



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



Headteachers Message

A very warm welcome back to school! I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are ready for a busy and exciting term ahead. A special welcome to new children Hamza and Maisey who have started in Year 5 and to all of our new children in Sweet Chestnut Class. Welcome also, to all our new families and staff to the school: I hope you will be happy here as part of the Ashlands school community. We will continue to send monthly newsletters, so you are clear about the events taking place this term.

Each class has sent their class welcome letter, and I have enjoyed seeing our families attending the Class Information Evenings for children in Year 1 – 6. We will send all the letters and attachments home to all families by the end of next week.

Celebrations

Children at Ashlands work towards achieving house points, star of the day awards, green leaves and proud Walls. We are always looking for our children demonstrating how they live our vision; love of learning, love of life and love of one another.

The children have been making us very proud as they put themselves forward to represent pupil voice across our school. Thank you to all the children who put themselves forward. I look forward to working with our leads and hearing their ideas about how we move forward as a school.

Hiya,

I am Mrs Kenway, I previously taught in Dorset schools, most recently at Beaminster St Mary's where I taught year 5/6 for the last 4 years. I have taught every year group except Reception in my teaching career and love them all. I was Maths lead at St Mary's and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. I am excited to lead English here at Ashlands, as my degree is in English and Creative Writing and I have a passion for reading and writing. I am also looking forward to being a member of the Senior Leadership Team at Ashlands because I am excited to see how our school values and vision enable us to be the best possible school for our children. I love being a teacher, it is the best job in the world. When I am not teaching, I love going to see live music and volunteer at many festivals in the summer months and I also enjoy walking my dog. I have two older children, who are studying for an apprenticeship and joining the Army, so I have been through the education system as a child, a parent and as a teacher. I always aim to support all the children in the best possible way and working together with parents is so important to me.



We're delighted to welcome Mrs O'Grady to our school community as the new teacher for Wild Cherry class.

Mrs O'Grady brings lots of energy and enthusiasm, and she's especially passionate about the outdoors. She loves taking her dog for walks and spending quality time outside with her family. Whether it's reading, running, drawing, or travelling, she enjoys staying active and creative in her free time.

A big fan of Park Run, she often takes her daughters along for the fun. She also loves catching up with friends (and their dogs!) on long walks.

When it comes to food, Mrs O'Grady enjoys a variety of flavours, especially Caribbean, Indian, and of course, pizza – a family favourite!



School Council Representatives

Sweet Chestnut Class

School Council
representatives are:



Toby



Willow Class

School Council
representatives are:



Harriet, Walter
and Reuben



Wild Cherry Class

School Council
representatives are:



Aubrey and Max



Apple Class

School Council
representatives are:



Tupou and Tomika



Maple Class

School Council
representatives are:



Wren and Willow



Online Safety Lead Representatives

Sweet Chestnut Class

Online Safety Leads
representatives are:



Otis and Angel

Willow Class

Online Safety Leads
representatives are:



Harry and Henry

Wild Cherry Class

Online Safety Leads
representatives are:



Zach and Sofia

Apple Class

Online Safety Leads
representatives are:



Lily, Bethany,
Lawrence

Maple Class

Online Safety Lead
representatives are:



Johnn and Wren

House Captains and Vice Captains

Johnn, Bailey, Mason, Felix, Ashlee, Isabelle, Willow, Arabella, Star, Coco, Dolly, Hermione



Bincombe Team



Seaborough Team



Windwhistle Team



Winyard Team



Willow Class

In Willow class, we have been learning to draw and explore in Art. This week in Forest school we found and created our own paint brushes inspired by the artist 'Lorna Crane'. We will be using these in our art lesson to see what marks they make! We absolutely loved this lesson!

