



## **Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter**

Good afternoon.

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Attached today, is also our overview for the year. There are a couple of things still to finalise but we will let you know about these in due course. We have tried to book and cost all of our school trips early this year – this will enable parents to begin making payments on School Spider from Monday (enabling you to spread your payments if needed). Exact details of all trips will be shared in more detail in due course.

This weekend (and possibly beyond) one of our parents, Martin Willis, is taking part in a mammoth running challenge. He is generously taking this opportunity to raise funds for our school, specifically to enhance the provision for children with special educational needs. Please see the message below from Martin, along with a link to his crowdfunding page – all donations will be gratefully received. I am sure you will join me in wishing Martin the best of luck on what is a phenomenal challenge.

***Beginning today, I shall be taking on my biggest running challenge as I plan to run the 228-kilometre North Wales Pilgrims Way from Holywell to Bardsey Island.***

***While being in nature and inspired by the beauty of North Wales I also wanted to use this as a chance to seek sponsorship to help create an environment to inspire at our village school, Ashton Hayes Primary. In particular we are looking to enhance our provisions for Special Educational Needs so that every student is supported to reach their potential and exceed their goals.***

***If you would be happy to donate even the smallest amount for this great cause and help motivate my adventure that would be most appreciated by me and everyone at our school***

***Thank you in advance for your generosity.***

Here is the link to the just giving page

**[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ashtonhayesprimariesen?utm\\_medium=CR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ashtonhayesprimariesen?utm_medium=CR&utm_source=CL)**



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### **Owls:**

What a fantastic week it's been in Owls class! The children have made an excellent start on their non-chronological reports about seals. It's been wonderful to see how confidently they are organising their paragraphs and using the information they've learnt. In Maths, our Year 3 pupils have completed their first review of the year—and I couldn't be prouder of their resilience and determination. Well done, everyone! Over in Science, the children combined their knowledge and tech skills to create life cycles and food chains of their chosen animals using PowerPoint. Such creativity and scientific thinking on display! In History, the children transformed their cereal boxes into Tudor houses, and they're already looking fantastic. Keep your eyes peeled—something interesting might just be happening to them in the coming weeks... In Spanish, we've been diving into the alphabet and phonics. The class is already spelling some tricky words and even reading tongue twisters in Spanish—¡impresionante!

Great work this week, Owls. Keep it up!

### **Peregrines:**

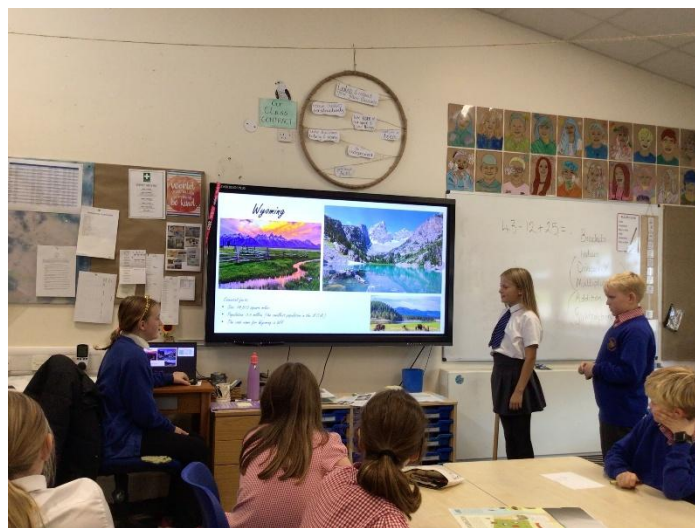
This week, the Peregrines have been focused and engaged in a variety of activities across different subjects. In English, they've been making excellent strides in improving their spelling. Using strategies like rule rhymes and word building to get those tricky words right. In Science, the class took an important step in learning how to stay safe around electricity. They also had a fantastic PE session this week, where they learned new hockey skills and it was clear they were having a great time while also developing their abilities on the field. In



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Art, the class produced some excellent sketches of barrels using a range of HB pencils. They've been experimenting with different shading techniques, and the results are truly impressive, showing great attention to detail and creativity. It's been a week full of hard work, creativity, and teamwork. Keep it up, Peregrines!

### **Buzzards:**



It's been another wonderful week in Buzzard Class, with so much amazing learning going on! This week, we started reading a book called 'Tyger' in our shared reading sessions. We're loving it (Miss Davison and Mrs Mochrie too) as the story is so gripping, right from the first page! In English, we've started our new text, 'King Kong' and have been working really hard to get into character in order to write convincing diary entries.

In Geography, we've been exploring just how diverse the United States are in terms of climate and different biomes. In teams, we have researched, created PowerPoints, and



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taught our fellow Buzzards about a particular state. It's been lovely to see Buzzards being little teachers and learning from one another.

### **Sparrowhawks:**

Sparrowhawks have been continuing their adventure with the story of Lost and Found. It has supported them in producing some amazing writing whilst also learning some fascinating penguin facts. We explore a lovely book called '@the Grand Hotel of Feelings' which has sparked some great discussions on different feelings we experience and what can help us.

