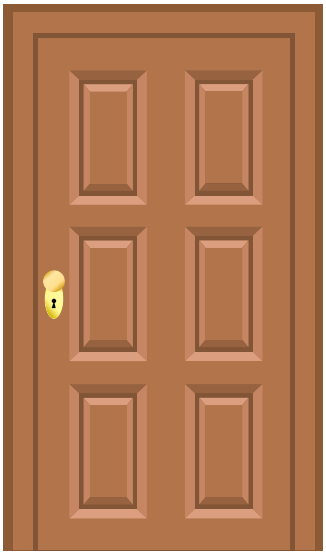
Year 3 - Mrs Hill , Mrs Wotton (interventions) and Mrs Wilson (mornings)

Year 4 - Miss Peacock

Year 5 - Mrs Jones and Miss Underhill

Year 6 - Mrs Trapp

Mrs Mason will continue with social, emotional and mental wellbeing interventions.



Doors in the Morning

If parents/carers need to speak to Ms Bass or pass a message to member of staff not on the door, please can I ask that you enter via the main entrance. For safeguarding, we will not be able to allow parents/carers to enter via the playground door. Thank you for your understanding with this and help to keep our school safe.

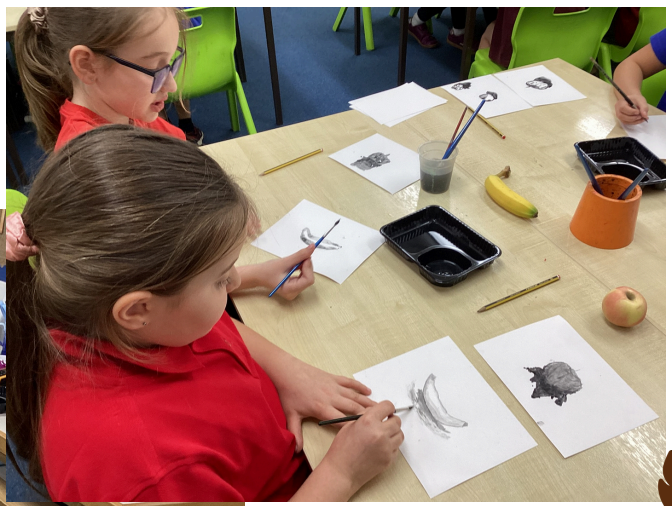








This week in Year 4, we carried out a painting exercise to practice our observation skills as part of our still life unit. We are learning that painting objects really well requires a lot more time looking than painting!







Key Dates

September

15th- Year 4 Meet the Teacher (3.10pm-3.30pm)

16th- Year 6 Meet the Teachers (9.10am-9.30am)

16th- Year 1 Meet the Teacher (3:10pm-3.30pm)

17th- Year 3 Meet the Teachers (10am-10.30am)

18th- Linden Dance to visit school

22nd- Year 5 Meet the Teacher (3.10pm- 3.30pm)

23rd - Apple Day (juice and cakes being sold after school)

23rd- Year 2 Meet the Teacher (3.10pm-3.30pm)

24th - Reception Vision Screening Check

October

17th- Show Racism the Red Card (children invited to wear red)

23rd - Halloween School Disco

(KS1 4.30pm -5.30pm, KS2 5.45pm- 6.45pm)

24th - Non Pupil Day

Half Term 27th – 31st October

November

3rd- Autumn Term 2 begins.

9th - Remembrance Parade

10th - Odd Socks Day

10th- Parents Evening (2pm-6pm)

11th - Parents Evening (3.40pm-5-10pm (not Year 4))

12th - Year 4 Parents Evening (3.40pm-5.10pm)

13th - Reception 2026 Tour (4pm-5pm)

14th- Children in Need

17th-18th - Book Fair

18th Reception Tour 2026 (2pm-3pm)

25th - Flu Vaccinations

27th- Reception 2026 Tour (4pm-5pm)

December

2nd -Reception 2026 Tour (2pm-3pm)

9th -Reception Christmas Show to Parents (times to be confirmed)

11th - Christmas Jumper Day

11th - KS1 Christmas Performance to Parents (2pm-3pm)

11th - KS1 Christmas Performance to parents (5pm-6pm)

16th - Christmas Fair (3pm to 5pm)

16th - Carol Concert (5pm to 6pm)

18th - Last Day of Autumn Term 2

19th -Non Pupil Day

SOCIAL MEDIA 101

Social media platforms constantly evolve, with even the most popular platforms seeing fluctuations in engagement. Whether the child in your care uses Instagram, TikTok, or any new platform, understanding the key features will help you grasp the appeal and recognise associated risks.