-Miss Marshall-James

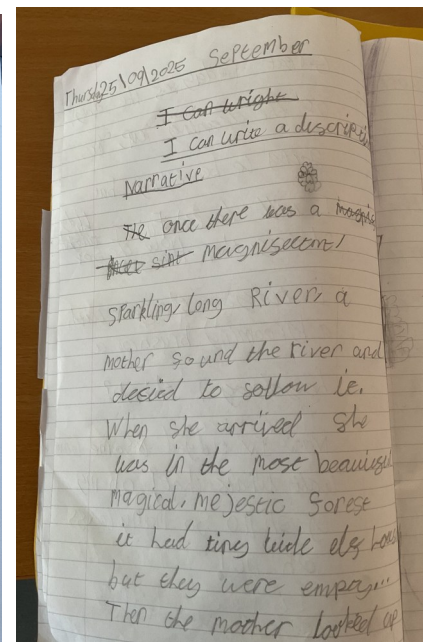
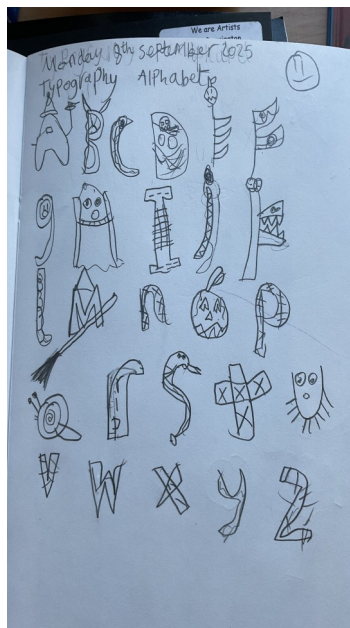


The results of their nature paintbrushes!



Apple Class

Apple class have settled well in their new class. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading and writing about The Tin Forest and Tidy - two books with very similar themes! In art, we have made learnt how we can make darker sketches and how we can create different font by using shapes and pictures. Music has also been a highlight so far. We have learnt about the different Samba instruments and how we can make different rhythms that combine to make a dance.— Mrs Cottle



Wild Cherry Class

Wild Cherry Class continues to settle in beautifully into their new school year.

They have been excellent at remembering their new routines, are working collaboratively as a class and have been playing some games to help each other get to know their new classmates better.

We have also been doing lots of great work and have learnt about different food groups in Science; we are taking our learning outside to enjoy our Forest School area and linking learning to our science topic.

I've been amazed at how hard the children are trying to improve their writing and am already impressed with the progress they are making. What a positive start! Thank you all again for your support as I continue to get to know your children.— Mrs O'Grady

Reception New Starters – What Have We Enjoyed So Far?

Our Reception children have had a wonderful start to school life and are already enjoying lots of exciting activities!

Fred and Elvie love heading to the MUGA for PE, while Vivienne enjoys spending time colouring and Lottie has been busy painting.

All of the children agreed that they are really enjoying their time at Forest School and having fun exploring the playground equipment.

It has been such a joy to see our newest pupils settling in so well! - Mrs Collicutt



Celebrating Mrs Chick – Our Joint Mental Health Lead

A huge well done to Mrs Chick, who has successfully completed the Mental Health Lead course with flying colours! She is a great asset to our school team and plays a vital role in helping to ensure that our children are happy, resilient, and kind to themselves and others.

This important work aligns closely with our school vision – *love of learning, love of life, love of one another* – which Mrs Chick embodies every day. We are so proud of her achievement and grateful for the positive difference she is making across our school community.



New School Dinners

This new school year has also brought us a new food supplier 'Little People'. The children have been thoroughly enjoying our new menu choices. Our updated menu now features a wider variety of nutritious and delicious meals, with options that cater to different tastes and dietary needs. From hearty hot lunches to fresh salads and exciting new dessert choices, there's something for everyone to enjoy!



Year 6 Visitor

It was wonderful to welcome Mr Burgas, Headteacher of Wadham Secondary, into our school earlier this term. He spoke to our Year Six children about secondary school and the exciting opportunities they may look forward to at Wadham. Mr Burgas also encouraged the children to think about their aspirations for the future, shared the importance of being part of a school community. A big thank you to Mr B for giving up his time to inspire our pupils and get them thinking about their next steps!

"The head teacher from Wadham School Mr Burgas came to visit us on Friday morning. It was very useful to learn their schedule. He brought in several different sandwich fillings and said we could fill a sandwich with any ingredient. He had— Ham, cheese, chilli sauce and cat food. Of course we voted for him to eat a cat food sandwich! He shared a story with us about learning right from wrong and said to imagine a chimp on our shoulder whispering ideas into our heads and that we needed to make the right decision."

- Willow,
Mason and
Arabella
Year 6



Cross Country- Race One

The first run of the 2025 2026 Cross Country season brought us sunshine. It was a beautiful afternoon and the atmosphere at Yeovil Rugby Club was fabulous. Over 300 runners from 25 schools around Somerset joined the first event of the year. We had Ada running the girls Year 2/3 race, Leon, Max and Josh in the boys Year 2/3 race, Mason took part in the boys 5/6 race and Willow and Wren in the girls Year 5/6 and they all did us proud. it was great to see the team spirit as they encouraged each other to be their very best selves. Well done to all. The next race is on Monday 7th October at Yeovil showground – all levels of runners are welcome!



