



Ashdon Primary School

Newsletter

4th September 2026

Address: Bartlow Road; Ashdon; Essex; CB10 2HB Tel: 01799584219 Email: admin@ashdon.essex.sch.uk

Welcome Back!!

4th September 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back

It has been a real pleasure to welcome the children back this week. They have come back looking smart, sounding grown up and, in most cases, a good deal taller than they were in July. A particularly warm welcome to our new Reception children and to families joining us for the first time — you are very welcome here.

Thank you, too, for sharing so many of your summer stories with us. Whether your holidays took you far afield or were spent closer to home, it has been lovely to hear the children talking about the time they spent with their families. It was equally lovely to see so many of you at assembly this morning, and to catch up with many more of you on the gate. Our Celebration Assembly on Fridays is always open to parents and carers — please do come along whenever you can.

A warm welcome to Mr Swindell

We are delighted to welcome Mr Swindell, who joins us this term to teach Saturn. He is at the start of his teaching career and has already made a lovely start with the children. Do say hello if you see him on the playground — he would be very glad to meet you.

Our classes this year

Mars Class (Reception and Year 1): Mrs Collins (Mondays) & Mrs Reynolds (Tuesdays–Fridays)

Saturn Class (Year 2 and Year 3): Mr Swindell

Jupiter Class (Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6): Mrs Jarman

What we stand for

Our three values — Challenge, Care and Celebrate — sit behind everything we do, alongside our Golden Rules: Ready, Respectful, Responsible, Resilient. The children hear this language every day, and using it at home too is what really makes it stick. House points for Elm, Oak and Ash are awarded through the week and celebrated every Friday in our Celebration Assembly.

Also this year

- **Safari**, our Nature School provision led by Mrs Reynolds, continues on Thursday afternoons. Mars will carry on as always, and this year we are delighted that Saturn and Jupiter join the rotation too. We will confirm dates and kit requirements shortly.
- **Clubs:** Running Club (Tuesday lunchtime, all welcome), Reading with Jaffle (Tuesday to Friday, break and lunchtimes), Cooking Club (Wednesday after school, all welcome) and Art Club (Friday lunchtime, KS2). Please note the Tuesday Premier Education sports club is not running this year.
- **Jaffle** is back four days a week as our reading and wellbeing dog, still very pleased with his Dog of the Year title.

A few practical reminders

- **School meals** are £3.30 per day for KS2 children, cooked on site by Mrs Henry. Payments now go through **Arbor** rather than Scopay — please do contact the office if you need help setting this up.
- **Communication** comes to you via Arbor email. Absences should be reported to the office by telephone or email.
- **Allergies:** if your child's medical information has changed over the summer, please let us know in writing this week.
- **INSET days** for your diary: Monday 22 February, Friday 28 May, Monday 7 June and Wednesday 21 July 2027.

My door is always open. If there is anything at all you would like to discuss, please ring the office or catch me on the gate. Here's to a happy and successful year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Reynecke-Raybould Headteacher

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Our New Library

One of the things I am proudest to show you this term is our new library. Thanks to a grant from the British and Foreign School Society, the Tesco token scheme, and a generous contribution from our PTA, a tired corner has become the warmest room in the school. There is a world map carpet, tree-shaped reading nooks, low Montessori-style shelving that lets even our youngest children see and choose their own books, a sofa and bean bags, and a great many new titles — all now properly catalogued so children can find exactly what they are looking for.

Tucked into one corner is a sensory tent, with soft lighting and a basket of sensory toys. It has quickly become a favourite spot for children who need a quieter moment, whether that is to calm down, to concentrate, or simply to disappear into a book without the rest of the world getting in the way.

To our PTA: thank you. You applied for the Tesco grant, you raised the rest, and every cake sale, raffle and quiz night has gone into something the children now use every single day. When you next stand behind a stall in the rain, this is the sort of thing it buys. And thank you to everyone who spotted us at the token box and dropped a handful in on their way past. A few blue tokens at a time, you built a good part of this room during your weekly shop.

Thanks are due, too, to Mr Saville and Mrs Anderson, who gave up days of their own summer holiday to build every piece of furniture and arrange the room exactly as it needed to be. It is no small thing to spend your holiday with a flat-pack and an Allen key on behalf of other people's children, and we are extremely grateful. And our thanks go to Mrs Johnson, who catalogued every last book before she left us in July — a painstaking job, and the reason the children can now find what they want in moments. It is a lovely thing to have left behind.

The children's verdict has been the best part:

"It feels like the books are in a forest."

"I cannot wait for us to sit in their and listen to a story!"

"The tent is my favourite place in the whole school. It's so cosy in there."

Mrs Alderman, who runs many of our intervention groups, has noticed the difference too. She describes it as such a calm space for children to really engage in their learning that working in there has been, in her words, absolutely amazing.

A library is only ever as good as the reading that happens in it, and it is already earning its keep. Do come and have a look — the door is open at Celebration Assembly on Fridays, and the children will be only too pleased to give you the tour.



Stars of the Week

Our three values — Challenge, Care and Celebrate — sit behind everything we do, alongside our Golden Rules: Ready, Respectful, Responsible, Resilient. This week's Stars of the Week have shown exactly that, and were celebrated in Friday's assembly. Well done to all of you — we are very proud. Do use this language at home too; hearing it in both places is what really makes it stick.



A Sporting Star in Year 6

Congratulations to Harry in Year 6, who has been representing Cambridge United in fixtures against Fulham and Chelsea.

Cambridge won both matches,

8-4 and 11-4 — no small feat against opposition of that calibre. Harry has taken it all entirely in his stride, which is very much his way. We are extremely proud of him, and we look forward to hearing how the rest of the season goes. Well done, Harry!



Important Dates, Events and REMINDERS:

- ✓ **PTA Little Recyclers - Please bring in some old clothes between 7th - 9th September**
- ✓ **Meet the teacher - Thursday 10th September @15:40-16:30 (Mars and Jupiter Class)**
- ✓ **Celebration Assembly - Friday 11th September @ 09:15**
- ✓ **Meet the teacher - Thursday 17th September @15:30-16:30 (Saturn Class)**
- ✓ **Last Day of Autumn Term 1 - 23rd October**
- ✓ **Harvest Assembly - 16th October @09:15 (we will be collecting harvest produce from the 28th September - 16th October)**
- ✓ **Please make sure that all items of clothing are labelled**