COMMON FEATURES OF SOCIAL MEDIA

User Hashtags & Trends

Hashtags help categorise and organise content, making it discoverable by users interested in specific topics.

User Profiles

Personal profiles are online identities, with usernames, bios, profile pics, and optional details.

Interactions & Engagement

Interactions between users such as likes, reactions, comments, shares or reposts.

Search & Discovery

Search finds accounts, hashtags, topics, and trending content. Discovery suggests new content based on interests.

Notifications

Alerts users about profile activities such as mentions, comments, likes, friend requests.

Newsfeeds/Timelines

Displays content shared by users and the accounts they follow, tailored to user preferences, connections, and interactions.

Posting & Sharing

Text, photos, videos, links, and articles shared with online connections or publicly.

AI & Chatbots

Something we are starting to see more of is the integration of AI as a more visible feature on social media platforms. They often use AI to improve the user's experience, such as chatbots that provide support by answering questions.

Connecting & Following

Connections through friend/follow requests keep users updated on activities and content. Connections may be mutual (both users follow each other) or one-sided (one user follows another without reciprocation).

Messaging & Communications

Direct messages, group chats, voice/video calls facilitate communication between users.

Privacy & Security Settings

Options to control privacy, audiences, viewing permissions, and account security.

13 13 13 13 16 13 13 13 BeReal. 13 13 13 13

RISKS AND TOP TIPS

Age Verification

- Most platforms have age ratings to stop users viewing age-inappropriate content.
- Not all platforms have robust verification methods.
- Ensure young people are registered as the correct age (a 12 year old who registers as 16 will see content designed for an adult after two years)
- Look for platforms using YOTI as their age verification method. This facial scanning technology is harder to get around than most other methods.

End-to-End Encryption

- This ensures a message between the sender and recipient can't be viewed by anyone else - even the police or hackers!
- Encryption provides an opportunity for predators to groom young users without detection.
- Make sure they understand what to do if someone is making them feel uncomfortable.
- Talk to young people about accepting requests or adding people they don't know.

Digital Footprint

- Whatever a young person posts online leaves a digital footprint that could impact their future.
- Universities, friends, and even employers might come across their previous online activity.
- Help your child set up their accounts so that posts are visible only to friends and not the public.
- Make sure a young person only posts content they would be comfortable with anyone seeing.

Algorithms

- The content a user interacts with or searches for influences what they will see next.
- This may affect an impressionable young person's thoughts and actions.
- Understand that one piece of harmful content can lead to the algorithm showing you more.
- Keep in mind the negativity bias. Just like staring at a car crash on the road, it doesn't imply a desire for more or an enjoyment of it, but rather reflects how our brains tend to focus on the negative for longer.

Persuasive Design

- Clever design features keep users engaged on social media platforms for longer, through things like the endless scroll or push notifications.
- This can lead to excessive screen-time and in some cases, addiction.
- Agree screentime limits with young people to promote a healthy balance between offline and online activities.
- Encourage them to recognise when they are being influenced to stay online.

Personal Information

- Information such as full names, locations, or other platform usernames are frequently shared on social media.
- Sharing this information may seem harmless to young people, but can be exploited by predators and cybercriminals for harmful purposes.
- Ensure children know what is appropriate to share online and what isn't.
- Make sure they know that bios can be seen by everyone, even with a private account.
- Remind them to scan their photos for anything that could identify them before they are posted.