Playtime Fun is here!

Exciting news – playtime just got even better. Our children can now enjoy **Art and Mindfulness sessions with Miss Bentham**, and the **Chill Out Zone in the Hub with Mrs Chick**, providing spaces to relax, create, and reflect.

Meanwhile, **Mrs Kenway is exploring ways to develop our Reading Hub**, and she has some fabulous ideas for working with our Pupil Librarians to make this an even more engaging and inspiring space.

These wonderful new opportunities reflect our school vision: a **love of learning, a love of life, and a love of one another**. We are very excited about the wide range of activities now on offer and hope they will enable all children to enjoy their playtimes to the full.

By Miss Ball



Friends of Ashlands

Each year, our amazing PTA brings a host of fun and creative activities for the children to enjoy — from school discos and fetes to dressing up days and special Mother's and Father's Day gifts. They put in an incredible amount of time and effort, all to raise valuable funds for our school and to provide resources and supplies that directly benefit our children. This Monday 6th, they'll be holding their annual AGM, and it would be wonderful to see more parents and carers getting involved. If you're interested in supporting their fantastic work or simply finding out more, we'd love to welcome you along and grow our PTA community together.



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

Sweet Chestnut— Caitlin x2, Lottie, Fred, Alana, Whole Class, Otis, Jacob, Leo



Willow— Sara, Lexy, Elodie, Ashleigha, Reggie, Phoebe, Reuben, Henley, Rory, Prue, Darcy P, Ada

Wild Cherry— Bree, Archie, Isabella, Elise

Apple— Tomika, Aaden, Charlee, Josh, Hamza, Maisey, Mela, Sam, Amartya, Tupou, Darcie-Mae, Oliver

Maple— Evie, Bailey, Chloe M, Wren, Evelyn, Isabelle, Bobby, Hermione, Johnn, Arabella, Felix, Willow, Coco, Dolly, Isabelle, Mason, Star



Attendance

In September Wild Cherry Class won for the last three weeks! The biscuit breaks will be arranged in due course.

Congratulations to the 76 children who achieved 100% attendance for September. Mrs Lawrence is negotiating an extra break to celebrate this achievement.

This year's whole school attendance to date is 94.6%. 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	94.6%
Authorised absences	3.4%
Unauthorised absence	2.0%
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

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



I was very proud to hear how James shared his wonderful knowledge of the rainforest from his visit to the Eden Project. He was able to go into great detail about the different layers of the rainforest, talking confidently in front of the class. Well done James 😊

#compassion
12th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



I was incredibly proud to hear how Mason, Johnn, Willow and Bailey welcomed in our supply teachers this week. They were kind and respectful, were helping hands wherever possible and really engaged with their learning. What a great group of role models for Ashlands.

#Compassion #Aspiration
19th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



What a superstar. Reggie has been thinking hard about his communication and learning this week. He recognised when he needed a movement break today and made some really good choices to help his learning. He used his voice to share his wishes, and this was brilliant! Thank you, Reggie.

#Forgiveness #Respect
19th September 2025

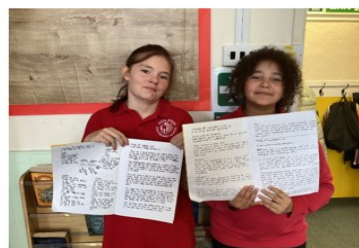
Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Olivia has been an absolute superstar in Breakfast Club this term. She has taken the younger children 'under her wing' and has ensured they feel welcomed and part of the bigger group. This kindness has made us all so very proud. Thank you, Olivia.

#Compassion #Friendship
19th September 2025

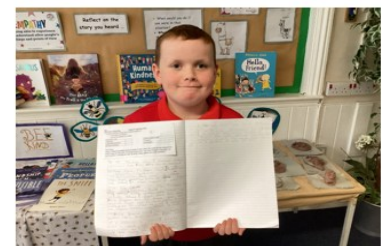
Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Skye and Chloe have made us proud with their first extended piece of writing of this year! Their work is beautifully presented, and I loved sitting on the beanbags to read their ideas. What a treat for me 😊. Well done to you both.

