November Parent Post

Welcome to November!
Can you believe we are already in the second half of the Autumn Term? Where has the time gone?
November is always a busy and exciting month in school, with lots of learning, activities and special moments to look forward to. We can't wait to see what the coming weeks bring.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We really appreciate being part of such a wonderful school community.

Attendance

Feeling a little under the weather?

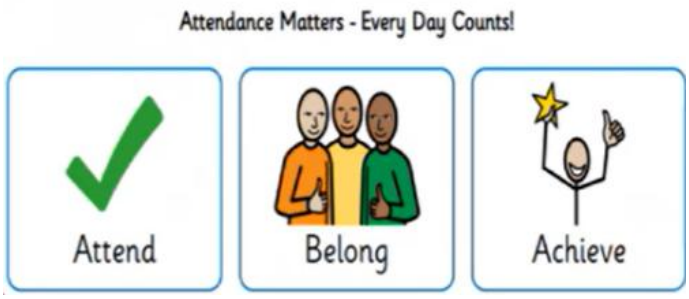
We know that some mornings children may wake up feeling a little under the weather but are still well enough to come into school. If this happens, please don't hesitate to let us know.

You can either send us an email or speak directly to Mrs Rush in the school office. She will make a personal effort to check in with your child during the day, making sure they feel heard, listened to and reassured that we know they aren't feeling quite themselves.

If your child comes into school feeling a little unwell, please let us know:

- What symptoms they are experiencing (for example, a tummy ache or headache).
- Whether they have had any medication at home and, if so, what and when.
- Any other information you feel would be helpful for us to know.

This helps our first aid team understand how your child was feeling before arriving at school and how best to support them throughout the day. We can then monitor them, offer reassurance and contact you if their symptoms worsen or they become too unwell to remain in school.
We want children to feel confident that coming into school doesn't mean their worries or discomfort will be dismissed. We will **always** listen, take their concerns seriously and keep you informed if we feel they are not well enough to stay.



IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

NHS

yes until...

CHICKENPOX	At least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over.
DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING	48 hours after their last episode.
HIGH TEMPERATURE	If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.
IMPETIGO	Their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics.
MEASLES	4 days after the rash first appeared.
MUMPS	5 days after their swelling started.
SCABIES	They've had their first treatment.
SCARLET FEVER	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics.
WHOOPING COUGH	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics.



NO



CONJUNCTIVITIS	You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
COUGHS & COLDS	It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold.
HAND, FOOT & MOUTH	If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.
HEAD LICE	There's no need to keep your child off school. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing your GP.
THREADWORMS	Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend treatment.
SORE THROAT TONSILLITIS	You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.
SLAPPED CHEEK	You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.



We are absolutely delighted to share that, for the first time ever a Reception class has won the Attendance League Championships for Autumn 1!
This is an incredible achievement, particularly considering the challenges that come with younger children building their immune systems. A huge well done to **Miss Street's class (RCS)** – you should all be incredibly proud!

A massive well done to everyone involved.
Our Top 6 classes were:

🥇 1st – Miss Street
🥈 2nd – 4JM
🥉 3rd – 1EG
4th – 4CS
5th – 6BFW
6th – 5MOR

1. Attendance Ambassadors

We are looking to appoint two Attendance Ambassadors from each team to help champion good attendance across the school. They will play an important role in updating and supporting our Attendance League Championship Board, as well as speaking in assemblies to share messages and promote the importance of good attendance (a fantastic opportunity to develop their oracy skills!). Applications are already coming in thick and fast! If your child would still like to apply, it is not too late. Applications can be submitted using a paper form, available from the school office, or via email.



2. Surprise Attendance Days 🎉

Throughout the year, we will be holding surprise Attendance Days to bring a little extra excitement and fun to coming to school. Our very first one took place last Friday, and we think it was a great success!
Did you and your child hear our school attendance song playing on Friday morning? Did they get a special high-five from Mr Harding or Ms Fernandez and earn a house point?
We loved seeing so many smiling faces and creating a real buzz around being in school!
But the big question is… when will the next Surprise Attendance Day be? You'll just have to keep coming to school to find out!

3. The 12 Days of Attendance

In the run-up to the end of the Autumn Term, there will be 12 days of fun, excitement and little surprises to encourage children to come to school every day and finish the term on a high. Starting on **Wednesday 3rd December** (12 days before we break up!)**.** More details to follow soon!

