

Ashdon Primary School Shines at Saffron Walden Carnival!

What a brilliant day we had at last Saturday's carnival! Our school was absolutely buzzing with excitement as we took part in the wonderful community celebration that filled Saffron Walden's streets with joy and laughter. A massive thank you goes to Mrs Clark and our fantastic PTA, who worked tirelessly to arrange and decorate our stunning Ashdon Primary School Float. The children looked absolutely adorable in their bright yellow t-shirts and cheerful yellow feathery caps, bringing smiles to everyone's faces as they proudly pranced along on our Woodstock Float. Our pupils did us proud as they showcased beloved characters from Peanuts - Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the whole gang came to life right before our eyes! The creativity and enthusiasm were infectious, and everyone commented on how amazing and fun our display was.

The atmosphere throughout Saffron Walden was electric, with the streets truly buzzing with community spirit. It was heart-warming to see our school so well represented and celebrated.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

- Mrs Clark, who organised this wonderful opportunity for our children
- The PTA, who helped fund the t-shirts, hats and other essentials
- All the parents, carers and children who supported and represented our lovely school with such pride

As Charlie Brown himself might say, "Happiness is a warm puppy" - and on Saturday, happiness was seeing our Ashdon Primary family come together to create such magical memories!

Well done to everyone involved - you've made our school community incredibly proud!



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Year 6 Mayhem Adventure

Our Year 6 pupils had an absolutely brilliant time at Lazer-tag on Monday! After all their hard work preparing for and completing their SATs, they certainly deserved this exciting day out.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Sarah Hegarty for organising this fantastic trip, as well as to the wonderful parent volunteers who kindly took the children to the event: Kevin and Corey Vost, Sarah Hegarty and Lisa Taylor. Your support made all the difference! We also want to say thank you to our PTA who partially fund this for our Year 6 pupils.

A huge thank you also goes to Mrs Johnson and Miss Richardson for accompanying the children from school and to Mrs Bishop for brilliantly arranging everything at our end to make this adventure possible.

The children had such tremendous fun and it was wonderful to see them enjoying themselves after working so incredibly hard this year. Well done, Year 6!



Story Garden Reading Challenge Assembly



Story Garden Reading Challenge:

We were delighted to welcome the representative from Essex County Council this week, who delivered an inspiring assembly to the whole school about the 'Story Garden Reading Challenge'. This fantastic initiative encourages children to develop their love of reading and make the most of their local library resources.

We're pleased to announce that our school's reading challenge prizes align perfectly with the Story Garden Reading Challenge requirements. This means your child doesn't need to participate in two separate challenges – simply by reading as part of our school programme, they'll automatically be working towards both challenges simultaneously.

We encourage all families to support their children's reading journey, whether through our school library, local libraries, or home reading. Every book read counts towards both challenges, making it easier than ever for your child to earn recognition for their reading achievements.

For more information about the Story Garden Reading Challenge or to find your nearest library, please visit the Essex County Council website or speak to your child's class teacher.

THE READING AGENCY **Summer Reading Challenge**
Delivered in partnership with libraries **2025**

Story Garden
Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Saturday 19 July to Saturday 6 September 2025
Join at your local Essex library or mobile library – libraries.essex.gov.uk for library opening times

Essex County Council
Libraries

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



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Summer Holiday Learning Challenges Get Ready for Some Fun!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you're all as excited as we are about the upcoming summer holidays! Whilst we know you'll be busy with days out, trips to the park and maybe a well-deserved lie-in or two, we've got some brilliant challenges lined up to keep the children's learning ticking over - and trust us, they're going to love them!

Reading Challenge 1 - Building Those Reading Habits

We're challenging your little ones to read for just 10 minutes, 5 times a week throughout the holidays. That's 30 times in total - completely doable! The wonderful thing is that anyone can help - mums, dads, grandparents, big brothers and sisters, or even family friends can all sign the Summer Reading Record Sheet to confirm each reading session. When they return to school, we'll check their records and reward them with a book they can choose from our selection, a gorgeous reading badge and a bookmark. It's such a lovely way to build that reading habit!

Reading Challenge 2 - Our Little Bookworms

For our most enthusiastic readers, we're counting how many different books each child reads over the holidays. The winner gets the most amazing prize - a brand new scooter! Can you imagine their faces when they realise all that reading has earned them something so fantastic? Just pop down the titles of the books they've read and we'll count them up when they're back.

Mathematics Challenge - Making Maths Fun

Children who hop onto Mathematics at least 5 times a week (30 times over the holidays) and complete activities will be in with a chance to win. We've got separate prizes for Reception/KS1 and KS2 - and guess what? They're both scooters too! The absolute best bit is that we can track everything online, so you don't have to worry about checking up on them - we'll do all that when they're back at school.