#Aspiration #Respect
12th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Lawrence brought his writing to show me this morning, and he blew me away with his confidence to read me his work. I was enthralled by his storyteller voice. I read his text as he read aloud and his punctuation, spellings and handwriting were superb – what a superstar. Thank you for sharing this with me Lawrence. I am very proud of you.

#Aspiration
19th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



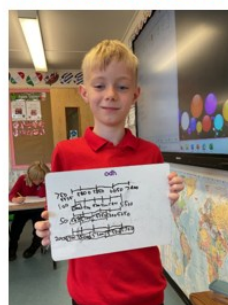
I was very proud to hear Nieve speaking about her participation in the South Petherton Carnival.

Nieve is part of the Merriott Majorettes who performed as part of the Carnival procession. She had to keep in time with her group and remember lots of different moves. She also had to practice a lot beforehand! What a superstar.

#Aspiration #Respect
19th September 2025

Out of School Achievement

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Rilo has shown his love of maths by challenging himself to find more than one answer. Rilo was able to talk through his ideas and explain his reasoning, as well as model his ideas on his whiteboard.

Great work!
#aspiration
26th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Summer has started Year 6 with a smile on her face and a positive attitude to her learning. She is asking great questions and engaging with a curiosity that is making us all proud. Keep this up Summer, you are awesome.

#Aspiration #Respect
September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



What a superstar Sonny is being in Year Three! His writing is awesome and Mrs O'Grady is full of pride for his attitude to all his learning. I loved sharing Sonny's writing this week and cannot wait to read more this term. Well done Sonny.

#Aspiration #Compassion
26th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Leon shared his trophy for Player of the Week for his new Rugby Team. Leon joined this season and is already showing his ability to listen and be a great member of the team. Well done, Leon!
#Trust #Respect

#Aspiration #Compassion
26th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Aubrey's creative writing made me smile this week – she used beautiful vocabulary which painted a picture in my mind. Her presentation and handwriting were also wonderful and made her work a joy to read.

Well done Aubrey.
#Aspiration #Respect
12th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Toby's writing has caught the attention of everyone in his class team. His growing confidence to have a go with his phonics and read his work back is simply brilliant. We all loved Toby's own reflections when he shared 'I can do this!'. Keep going Toby – you are brilliant.

#Aspiration #Compassion
26th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Jacob is making everyone smile this week. Mrs Chick is loving his greeting every day and has shared how well he works with everybody in his class. Jacob has a great curiosity and his questions and suggestions in activities are great to hear. Well done Jacob.

#Friendship #Compassion
26th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Leo has made us all very proud this week with his approach to learning his phonics. He has listened well and his letter formation is really improving! What a superstar. Well done Leo!

#Aspiration
12th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Joshua's start to being a Year Two has made everyone proud! Each time I have visited Willow Class he has been working hard and showing his teacher what a positive attitude he has towards his learning. What a superstar. Thank you Joshua!

#Aspiration #Respect
12th September 2025

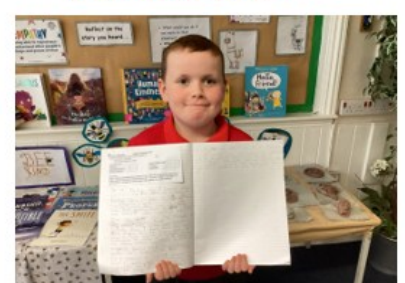
Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Harry's work in maths this week has made me very proud! He listened well to the shared learning and then worked with a superb level of independence. I also loved the way he used his reasoning skills. Well done!

#Aspiration #Respect
12th September 2025

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Lawrence brought his writing to show me this morning, and he blew me away with his confidence to read me his work. I was enthralled by his storyteller voice. I read his text as he read aloud and his punctuation, spellings and handwriting were superb – what a superstar. Thank you for sharing this with me Lawrence. I am very proud of you.

#Aspiration
19th September 2025

Class Names and Contact Info

Sweet Chestnut– Mrs Collicutt and Mrs Jones

scollicutt@ashlandsprimary.school

tjulla@ashlandsprimary.school

Willow– Miss Marshall-James

ojames@ashlandsprimary.school

Wild Cherry– Mrs O’Grady

logrady@ashlandsprimary.school

Apple– Mrs Cottle

lcottle@ashlandsprimary.school

Maple– Mrs Kenway

rkenway@ashlandsprimary.school

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/ZdR49g3GyM>

After School Care-

<https://forms.office.com/e/RqWKZUr1Zd>

Free School Meals

We encourage all families to check their entitlement to free school meals/Pupil Premium. We have a PP offer for all children who are benefit-related FSM. Please click on the link below to access the application. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/free-school-meals/>

If you have recently become unemployed but are still receiving Working Tax Credits, you may be entitled to free school meals. Please phone 0300 123 2224 for advice.

