



This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Headteachers Message

As we progress through the academic year, I am always amazed at the courage and bravery of our children when approaching new knowledge, new learning, demonstrating their understanding or sharing their skills. This may be during a normal daily lesson, or when the children are participating in the variety of events we offer. This month the children who performed at the **Primary Festival of Dance** completely wowed me and brought tears of complete joy and pride tear to my eyes as I sat as part of the audience to enjoy their performance.

Our group of amazing children took part in the Primary Festival of Dance at the Westlands Entertainment Venue in April. Organized by Keri Hill Dance, this event has been a successful platform for showcasing the incredible efforts and achievements of local primary schools. Children from Ashlands represented their schools with pride. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents, family, and friends to witness their children shine under the bright lights.

Fostering Confidence and Teamwork - The event was more than just a performance; it was a journey of character development. Through dance, children learned the virtues of confidence and teamwork. They practiced and perfected their routines, stepping onto the stage with poise and self-assurance. Working together, they synchronised their movements and supported one another to create a fabulous performance.

It always takes a measure of bravery for young children to perform in front of an audience and I was incredibly proud of all the children who participated.

As we continue through the Summer term, I am looking forward to more moments of these moments of shared achievement and joy.



Girls Football

We're delighted to share that the first session of the Key Stage 2 girls football event was a great success! The team played brilliantly throughout the morning, showing fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. A special mention goes to Isabelle, who was the youngest player on the field and gave an outstanding performance—well done! All the girls represented the school wonderfully and behaved impeccably.

A heartfelt thank you to Annie-Rae's mum for accompanying us on the trip and for the thoughtful treat of ice cream afterwards—it was the perfect way to cool down on such a warm day! A great morning was had by all and they can't wait for the next few weeks of more football fun!



Easter Bonnet Parade and Church Service

Our Easter Bonnet Parade was a great success once again! The sun was shining as we made our way on a lovely route around town, and the children looked fantastic in their creative and colourful bonnets. A highlight of the day was being greeted by the Easter Bunny outside Sheila's Café, which brought huge smiles to the children's faces. A big thank you to everyone at Sheila's Café for the generous treats — the chocolate eggs and marshmallow goodies were a real hit!

In the afternoon, our Easter Service at St Bartholomew's Church was a special and memorable event. Parents and carers thoroughly enjoyed the service, with many commenting on how beautifully the children sang and played. The choir, ukulele group, recorders and violinists all performed brilliantly and should be very proud of themselves. Thank you to everyone who helped walk with us we couldn't do it without your help. #love of one another

Congratulations to our Easter bonnet winner.

Butterfly Class— Otis and Melody

Mole Class— Ada and Arthur

Red Squirrel Class— Amelia and Aubrey

Hedgehog Class— Bethany and Joe

Dormice Class— George B and Hazel

Fox Class— Skye and Hermione

Owl Class— Izzy and Willow



A special mention to Franklin and Arriety for thinking outside the box with their hats!



Year 5 Violin Lessons

Our Year 5 pupils have been making fantastic progress in their weekly violin lessons with Sephi on Tuesdays. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence with the instrument.

Mrs Millett has been especially impressed by how well the children are learning to read music, keep in time, and stay in tune — no small feat for young musicians! Their dedication and focus during lessons are really starting to shine through, and it's clear that their hard work is paying off.

Well done, Year 5 — we're incredibly proud of your musical journey so far. Keep it up!
#Aspiration #Compassion



Ilminster Literacy Festival Poetry Recital Competition

Once again, Ashlands will be participating in the Poetry Recital Competition as part of Ilminster Literacy Festival. Poetry and poetry recitation are fantastic ways of developing language skills, fostering creativity and enhancing literacy. They provide a fun and engaging way for children to learn about language patterns, rhyme and rhythm, while also improving reading fluency and memory.



For the competition, children are asked to learn and recite a poem from a list of set poems. There are two age categories: Year 2 and younger and Years 3 to 6. This week, the competition has been introduced to the children in school, and many are excited to take part. Copies of the poems have been sent home with the children alongside a hard copy via email.

The 'in school' part of the competition will take place during the week of 12th May. One winner from each category will then be selected to perform in the final event where they will compete against children from other schools in the local area. This final event will take place on the evening of Tuesday 6th June.

Please do encourage your child to take part and support them in learning the words of their chosen poem. Poetry is such a fun and exciting way of engaging with language. #Aspiration

Mrs Radford

Poetry is language at its most
distilled and most powerful.

— Rita Dove —

Welcome

We're delighted to welcome Mrs Scriven as a Teaching Assistant to Butterfly Class! She brings with her a wealth of experience from her previous role at Charlotte Hamlin Merriott Childcare where she nurtured and supported young learners with warmth and dedication. Her calm and caring nature has already made a wonderful impression, and we're thrilled to have her as part of our team.



