

# Ashill

## Primary School



Friday 6th October 2023

### A message from Mrs Joanne Crocker

What a fantastic start to the term.

Although it feels that that term is already well underway, for our youngest members this is only their fifth week in school and they have done a fantastic job of settling in and becoming valuable members of the school community.



With October marking Black History Month, we have once again been lucky enough to experience a workshop led by Akulah Agbami, funded by the Arts Council. The children had the opportunity to spend time exploring the history of black art and using the work of noted artists to inspire paired and group abstract creations which were then curated by the children into an art exhibition.

Redstart have once again hosted a Science Ambassador's Day in conjunction with the Ogden Trust and we have been able to send two children on this course to further raise the profile of science within the school.

It has been good to see the children really motivated to complete their reading diaries and I cannot stress enough how important reading fluency is.

Reading is the gateway to all learning.

Best wishes,

Joanne Crocker  
Head of School

THE MORE THAT YOU READ,  
THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL  
KNOW. THE MORE THAT YOU  
LEARN, THE MORE PLACES  
YOU'LL GO.

—Dr. Seuss

### The Photo of the Week



Reception 23-24—Welcome to Ashill School



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

### Dates for your Diary

- Friday 6th Oct Harvest Assembly 2.15pm
- Tuesday 17th Oct Parents meetings
- Wednesday 18th Oct Parents meetings
- Friday 20th Oct - LAST DAY OF TERM
- Monday 23rd Oct Half Term
- Monday 30th Oct Back to School
- Thursday 9th November Tempest photos

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 ).

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### **Attendance Breakdown: (for this month)**

KS1/ Hedgehog Class - 99.5%

KS2 / Squirrels Class - 98.1%

**Whole School - 98.84%**

**\*\*\*This is a fantastic start, keep it up everyone\*\*\***

### **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](http://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](mailto: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.

## Squirrel Class

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first five weeks at Ashill and getting to know the children has been a real highlight.

This week, we had the privilege of a Black History Month Art workshop. The children worked together to create some wonderful pieces of art, whilst learning about the importance of Black History Month. We have also made the most of National Poetry Day to inspire our poems written to celebrate Harvest Festival.

In English, we have been studying the book, "Brother Eagle Sister Sky," by Susan Jeffers as part of our fiction unit and from this we have developed some wonderful settings for the new characters developed. We will shortly be moving onto the non fiction text, "Wild Animals of the North," by Dieter Braun. Both of these texts were chosen to link with our geography work about North America.

Kyra and Rosa, our school Science Ambassadors, spent an exciting day at Redstart Primary School this week, enjoying the chance to undertake various science investigations. We are looking forward to a demonstration of all they have learnt, soon.

We will shortly be moving onto our next curriculum block of Science, investigating the properties of materials - the knowledge organiser will be coming soon...

As always we appreciate all your support learning and revising key vocabulary and knowledge as well as keeping all the fabulous reading going.

Mr Oliver & Mrs Newman



## Hedgehog Class

Amazingly, we have already completed the first month of the school year. It has been a great start to the term and the children have worked hard. We are particularly proud of the reception children who have made a very positive start and settled in beautifully.

Reception children have started to learn the phonics sounds and are developing their pencil control to write these sounds. We use a variety of activities to improve children's fine motor skills to develop the strength and dexterity for a variety of tasks, such as writing. For example, children have recently enjoyed snipping a variety of plants from Mrs Bulgin's garden. They have also enjoyed the different smells and textures and there has been a lot of conversation around the table. It was great fun...even if the classroom does now smell of leeks!

Year 1 and 2 have continued to extend their phonics knowledge with daily sessions and are applying this in their writing. Drawing Club remains popular and the children have enjoyed using their imagination to meet challenges linked to the weekly story. They particularly enjoyed watching a Looney Tunes Road Runner cartoon story and created their own tricks to play on the coyote.

In maths children have spent some time recognising 2D and 3D shapes. They have also used a number line or hundred square to find 1 or 10 more than a given number.

In the afternoon's children learnt about the seasons and looked for signs of Autumn. They have also used natural items to create art. During music sessions the children have explored a jig and are learning the song 'As I was Walking Down the Street'. They have enjoyed watching Irish dancers and marching to the beat of the song. I wonder if they can sing you the song.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Evans and Mrs Bulgin



## Preschool - Fawns

We have had a busy and changeable start to the term. We would like to welcome our new starters to the setting and we are so pleased to say that they have settled really well and are beginning to make firm friendships.

This term we have been learning about Autumn and the different changes that will happen. The children have enjoyed many different Autumn activities such as leaf painting, collecting leaves on our first welly walk with the reception children and playing and sorting conkers, acorns and leaves in the tuff tray.

We have also started to explore 'all about me'. The children made their own paper plate person, listened to the ebook, 'we are all different' which opened up discussions about ourselves and how we are different or the same.

The children played sound bingo and listened really well to the sounds and found the matching pictures, they also helped to make playdough, taking turns to add ingredients to the bowl and stir them in. We have continued to make use of the nice weather by having water play outside using the water tray and water wall as well as playing on the ride on toys. The children explored the trim trail and played in the play house pretending to be the '3 little pigs'.

We have had many opportunities to go up to KS1 to play in their classroom and outside spaces. The children have enjoyed reconnecting with the children who left to start school and build new friendships with the other children and the teachers.

As the weather starts to change can you please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and can they bring wellies into school so they can continue to play outside, even if it is wet.



Pam, Kalli and Rebecca.



## 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:

<span style="background-color: #008080; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	School Holiday
<span style="background-color: #FF8C00; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Bank Holiday
<span style="border: 1px solid black; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Term Time
<span style="background-color: #90EE90; width: 15px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	Inset Days

### Term dates summary:

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

### 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