©Ineqe Group Ltd 2025
v: 1.0.2 p:06.03.2025

Year 6 Parents/Carers



South Dartmoor Community College

OPEN MORNING

Wednesday 1 October 2025
9.30 - 11am

Come and join us to experience
life at South Dartmoor

South Dartmoor Community College
Balland Lane, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7EW

01364 652230
enquiries@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk
www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk

SOUTH DARTMOOR
Community College

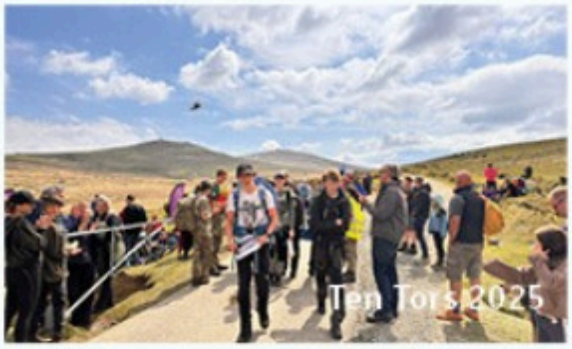
Year 6 Parents/Carers











We have seen **record applications** to our College in 2025. Come and see why so many students, parents and carers are making us their first choice school.

www.kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.
Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.
The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

5

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 2 parents =

£1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

4

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

2ND TIME

2 parents and
1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.
A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000


TALK PANTS
AND STAY SAFE, LIKE PANTOSAURUS
PRIVATES ARE PRIVATE
ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU
NO MEANS NO
TALK ABOUT SECRETS THAT UPSET YOU
SPEAK UP, SOMEONE CAN HELP
NSPCC
EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR


The Pantosaurus Song! | #TalkPANTS | NSPCC
NSPCC
presents
PANTOSAURUS
Watch on YouTube

New guidance for slush ice drinks

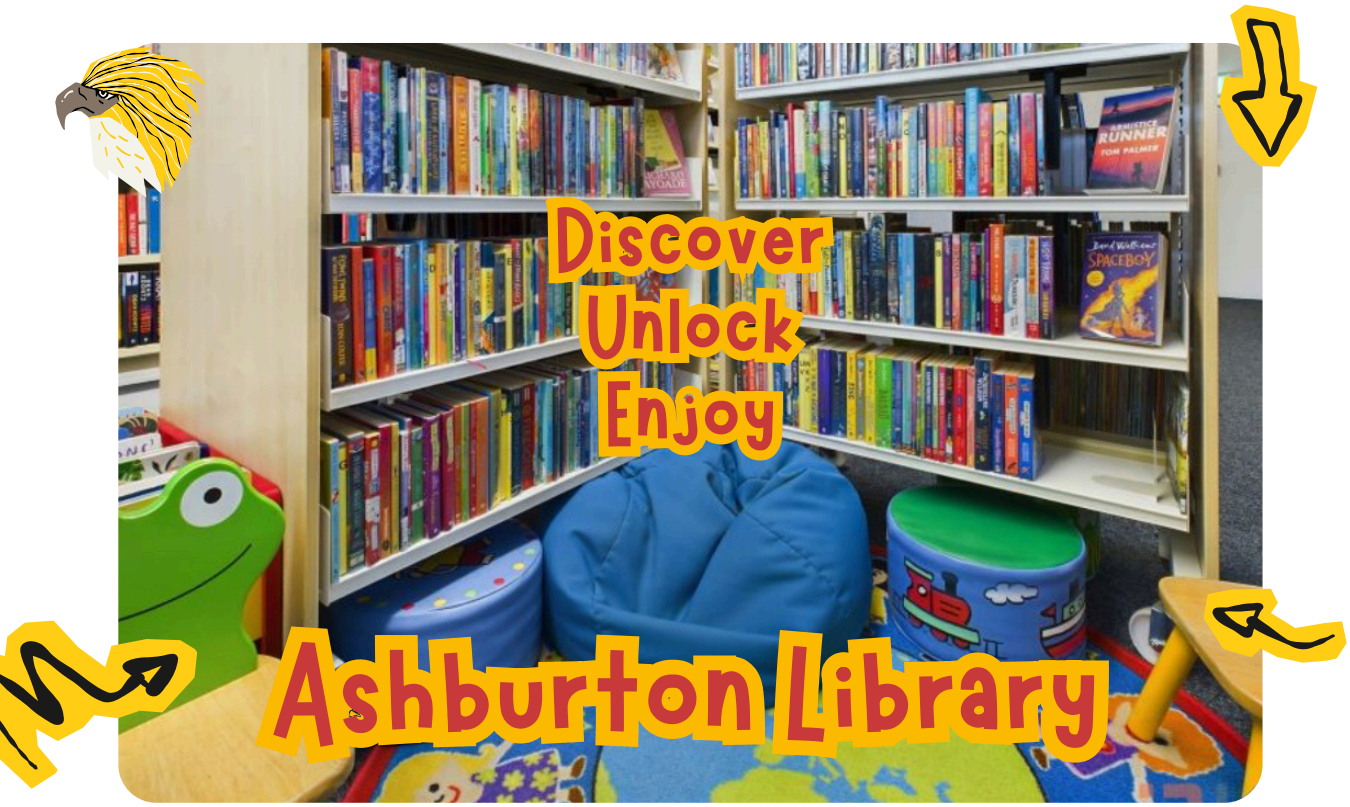
Food Standards Agency (FSA) has issued new guidance that slush ice drinks containing glycerol should not be consumed by children under 7. Children under 10 should only be given one 350ml drink.