Outside of the classroom, Mrs Scriven enjoys spending quality time with her family on days out and taking relaxing walks in the countryside. Her love for the outdoors will come in handy for welly walks and Forest School!



We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Hulett to our school community. She has joined us as a Teaching Assistant supporting our Year 5 and Year 6 classes, and we are excited to have her as part of the team. Mrs Hulett brings with her valuable experience from St Barts School where she previously worked. Her bright and friendly presence has already been a wonderful addition to our classrooms.

Outside of school, Mrs Hulett enjoys a variety of hobbies; She practices yoga, takes part in sea rowing, and loves a good nature walk. She's a keen book lover and is currently enjoying *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier. We look forward to getting to know her better and are confident she will be a fantastic support to both staff and pupils. #love of one another

Butterfly Class- People who help us

Butterflies took a trip to the Fire Station as part of our People who Help Us topic. Toby's Dad, Andy showed us round the Fire Station, let us look round the Fire Engine showing us all the equipment on board and how it is used. We also used the fire hoses and sat up in the fire engine! A massive thank you to Andy and his crew for their time and to our volunteers who helped on our welly walk to the station! #Respect



As part of our people who help us topic we had a visit from a nurse! She showed us how to wrap bandages and some of the equipment she uses in her job. The children dressed up as nurses and doctors and treated each other! Thank you to Jade for telling us all about her job as a nurse. #Respect



Amartya's mum shared her job with whole school. She is a vet and brought it lots of things from the vets to show the children. Butterfly class particularly enjoyed role playing a vets and KS2 enjoyed an informative assembly all about being a vet.

Thank you for sharing your job with us we have lots of children who have been inspired! #Respect



Congratulations to the following children who received a green leaf this month:

Butterfly

Otis

Red Squirrel

Evie, Aubrey, Alice, Sofia, Zachary, Christopher

Dormice

George B, Lawrence, Scarlette

Fox

Niamh, Ethan, Gemma

Silver Certificate

Harriet, Henry, Darcy P, Elsie, Emmie, Amartya, Daisy, Lily, James, Josph, Oliver, Eric, Nieve, Isabelle C, Blessing, Arthur, Reuben-Lee, Arlo, Jessica, Sara, Darcie M, Reggie, Freya, Alice, Harry

Mole

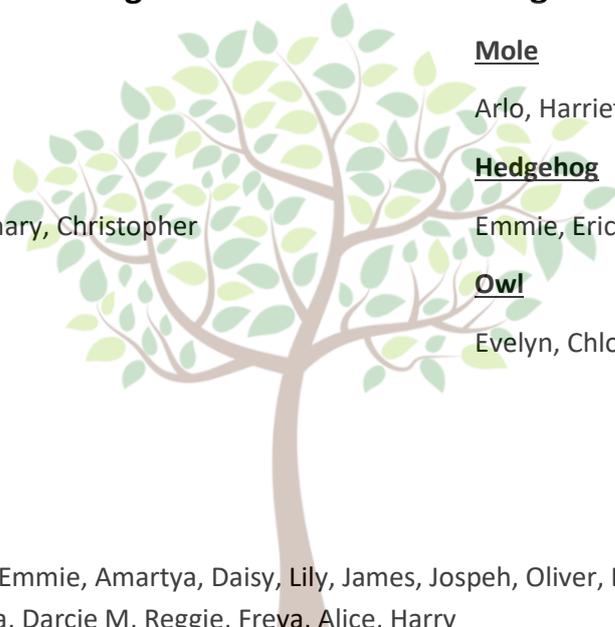
Arlo, Harriet, Sara, Arthur

Hedgehog

Emmie, Eric, Daisy

Owl

Evelyn, Chloe C-H, Johnn



Attendance in April Red Squirrels and Dormice have celebrated being the top attending classes. They have enjoyed their biscuit break with Mrs Lawrence.

Congratulations to the 103 children who achieved 100% attendance for April. Mrs Lawrence is negotiating an extra break to celebrate this achievement.

This year's whole school attendance to date is 94.9%. This is slightly below our target of 96% and we will continue to work with our families to achieve this.

Late into school: Any pupils arriving late (after 8.55am) need to be signed in at the office by parent/carers on arrival. Thank you for your efforts.