Writing Challenge - Memory Lane

This one's really special - we're asking the children to write about all the wonderful things they've done at school this year. It might be worth having a look back through some of the old newsletters together to help them remember all their adventures! Reception/KS1 children need to write at least half a page and KS2 children need to write at least one and a half pages. We'll be looking at their handwriting, punctuation, grammar and whether their recount flows nicely. The winners (one from each key stage) will get a beautiful notebook and a fancy pack of pens.

A Few Important Bits and Bobs:

- **Reading Challenge 1:** Remember to bring back those signed reading record sheets in September
- **Reading Challenge 2:** Bring in your list of books read (with your signature to confirm they actually read them!)
- **Maths Challenge:** Nothing for you to do - we'll track it all online
- **Writing Challenge:** Hand in those lovely recounts to Mrs Johnson when you're back

We genuinely believe these challenges will keep your children engaged and learning whilst having an absolute blast. There's nothing quite like the pure joy on a child's face when they achieve something they've worked hard for!

The challenges will be launching in the last week of term, so keep an eye out for the record sheets and more details coming home in book bags.

Have a wonderful summer holidays and we can't wait to see what amazing achievements the children come back with!

Thanks, Mrs Reynecke-Raybould



Dear PTA Members,

We wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of a beautiful picnic bench and two additional benches for our school courtyard.

The picnic bench has already arrived and is proving to be a real hit with both children and staff. It's become a favourite spot not only for meals but also as a peaceful place for reading and outdoor work. The children are particularly enjoying taking their learning outside.

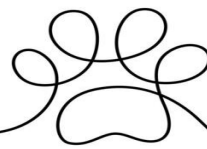
The two courtyard benches are on their way and should be ready for when the children return after the summer holidays, providing lovely spaces for children and parents to sit together and enjoy our outdoor areas.

Your thoughtfulness and continued support make such a difference to our school environment. These additions will benefit our entire school community for years to come.

Thank you once again for your wonderful generosity.

With sincere appreciation,

All of Ashdon



Pawsome

Our friendly school dog, Jaffle, is available during break times to listen to children read. Reading to a dog can help build confidence and make reading more enjoyable. If your child would like to spend some break time reading with Jaffle, please remind them to speak to their teacher to sign up to his timetable.

Not everyone will have the opportunity to read to him every week, but we will try our best to fit children in to see him often.

Well done to the Pawsome Reader of the week! You deserve a certificate and a house point to show you that I (Jaffle) am proud of you!



Jaffle



Attendance Winners!

1

First Place: Class 3 = 97.1%

2

Second Place: Class 2 = 96%

3

Third Place: Class 1 = 95.2%

Well done Class 3. You are our weekly winners.

You have earned yourselves an extra 10 minutes playtime on Friday afternoon!

Important News and Information:

- Wednesday 16th July - End of Year Performance @ 14:00 and @ 18:00
- Thursday 17th July @ 09:15-10:15 - Toddler and Parent Play Group
- Friday 18th July @ 09:15 - Leavers Assembly
- Friday 18th July @ 13:30 - 14:30 - Year 6 Film Fest
- Friday 18th July @ 15:30 - 17:00 - End of Year Disco (children can come to school wearing their disco clothes)
- Monday 21st July - Year 6 Board Games AM
- Monday 21st July @ 12:30 - Year 6 Leavers' Lunch
- Tuesday 22nd July @ 13:30 - 15:30 - Sponsored Bounce after Y6 Water Fight
- Tuesday 22nd July - Year 6 Sleepover
- Tuesday 22nd July - End of Academic Year
- Tuesday 2nd September - First Day of Autumn Term 1

PTA 'Tidy Up' Day - Saturday 26th July

We Need YOU!

The PTA has organised a special 'Tidy Up' day on Saturday 26th July and we're desperately calling on all parents, carers and available family members to roll up their sleeves and lend a hand!

As you all know, we don't have a caretaker, which means these essential maintenance tasks fall to us as a school community. We've got an extensive list of jobs that need tackling to get our school in tip-top condition ready for the children's return.

What needs doing:

- Finishing the painting of the school fences
- Painting the wall outside Class 1 to create a fantastic mark-making surface for the children
 - Giving the picnic benches a much-needed face-lift with a fresh coat of paint
 - Building a small shed for Class 1 to store their English resources for outdoor play
- Tidying the garden beds - there are so many areas crying out for a good rake to clear old leaves and bark
 - Trimming hedges to keep everything neat and tidy
 - Weeding the flower beds

Many hands make light work and we promise there's a job suitable for everyone, regardless of your DIY skills! Whether you can spare an hour or the whole day, every bit of help makes a real difference.

Please contact the PTA or school office as soon as possible to let us know you can help on the day.

Let's work together to get our school looking absolutely brilliant for our wonderful children!