When buying a slush, make sure to check with the seller about the drink's glycerol content, and don't buy it if in doubt.

In young children, glycerol can cause:
- Sickness
- Headaches
- Hypoglycaemia (low sugar in blood)
- Shock
- Loss of consciousness

Find out more at www.food.gov.uk/glycerol





DANGEROUS DADS
Totnes

Dangerous Dads

A group with regular, fun activities for fathers and male carers of children of any age.

2 Westonfields
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 5QT
Visit website
Ian Blackwell
ianw.blackwell@btinternet.com
07731795160



Pre-Loved Uniform

We have a range of pre-loved uniform for sale for 50p an item.
This can be located just inside the playground double doors.



ASHBURTON COMMUNITY FRIDGE

- Free to all residents
- Open 24/7
- Located behind the Town Hall by the Information Centre



HOW TO CHECK

1. Checking for head lice shouldn't be considered a big deal, it's just a normal part of a family's personal hygiene routine like brushing teeth or washing hair

2. It's best to check for head lice using a comb made for the purpose, ideally white so they can be easily seen and with teeth no more than 0.3mm apart in order to trap head lice

3. Combing through the hair when wet, or after applying a conditioner, may make the process more comfortable

4. Good lighting is important and so is comfort to ensure your child stays still. Perhaps distract them with the TV or a book

CHECK • CHECK • CHECK • CHECK • CHECK • CHECK • CHECK • CHECK

You should check your child's hair regularly, ideally once a week – a good way to remember this is **ONCE A WEEK, TAKE A PEEK.**

Ashburton Primary School

Putting Children and Learning at the Heart of Everything We Do.

Is your child starting school in September 2026?

We would love to welcome you to Ashburton Primary School and give you the opportunity to see what makes our school a special place to learn and grow!

13th November 4pm to 5pm
27th November 4pm to 5pm
2nd December 2pm to 3pm

Contact us via admin@ashburton-primary.devon.sch.uk or 01364652343 and a member of staff will be happy to book your tour.







Inspire-Believe-Discover-Achieve-Belong

Better Housing Better Health

Better Housing Better Health
https://www.bhbh.org.uk/

Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) is a not-for-profit service run by the National Energy Foundation, working to help residents living in or at risk of living in fuel poverty to access advice and support.

They are a service that is free of charge and open to all residents experiencing issues with keeping warm at home.

As part of their service, they have a helpline that's free to call where their team can give valuable tips on how to stay warm at home, sign up those in need of additional support to the Priority Services Register and access grants for energy efficiency measures. We understand the physical and mental effects of living in a cold home, and we feel it is more important than ever to ensure everyone is living in a warm and happy household.

Self-Care September 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential	2 Notice the things you do well, however small	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly	4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it	5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes	6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'
8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok	11 Make time to do something you really enjoy	12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost	13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one	14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break
15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly	17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself	18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you	19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement	20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories	21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside
22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love	25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing	26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents	27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans	28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn
29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself	30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are					













ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together