We are here to help

We understand that mornings can sometimes be challenging, and there may be occasions when children struggle to get ready for school or when practical things, such as clean or dry uniform, become a barrier to attendance.

Please remember that we are here to help, not to judge. If your child is struggling with getting dressed or is refusing to get ready for school, we can offer support with getting them dressed when they arrive.

Equally, if you are struggling with washing or drying uniform, please don't let this stop your child from coming into school. We can provide spare uniform free of charge.

All you need to do is speak to the school office and ask for Mrs Thompson or a member of our Pastoral and Safeguarding Team. No problem is too small, and we would always rather help remove a barrier to attendance than have a child miss a day of learning.



Allergy Awareness

As we move through the Autumn Term, we would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of allergy awareness within our school community. Some children and adults have allergies that can cause serious reactions, so it is important that we all work together to help keep everyone safe.

Please remember to:

- Keep us updated if your child develops a new allergy or if their existing allergy changes.
- Ensure any prescribed medication, including EpiPens, is in date and available in school.
- Inform us of any changes to your child's medical needs or emergency action plan.
- Remind children not to share food, snacks or drinks with others.

If your child has an allergy, please make sure the school office is aware so that we can update our records and put the appropriate support arrangements in place.



Sports Clubs

Thank you to all the children who participated in the Autumn 1 clubs. We had around **130** children each week playing a range of sports! We have had a great start to Autumn 2 sports clubs already and have added **girls football** and **Boxing** to our ever expanding Sports Clubs programme. More information can be found on our website: https://www.ashmeadschool.org.uk/Parents/School-Clubs/
If you can't remember if your child is in a club, please speak to your child's teacher.
For those children in clubs, please ensure that they have warm clothes to wear. As the seasons are changing, the afternoons are getting colder so if your child would like to wear gloves and warm hoodies or fleeces from home that's absolutely fine (please note, your child will not be able to wear scarves for sports due to safety). For cross country club children, a spare pair of socks/shoes is a great idea for when the field is muddy and wet.

Fixtures and Events

We had a fantastic chance to play 'Padel' last half term - a sport that is becoming increasingly popular around the world. It is a mixture of Tennis and Squash and the new courts at Aylesbury Rugby Club are fantastic. The children loved playing Padel and showed some excellent skills!
Some children went swimming over the half term to build on their swimming skills - we hope they enjoyed their lessons and are more confident when it comes to swimming longer distances and learning about water safety.
Our Year 5 and 6 boys football teams have had a good start to the season, winning 1 cup match and losing a league match. We have 2 more matches this term until it restarts again in the new year.
We have a Year 5 and 6 girls football tournament coming up soon, a fun football festival for Year 3 and 4 girls, as well as Rock Climbing for some children in Year 5 and 6.
We also have some active workshops booked in for all Year groups 1-6 to link to their individual Science topics which will further develop their understanding, whilst also building on their curiosity within the subjects.
Finally, we have a Cross Country event on Saturday 21st November at Turnfurlong - invitations will be sent out in the next week. Lots of events are coming up, not to mention our annual Santa Dash in December!

Healthy Diaries

Well done for being so active and healthy over the half term! We have had lots of diaries completed, but **Year 5** are currently the most active with their bronze diaries. Remember, 30 minutes of activity can be signed off in each box - who will manage to be active for 50 hours over the next few weeks? **Whichever class has the most diaries will win a prize, chosen by our wonderful Sports Captains!** Bring your completed diaries to Miss Venn.

Year	Bronze	Silver	Gold	
Year 1	5	1	0	**6**
Year 2	6	0	0	**6**
Year 3	8	1	0	**9**
Year 4	4	0	0	**4**
Year 5	11	1	0	**12**
Year 6	3	0	0	**3**
	37	**3**	**0**	
% whole school	7%	1%	0%	

Quidditch

Year 5 and 6 had a wonderful start to the second half of the Autumn term by having a go at "Quidditch". If you didn't know, Quidditch was created by J. K. Rowling in her Harry Potter novels and has now been developed into a real-life sport with even Great Britain (Team UK) having a team who play in the Quidditch World Cup. Quidditch is a mixture of Handball, Dodgeball, Tag-Rugby and Football. The children really enjoyed chasing the 'golden snitches' on their broomsticks and scoring goals by working as a team.
These workshops were a great link to our Year 5 and 6 topic: Fantastic Beasts. Photographs will be posted in the Galleries section on the website soon.