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!



Swimming Lessons



Wild Cherry– 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th Sept
7th, 14th, 21st Oct, 4th Nov

Willow– 11th, 18th, 25th Nov 2nd, 16th Dec 6th Jan

No session on 9th Dec

Apple– 13th, 20th, 27th Jan 3rd, 10th, 24th Feb 3rd,
10th March

Sweet Chestnut– 17th, 24th, 31st March 21st, 28th April
5th, 12th May

Maple– 19th May 2nd, 9th 16th, 23rd, 30th June 7th,
14th July

Dates for your Diary

October

Monday 6th– PTSA AGM

Monday 6th– Cross Country Event Years 2-6

Friday 10th– Mental Health Day

Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th– Individual and
sibling photographs

Monday 20th– Cross Country Years 2-6

Friday 24th– Harvest Festival Service

November

Wednesday 26th– Flu Vaccinations

December

Wednesday 3rd- Pantomime

Tuesday 9th– Key Stage 1 Nativity

Wednesday 10th– Choir Event at Henhayes

Thursday 11th– Save the Children Christmas Jumper
Day **and** Christmas Dinner Day

Saturday 13th– Christmas School Fair

Wednesday 17th– Key Stage 2 Christmas Service

Forest School - Autumn Term

Sweet Chestnut Class– Every Thursday

Willow Class– Every Wednesday

Wild Cherry Class– Every other from Monday (8th, 22nd Sept, 6th,
20th October)

Apple Class– Every other Monday (8th, 22nd Sept, 6th, 20th Oct)

Maple Class– Every other Monday (15th, 29th Sept, 13th Oct)



Forest school clothing– Please ensure your child is wearing a long sleeved top, trousers and wellies in a bag. If your child has Forest School in the morning, they will need school uniform for the afternoon, or PE kit if they have PE.

PE Days– Autumn Term

EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2 – Monday

Year 3 & 4 – Wednesday

Year 5 & 6 – Thursday



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Miss Nicola Ball

Deputy Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Kay Dawson & Tracey Lawrence

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



Headteacher

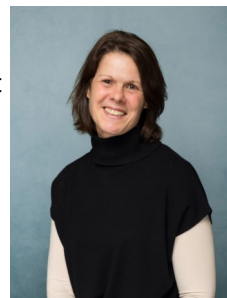
If there is ever a time where you feel you need to pass information onto me directly and would prefer not to go through the school office then please do not hesitate to contact me on my school email address which is:

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



Whats On...

OCTOBER TENNIS CAMP

Join us at Yeovil Tennis Club for our October Half-Term Tennis Camp!

Thursday 30th October | 9am – 3pm
Ages 5-16 | £29 per person

Secure your spot today:
Contact Luke Andrews on 07437 404242 / Latennis@hotmail.com

STAGE COACH
Stagecoach Yeovil

FREE TASTER SESSION

Where: Holy Trinity School, Yeovil BA20 2PW
When: Saturday 4th October
Time: 4-6 Years 9-10.30am Or 10.45am-12.15pm
6-18 Years 9.30-12.30pm

Help your child discover the performing arts!

To join us on Saturday 4th October for a FREE Taster session scan the QR code or enrol at yeovil@stagecoach.co.uk

ENROL TODAY

QUENORA

ONE DAY TO RESET & RISE

FEEL STUCK, DRAINED, OR OVERWHELMED?
In just one day, reset your mind + body so you leave calm, clear, and back in control.

Saturday 25th October
 Merriott Hall, Crewkerne

Here's what you'll get in this one-day reset:

- Release the stress that's been weighing you down
- Break free from the patterns keeping you stuck
- Simple tools to stay calm + focused every day

This is your time to get back to who you truly are

Limited spaces available · Scan QR to book now

FIRST 2 SESSIONS FREE

COME SCORE YOUR TRY!

SUNDAYS FROM 10AM
YEARS: RECEPTION - YEAR 6

CHARD RFC
ESSEX CLOSE
CHARD
TA20 1RH

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST CONTACT:
GORDON HICKTON, MINIS LEAD
TEL- 07710 231862
EMAIL- minislead@chardrfc.co.uk

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH