

Ashill

Primary School



Friday 10th November 2023

A message from Mrs Joanne Crocker

As always the children have returned to school after the half term break, with positivity and enthusiasm, what more could we ask?

It was lovely to see so many of you at the parents' evenings and be able to share your children's successes.

The children who applied for roles on the school council have now been elected and have had their first meeting to decide on their goals for the year and the charity they would like to support. Well done to all those children who have stepped forward to give their time to develop their school, their community and become better global citizens.

We continue to focus on our School Values (Courage / Collaboration / Compassion / Excellence). We refer to these constantly with the children, recognising when they individually and collectively show these values

As part of our commitment to excellence we strive for high levels of attendance and punctuality and appreciate the effort you make to help us achieve this. We do know children get ill but please do consider carefully if you choose to take a holiday in term time the impact this will have on your child's education.

Today we have marked Remembrance Day. The school has taken the opportunity to remember all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. We will remember them.

Best wishes,

Joanne Crocker
Head of School



The Photo of the Week



Ukulele club perform in celebration assembly



This school is part of the The Redstart Learning Partnership, a Multi Academy Trust of primary schools in Somerset.

Dates for your Diary

- 17th Nov—Flu Clinic & NSU Day PTFA (bottle for Xmas fayre)
- 24th Nov—INSET DAY
- 6th Dec—School Lunches Christmas Dinner
- 7th Dec—Christmas Jumper Day
- 7th Dec—Parent Drop In 3.15pm
- 11th Dec—NO CLUBS
- 12th Dec—Nativity Ashill Church 6pm
- 13th Dec—Pantomime Trip
- 15th Dec—Last day of Term

Please note there has been a change in the advertised date of the nativity in the church. This will now take place on Tuesday 12th December (instead of Thursday 14th).

Ashill Primary School, Ashill, Ilminster,
Somerset, TA9 9BN

T: 01823 480637

ashill@redstartpartnership.co.uk
www.ashillprimaryschool.co.uk

Attendance Breakdown: (for this month)

KS1/ Hedgehog Class - 96.5%

KS2 / Squirrels Class - 92.86%

Whole School - 94.86%

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is high priority at Ashill Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

Our Designated Lead (DSL) is Mrs Joanne Crocker and our Deputy Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is Pamela Mount (School and Pre-School).

Our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at: www.ashillprimaryschool.co.uk/1213/safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSL as above, or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is a lot of online safety advice on our website – please follow [this link](#) to help keep your child safe.

Parent & Carer Contact Information

If you change any of your contact details, ***including your place of work or moving house***, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we may update our records. It is important that we have up to date details at all times. Please email ashill@redstartpartnership.co.uk or telephone the school office on 01823 480637 any morning between 9.00am and 12 noon.

School Day Timings

Please note: our school gate opens each morning from 8.45am, our school day begins at 8.55 am and finishes at 3.15pm. If your child/ren arrives after 8.55am please do let us know the reason (we know traffic is unavoidable and sometimes cars don't start) so we can avoid marking them in as late on the register. Ashill pre-school opens at 9.00am and closes at 3.00pm

Pupil Medical/Health Updates

It is important that any medical updates for your child are communicated through to the office, either by email or letter. This information is entered into their pupil record. ***We would also like to know about any regular medication your child takes***. The school office is open everyday from 9.00am to 12noon. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

News from The Redstart Learning Partnership

With half-term already a distant memory, the clocks having changed and Guy Fawkes night just behind us, we now begin the long run into the Christmas period. No doubt rehearsals are already beginning for nativity plays and Christmas extravaganzas across the Trust.

For trustees, this is a bittersweet time. We are enormously proud of our schools, our staff and our wonderful children, but this will be our last Christmas with everyone under the TRLP umbrella. Our schools will move to Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) and to Academies for Character and Excellence (ACE) on January 1 st 2024, as we hand the responsibility and rewards on to them to take the schools forward.

Both trusts have an amazing track record and we, as trustees, are confident that both children and staff will further blossom and develop under their leadership and guidance. While the nitty gritty business of making the transfers happen continues, with TUPE consultations for staff and a lot of behind the scenes work to ensure things like school dinners happen, the real work of education carries on day in and day out in every classroom.

We are delighted that Holy Trinity has just gained a good Ofsted judgement and, with Winsham having had their inspection last week, we have fingers crossed for more good news, hopefully before the end of term.

Thank you to all parents for your ongoing support at this unusual and hectic time. I will write a further piece to sign off at the end of term.

Tess Gale

TRLP Board Chair

Squirrel Class

As we progress into the second half of the Autumn term, I would like to thank everyone for continuing to help me settle in and feel so welcome. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at parents' evening and to share the fantastic progress the class is making.

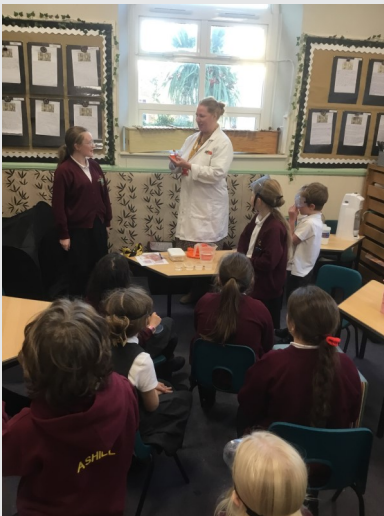
One highlight for the class has been the opportunity to carry out fun experiments in Science with Mrs Newman as we investigate the properties of materials. In English, we finished our work on the book "Wild Animals of the North" by Dieter Braun and have begun looking at "The Man Who Walked Between the Towers" by Mordicai Gerstein.

The two recent highlights for me were the apple pressing day and the afternoon we spent writing haikus inspired by the book "Cloud Busting" by Malorie Blackman.