Term Dates 2027-2028

Ashmead Combined School
Term Dates 2027-2028

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
September 2027						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
October 2027						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
November 2027						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
December 2027						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
January 2028						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
February 2028						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
March 2028						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
April 2028						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
May 2028						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
June 2028						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
July 2028						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
August 2028						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Key

- School holiday
- Bank holiday
- Weekend
- School days
- Inset (Training) days
- Transition days
- Early Closure Day (Afternoon)
- IAT Trust Conference

Please note: there will be early closure days at **PRS, SHFGS, SWRS, TKS** and **TMS** for Open Evening during the first half term (see school calendars and websites for more information).

Up and coming diary dates

Autumn Term

Wc Monday 16th November - Anti Bullying Week
Wednesday 18th November - Mini Orchestra Visit
Thursday 19th November - Parents Evening (Day 1)
Wednesday 25th November - Parents Evening (Day 2)
Wednesday 25th November - Year 5 and 6 Body Science
Thursday 26th November - Year 3 Body Science
Friday 27th November - Year 4 Body Science
Tuesday 1st December - The 12 Days of Attendance Begins
Thursday 3rd December - Twice Treasured Shop Open
Thursday 3rd December - Year 6 Height and Weight Checks
Friday 4th December - Twice Treasured Shop Open
Monday 7th December - Year 1 Phonics Screening Pre-Screens
Tuesday 8th December - Ashmead Choir perform at Southcourt Church
Tuesday 8th December - Reception Performance of Stick Man - 2pm
Wednesday 9th December - Reception Performance of Stick Man - 10am
Friday 11th December - Festive Jumper Day and Santa Dash
Wednesday 16th December - Flu Vaccine catch up morning

Thursday 17th December - Nursery Christmas Crafts and Singing
Friday 18th December – Autumn Term ends (2pm finish)

On Saturday 12th December, between 12pm and 4pm, there is a wonderful child-friendly festive event in town! There will be plenty to enjoy, including festive treats, fun games, guided tours, a special Nativity Scene Petting Zoo and, of course, a very special visit from Father Christmas himself!



<u>Spring Term</u>
Monday 4th January – School starts for the spring term
Tuesday 9th February - Young Voices Choir Wembley
Thursday 11th February - Year 1 and 2 Body Science
Friday 12th February – Break up for half term
Monday 22nd February – Return to school
Thursday 4th March - World Book Day
Thursday 25th March – Spring Term ends (2pm finish)

<u>Summer Term</u>
Monday 12th April – School starts
Tuesday 13th April - Reception and Year 6 Class Photos
Monday 3rd May – Bank Holiday
Monday 10th – Thursday 13th May – Year 6 SATs
Monday 24th - Friday 28th May 2027 - Year 6 Residential to Green Park PGL Centre
Friday 28th May – Break up for half term
Monday 7th June – Return to school
w/b 14th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Year 2 Re-takes
Tuesday 6th July - Transition Day
Wednesday 21st July – School finishes for the Summer Term (2pm finish)

You can also find all our upcoming diary dates on the school website for easy reference.

Support in the Community



November BTG Advice Hub
Join us for a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together! It's a chance to enjoy a friendly chat, meet new people, make new friends and access advice and support from our teams.
A free lunch and refreshments will be provided, and everyone is welcome!

Discover the Performing Arts with PQA Aylesbury!
PQA Aylesbury has exciting opportunities for children aged 4–18 years, with spaces now available in their Main Academies and a brand-new Poppets 2 class!



Main Academies (ages 7–18)
Children can enjoy developing their creativity, confidence and performance skills through the performing arts.
Sessions take place every Saturday at Ashmead Combined School, with two options:

- Morning Academy: 10am–1pm
- Afternoon Academy: 2pm–5pm

Poppets 2 (ages 4–6)
Following the success of their now-full Poppets 1 group, PQA has launched a new Poppets 2 class! These sessions are specially designed for younger children to develop confidence, social skills and performance abilities in a fun and supportive environment.

- When: **Every Saturday, 11:45am–1:15pm**
- Where: **Ashmead Combined School**

Parents are also welcome to follow PQA Aylesbury on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok to find out more about what they offer.
Interested in finding out more? Children can enjoy a FREE taster session before signing up!
Visit the website to book your child's place:
Find out more and book a FREE taster session
A fantastic opportunity for children to build confidence, make friends, discover new talents and have fun!