	School Attendance %
Attendance	94.9%
Authorised absences	4.1%
Unauthorised absence	0.9%
Lates	0.8%



10 days absent = 95% attendance
 19 days absent = 90% attendance
 29 days absent = 85% attendance
 38 days absent = 80% attendance
 47 days absent = 75% attendance



Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Otis offered to share his Easter egg prize with a friend, because they were upset and he wanted to cheer them up.
 #compassion #friendship
 24th April 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



We are all incredibly proud of Finley and Coco for the progress they have made in their reading comprehension skills. Despite being in Year 5, they completed a previous Year 6 SATs reading paper and did extremely well.
 Well done to you both!
 #aspiration
 24th April 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Arthur has had a fantastic first week back! He has made good choices towards his peers and has shown real enthusiasm towards his work. He has been especially keen to correct his writing within his Phonic work.
 Well done Arthur!
 #aspiration #respect #forgiveness
 24th April 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Annie-Rae has shown enormous commitment to playing her violin. She is confident, shows compassion and reaches high whilst playing and practising. She is an inspiration to anyone who wants to learn an instrument.

#raspiration #compassion

25th April 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Amartya, Amos, Bethany and Reggie worked as a great team to create a Stone Age model house in outdoor learning this week. The group were really pleased with Reggie who brought straw from his horses for the roof of their model!

#Friendship

24th April 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Lily and Nieve wrote fantastic nonsense poems for The Somerset Literacy Network Competition. They thought about the rhyme in the poem and a clever last line for each verse.

Well done girls!

#respect

4th April 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Well done Mason and William, you have both shown aspiration and commitment to your learning – completing Emile and IXL activities every day during the Easter holidays.

#respect #aspiration 24th April 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Isabella made me very proud when I saw her awesomely expressive picture of the Last Supper, the special meal that Jesus had with His best friends, the disciples, the night before He died. She had taken great care with her work and the watercolours were beautiful. Mrs Bryant also shared the great discussions Isabella had had during the session. Well done Isabella.

#Aspiration #Compassion

2nd April 2025



April's Book Recommendation



The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy

It is always lovely when children come into school excited to share the book they are reading with me. This month's recommended read comes from Dolly in Year 5, and it is an interesting choice. The writing style of her chosen book is simple and easy to read but it contains the most beautiful illustrations and heart-warming and inspiring words. What a great choice Dolly!



"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. "It sits quietly beyond all things."

Coco says, "I think that everyone should read this book as it is handwritten rather than typed. Each page contains important messages to help us and its pictures are beautiful."

The book contains four characters: the boy, horse, dog and mole. Coco's favourite character is the mole as he is funny but also has great knowledge. Coco's favourite saying from the book is, "If at first you don't succeed, have some cake!"



READING for Pleasure

Reading for pleasure is a major focus in our school and we are dedicated to ensuring that all our children develop a lifelong love of reading. As part of this, we are continually developing the reading materials available to our children.

Last year, we added a wide selection of quality fiction books to our school library. Earlier this year, we then added different stations around the school containing the 50 recommended reads for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. It has been so lovely to see the different key stage 2 classes excited about choosing books from these areas.

I am now super excited to say that we have just received a delivery of recommended reads for Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 to add to our reading offer alongside top up packs for every year group across the school.

The recommended read sets contain a balance of age-appropriate fiction, picture books, non-fiction, poetry and graphic novels. They have been carefully collated to cater for different reading styles and interests and include books that contain a diversity of characters and settings. They contain some true golden oldies as well as brand new titles. These sets give our children access to a wealth of quality reading choices to enjoy. I can't wait for the children to start reading from these exciting new materials!- Mrs Radford



Just a small selection of the books to be added to our book shelves.

#Love of learning

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Screen time – finding the purpose [Am I & my child having too much screen time? #1 Finding the Purpose](#)

Screen time – finding the balance. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qus_Wpx0Zk



House Points

The House Captains and Vice Captains have been working hard to support the Leadership Team with a fair and consistent approach to awarding House Points.

Windwhistle House enjoyed their non-uniform day when we returned. Who will be next?!



Here Comes The Sun

With the warmer months approaching please make sure your child is dressed appropriately and comes to school with a sun hat, sunscreen and a water bottle. All must be labelled please.



No Nuts

Please be reminded we are a no nut school. Please do not send in any snacks or lunch with products containing nuts. Thank you.



Contacting Your Teacher

Class teachers are happy to be contacted using their school emails. Teachers ensure their emails are checked every 48 hours, so parents may wait up to three days to receive a response. If your enquiry or message is urgent please send this to the school office and they will ensure these are seen as a matter priority. The school office review all emails between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday. Any emails sent after 3pm may not be seen until the following working day.



Wrap Around Care

If your child requires Breakfast Club or After School care please ensure they are booked in by Friday 9am the week before. These can also be found on our website under the 'Parents' tab.

Breakfast/Early Drop Off-

<https://forms.office.com/e/U8Es970t9x>

After School Care-

<https://forms.office.com/e/3ezannQS4k>

Pants!

We have a small supply of underwear, socks and tights, should your child have an accident at school. If they come home wearing a pair, please wash and return.

Thank you!



Cutlery Mystery

Our kitchen staff are on a mission to solve the Great Spoon Mystery! If your child happens to come home with one of our runaway spoons, please send it back before it starts thinking it lives with you!