I look forward to my first Christmas nativity as a class teacher and hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Thank you for all your hard work with your children at home, working on their spelling and listening to them read.

Mr Oliver and Mrs Newman



Hedgehog Class



Hedgehog class have continued to work hard and we are impressed with their attitude to learning. The improvement of handwriting in Reception has been a particular highlight of this month and we are looking forward to watching this grow further. They are also recalling letter sounds and some children are beginning to blend letters to make simple words. Fantastic!

Key Stage 1 children have been developing their counting skills recently in maths and basic addition and subtraction. Some children find it difficult to bridge ten when they are counting, so get stuck at 29, 39, 49 etc. If you are able to rehearse this with them at home, it would be very helpful.

In English lessons we have introduced 'The Curious Quest' to Key Stage 1. This is a fun way of teaching literacy and enthusiastically engages children's imagination. This gives the writing purpose and helps children to want to engage with it. It's been a great start. We have met lots of new characters, who will help us on our quest. Perhaps the children can tell you all about them.

For reception children, English lessons are based around a book of the week. The writing tasks encourage children to listen to the sounds they can hear in a word and begin to write the word. Their phonics lessons also support this. In addition, they are making tasks and small world activities linked to the book, which support their learning in all areas. In science the whole class has been learning about their bodies, in particular their senses. Hopefully children can now name their five senses and tell you a little about how they work. The activities have included exploring textures, guessing smells, experimenting with sound and learning about Braille.

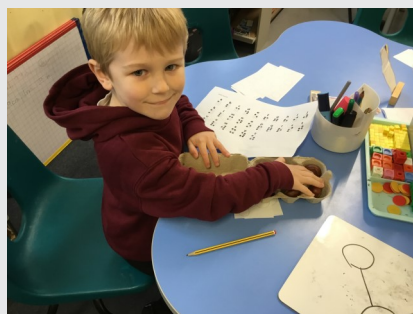
During P.E. sessions children have enjoyed being pirates, scrubbing the decks, preparing for storms, riding the waves and looking out for pesky seagulls. It has been great fun - if a little noisy, Aarrghh! Key Stage 1 children also continue to enjoy sessions with our coach Miss B from Premier sports.

In computing lessons children have looked at the role of algorithms. These are a series of instructions given to the computer to complete a task. We linked this to instructions to get dressed and the importance of having the correct order and being precise. Nobody wants to have to put their trousers over their shoes or wear their socks on their hands!

You will have noticed that Mrs Evans has been absent for the last couple of weeks, as she supports her daughter during a hospital stay. Fortunately, Mrs Newman and Mrs Bulgin have been able to cover the class, ensuring the least disruption for the children. We also have an amazing team of teaching assistants who have played a huge part in helping to keep things running smoothly. I am sure you will join me in sending out best wishes to Mrs Evans and her family.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Evans and Mrs Bulgin



Preschool - Fawns

We have had some changes to our preschool dynamics since the half term break. We welcomed Marlow to the preschool and we are so happy to say that he has settled very well and is beginning to build friendships with the children and adults.

We sadly said goodbye to our little Dellandro who along with his family are heading back to Barbados. He has only been with us for a short time but has made a huge impact on us all. He is a very cheeky, happy chap who will be greatly missed but we would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best.

The children have all been very busy this term and have enjoyed many activities. They continued to explore our season theme and made some pumpkins, firework and Halloween pictures as well as listening to 'Room on the Broom'.

We continued to make the most of the outside space despite the weather, in fact the rain made the experience so much more enjoyable, especially in the forest school where the children got very muddy.

We will now be embarking on all things Christmas for the rest of the term so please be prepared for glittery pictures and ornaments. Sorry!



Pam, Kali and Becca



Somerset School Terms and Holidays 2023/2024 Academic Year

September 2023					October 2023					November 2023							
M		4	11	18	25	Mo	2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	3	10	17	24	31	Tu		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	We	4	11	18	25	W	1	8	15	22	29	
Th		7	14	21	28	Th	5	12	19	26	Th	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29	Fr	6	13	20	27	F	3	10	17	24		
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	7	14	21	28	Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	3	10	17	24	Su	1	8	15	22	29	Su	5	12	19	26		
December 2023					January 2024					February 2024							
M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27
W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28
Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25	Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26	F	2	9	16	23		
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27	Sa	3	10	17	24		
Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28	Su	4	11	18	25		
March 2024					April 2024					May 2024							
M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	31	W	1	8	15	22	29
Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25	Th	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26	F	3	10	17	24	31	
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27	Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28	Su	5	12	19	26		
June 2024					July 2024					August 2024							
M		3	10	17	24	M	1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26
Tu		4	11	18	25	Tu	2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27
W		5	12	19	26	W	3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28
Th		6	13	20	27	Th	4	11	18	25	Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F		7	14	21	28	F	5	12	19	26	F	2	9	16	23	30	
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa	6	13	20	27	Sa	3	10	17	24	31	
Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su	7	14	21	28	Su	4	11	18	25		

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 04 September – 20 October 2023 (35 days)	
Term 2: 30 October – 15 December 2023 (35 days)	
Term 3: 02 January – 9 February 2024 (29 days)	
Term 4: 19 February – 28 March 2024 (29 days)	
Term 5: 15 April – 24 May 2024 (29 days)	
Term 6: 03 June – 24 July 2024 (38 days)	TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2023/24

Christmas Day	25 December 2023	Easter Monday	01 April 2024
Boxing Day	26 December 2023	May Day Bank Holiday	06 May 2024
New Year's Day	01 January 2024	Spring Bank Holiday	27 May 2024
Good Friday	29 March 2024	Summer Bank Holiday	26 August 2024