In Geography we have been exploring compass directions - helping the penguin find his way home! In Science we have been exploring the properties of materials and where they can be found

### **Kestrels:**



Another wonderful week in Kestrels. I can't believe it's only the end of their second full week, it's like they have been here forever! The routines, the togetherness, the understanding of school...they're just getting it! Wake up shake up starts our day, every day, followed by hands on our hearts and thinking about all of the things we are grateful for. Without any prompt, one of the children said this week..."I love you all". Beautiful! We have been thinking lots about ourselves again this week and in particular, our families. After making some beautiful transient art of who lives in our homes, it has been so lovely to hear all the things they love about their houses and their family. We have continued with our new sounds in phonics (i, n, m, d), writing them wherever and whenever we can! Thank you for all of the helping hands you're giving at home; it has been so lovely to hear that so many of the children are excited to share their learning with you! In maths, we have been thinking about 'the odd one out' and explaining why we think things are different and why things are the same. The children are so brilliant at listening to new mathematical vocabulary and



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using it in their independent play. The creativity of this group of little people never fails to amaze me...making their own paintbrushes and paint in the forest was a particular highlight of our week!

## **Forest School:**

What we've been up to these last few weeks

The first weeks are always about settling back in — reconnecting with the forest, re-establishing routines, and reminding ourselves of how to stay safe, work together, and look after our woodland spaces.

We've been:

Exploring familiar areas of the forest and spotting the little changes that happened over the summer

Building dens, balancing on logs, and testing our climbing skills

Reflecting on how it feels to be back outside, surrounded by friends and trees

Why it matters

Each week in Forest School, children get the chance to:

Build resilience and confidence

Develop problem-solving and teamwork skills

Connect with nature and the changing seasons

Experience the joy of learning beyond the classroom

It's amazing to see how quickly the children re-ignite their curiosity and creativity after the summer break. The woods are buzzing once again with energy, laughter, and the crunch of boots on fallen leaves.

We're so excited for all the adventures, challenges, and discoveries this year will bring — and we can't wait to share them with you in our weekly updates.

Here's to a fantastic year of Forest School!





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## **School Attendance:**

A wonderful week for our attendance again this week!

| Class               | This week's attendance | Cumulative attendance for the year |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Kestrel</b>      | 99.03%                 | 99.68%                             |
| <b>Sparrowhawk</b>  | 92.83%                 | 94.02%                             |
| <b>Owl</b>          | 96.55%                 | 97.45%                             |
| <b>Peregrine</b>    | 97.32%                 | 97.96%                             |
| <b>Buzzard</b>      | 97.1%                  | 96.78%                             |
| <b>Whole school</b> | 96.38%                 | 97.04%                             |

## **Celebration**

**Kestrel** – Ayla & Archie

**Sparrowhawk** – Molly & Jacob

**Owl** – Archie & Tabitha

**Peregrine** – Joao & Millie

**Buzzard** – Samuel & Felix





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## Highlights this week at Ashton Owls:



From Dreamcatchers to bookmarks and football skills galore, it has been another busy week at Ashton Owls club, and not forgetting tonight's Jingo Bingo! Below is next week's schedule, get booked in!

## Next week in Ashton Owls

| Day       | Sport              | Craft                          |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday    | Multi-sport        | Picture Frames                 |
| Tuesday   | Football Club      | Heart Weaving                  |
| Wednesday | Netball/Basketball | Cooking club – Fruit Cocktails |



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|          |                 |                            |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Thursday | Football skills | Paper Plate Flower Weaving |
| Friday   | Just Dance      |                            |

As part of my newsletter series on changes and improvements we are introducing at Ashton Hayes please see the latest instalment below about teaching reading in class Years 2-6

### Pathways to Read – Our Consistent Approach to Teaching Reading

At Ashton Hayes, we want every child to become a confident and enthusiastic reader. This year, we have introduced a programme called *Pathways to Read* consistently in every class across Years 2–6 to make sure our approach to reading is consistent and effective (some elements of Pathway to Read were taught in some classes previously).

The programme gives children a clear structure for developing their reading skills, with engaging lessons that build progressively each half term. Each week, pupils take part in up to five reading sessions, blending whole-class teaching with opportunities for independent practice.

#### What this looks like in class:

- **Whole-class reading:** Fast-paced, interactive lessons where children read together, discuss ideas, and practise key skills such as predicting, retrieving information, explaining, and exploring the author's language. Teachers model fluent reading and pupils work in mixed-ability pairs to support each other.
- **Independent reading:** Pupils read on their own while practising strategies such as summarising and answering questions. They then share and discuss their thinking with the class.
- **Follow-on tasks:** Children apply the skills they have been learning in written or paired activities.
- **Reading for pleasure:** Time is given each week for pupils to enjoy books they have chosen, share recommendations with friends, and celebrate reading together as a class.

This consistent structure ensures that every child has the chance to master key reading skills, enjoy meaningful discussions, and develop a genuine love of reading.





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Nest week, I will share a renewed approach to maths journaling, building on the great work already undertaken in school.