Swimming Lessons

Butterfly Class- 8th, 15th, 22nd July

Mole Class- 25th March, 1st, 22nd, 29th April 6th, 13th May

Year 6 from Owl & Fox Classes- 20th May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June 1st July



Dates for your Diary

May

Monday 5th– Bank Holiday

May 12th-15th– Year 6 SATs

Friday 23rd– Last Day of Summer Term 1

June

Tuesday 3rd– First Day of Summer Term 2

Monday 9th -13th– Year 1 Phonics Screening

July

Wednesday 23rd– Last Day of Summer Term

September

Thursday 4th– First Day of Autumn Term

Forest School - Summer Term

Butterfly Class– Every Thursday

Mole Class– Every Wednesday

Red Squirrel Class– Every other Tuesday (22nd April, 6th, 20th May)

Hedgehog Class– Every other Wednesday- (23rd April, 7th, 21st May)

Dormice Class– Every other Wednesday- (30th April, 14th, May)

Fox and Owl Class– TBC



PE Days– Spring Term

Butterfly Class – Tuesday **Please note change of day**

Mole Class – Monday

Red Squirrel Class – Monday

Hedgehog Class –Wednesday

Year Four pupils – Wednesday

Year Four – Wednesday

Year Five – Thursday

Year Six – Thursday



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Miss Nicola Ball

Deputy Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Kay Dawson

Online Safety Lead – Miss Alice Wines

Governor responsible for Safeguarding –Mr David Harvey

If you have any concerns about a child, please see one of the staff above.

Helpful contacts:

Children's Social Care: 0300 123 2224

Local Authority Designated Officer: Anthony Goble: c/o above

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Please remember to refer to our website for details on online safety.



Headteacher

If there is ever a time where you feel you need to pass information onto me directly and would prefer not to go through the school office then please do not hesitate to contact me on my school email address which is:

nball@ashlandsprimary.school

Miss Nicola Ball

If you wish to contact your child's class teacher you can find the contact details on our website by following the link below :

[Meet The Team | Ashlands Church of England Primary School](#)
ashlandsprimaryschool.co.uk



What's On



Autism
Community
Network CIC



Education & Skills
Funding Agency



Somerset
Council



10am till 12pm



12 Step Anxiety Program

4th June till
25th of June



ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Free for 19 +

Are you an adult or young person
struggling with anxiety?

Over 4 weeks, learn about the
neuroscience of anxiety, **gain the
skills needed for confidence and
resilience** in both personal and
professional life.

Join our face- to - face sessions
in Somerset.

Ark at Egwood
Merriott
Somerset
TA16 5QN



Enrol via the QR code below



Contact Us:



Email - ajdan@autismsomerset.org
Call - 07487611372

Tuning in to Kids



This course will give you:

- Support for understanding of your child's emotional needs for children 4-12yrs
- Confidence to support your children to learn to manage their emotions
 - Help to better understanding of your child's behaviour
 - Support your child to manage conflict
- Warm and friendly environment to reflect and promote change

Weekly Resources | Refreshments | Engaging video clips | Supportive discussions | Free course by trained practitioners

When: Wednesday 11th, 18th, 25th June, 2nd July and 9th July

Where: Herne View primary school, Silver Street, Ilminster

Times: 9:15am—Doors open for refreshments.
Course starts at 9:30am and finishes at 12:00 noon

For more information and to book your place please contact Parent,
Family Support Advisors:

Rebecca Larcombe—07825054695

Suzanne Morris— 07990063696

MERRIOTT YOUTH FC

NEW PLAYERS WANTED

**UNDER 9's
TRIALS
2025/2026**

WELCOME TO ALL!



**SCHOOL YEAR 4
(09/25 STARTERS)**

LOCATION MERRIOTT REC

SATURDAY 10th May!

**ALL ENQUIRES PLEASE CONTACT
MARK TWEEDIE
TEL - 07471171501**



Children's COME & SING!



Calling all young singers!

A brilliant opportunity for children aged 8-13 to sing, learn and have lots of fun at the same time!

This exciting opportunity is for children who want to experience the joy of singing in a choir, whether they've sung before or not. All we ask is for enthusiasm and a love for music!

Led by Rachel Pitman, who brings over 20 years' experience working with children's choirs across the south-west, your child will learn singing skills, meet new friends, and enjoy putting on a fun, informal performance in front of family and friends at the end of the morning. This event is a great chance to see what our new regular children's choir, due to launch this September, will be all about, exploring a wide variety of songs, learning new musical skills and most of all, enjoying singing together.

Saturday 21st June 2025

Time: 9.30am – 11.45am (with a break)

Performance: 12pm for family and friends!

Location: South Somerset Music Centre

Cost: £10 per child

For more information visit: southsomersetmusiccentre.co.uk

