



Headteachers Message

We have come to the end of a truly wonderful term, filled with learning, celebration, and moments that highlight how special our school community is. This week, a group of our Year 5 and 6 pupils shone at the Dance Festival at Westlands, showing real bravery and confidence on stage. Some of our Year 4 pupils also enjoyed taking part in an opera project following their enrichment lessons—an exciting opportunity they embraced with great enthusiasm.

Today, we came together in our local church for our Easter Service, a chance to pause, reflect, and celebrate as a community. Easter reminds us of hope, new beginnings, and the light that follows difficult moments. Whether celebrated as a Christian festival or simply as a moment of renewal, it offers us all the chance to appreciate kindness and fresh starts.

We also took a moment to say a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Millett, who leaves Ashlands today after 13 wonderful years. She has made an incredible contribution to our school and touched the lives of so many pupils and families. We are deeply grateful for everything she has given to Ashlands.

Wishing all our families a peaceful and restorative Easter break.

Dates for your Diary

April

Thursday 2nd– Last Day of Spring Term

Monday 20th– First day of Summer Term

Thursday 23rd– Year 6 and EYFS Height and Weight measurements

May

Monday 4th– Bank Holiday

Monday 25th– Bank Holiday

Mental Health Tea and Talk

As part of Mental Health Week, Mrs Chick and Mrs Noake hosted another highly successful Mental Health Café.

The children took part in a range of mindfulness based activities, including decorating pebbles — a calming task that supported emotional regulation and encouraged a peaceful, reflective atmosphere. It was wonderful to see the children engaging in positive social interaction, practising mindful focus, and taking time to nurture their overall wellbeing. Additional activities such as drawing, mindful colouring and classic board games helped promote creativity, cooperation, turn taking, and cognitive development, all while giving the children a chance to unwind and connect with friends.



Love Yourself Silent Disco

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTSA for organising yet another fantastic Silent Disco!

The children had an amazing time dancing to great music and enjoying some delicious treats from the tuck shop. Events like this create such joyful memories, and we are incredibly grateful for all the hard work that goes into making them happen.



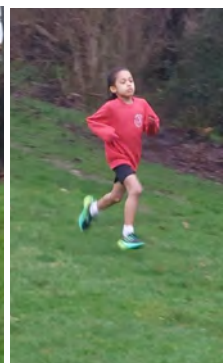
Thank you to the PTSA and to everyone who helped make the evening so special.



Cross Country- Event 4

Our fourth Cross Country event took place at Buckler's Mead, where the runners faced some challenging weather conditions. Despite the wind and rain, every participant showed fantastic determination and spirit. We were especially proud of **Ada**, who secured **1st place** in the Year 2/3 girls' race—an outstanding achievement! **Leon** and **Wren** also ran brilliantly, giving strong performances in their respective races.

Well done to all our runners for representing Ashlands so wonderfully!



Easter Craft Club

Mrs Cottle and Miss Marshall-James are running an Easter Craft Club after school on Thursdays this half term. Last week, the children had great fun designing and creating their own Easter egg wreaths. We can't wait to see what exciting activity they have planned for next week



Magdalen Farm

A group of our children have been enjoying weekly visits to Magdalen Farm, and last week's session was especially exciting! They loved feeding the pigs and were thrilled to meet some adorable four-day-old piglets. The children also collected fresh eggs from the chickens, built brilliant woodland dens using enormous sticks, and rounded off the day with a cosy hot chocolate. Each child was given a small stuffed animal and spent time creating a special home for their new friend. It was a wonderful day full of hands-on learning and happy memories!



Apple Class Gore Farm Trip

Our KS2 children recently enjoyed an exciting educational visit to Gore Farm, which enriched their learning about the Romans through fun, practical and engaging outdoor experiences.

The day was spent entirely in the forest area, where the children took part in a range of hands on activities linked to Roman life and learning. They were actively involved throughout, making it a memorable and immersive experience for all.



Sweet Chestnut's Visit to the Fire Station

Sweet Chestnut had a wonderful time on their special walk to the fire station, where they were warmly welcomed by Toby's daddy. The children were fascinated as they learned all about what to do if they ever discover a fire, including who they should call and how to stay safe.

They also found out what a firefighter wears to protect themselves, exploring the heavy helmet, thick protective clothing, and special boots. The class loved looking closely at the fire engine and discovering all the important equipment kept on the truck to help firefighters do their jobs—from hoses to ladders and everything in between.

It was an exciting and memorable trip, full of learning and curiosity! Thank you Mr Osbourne for being so fabulous and making it so exciting and hands on!



A Chilly but Charming Visit from Real Explorers!

KS1 and EYFS were absolutely *thrilled* to welcome **Jonah and Judy** on Thursday afternoon. Fresh from their exciting expedition to **Antarctica**, they popped in to share their incredible adventures with the children.

The duo talked all about the special clothing they had to wear to stay warm in the freezing temperatures, the breathtaking sights they encountered, and even shared some fascinating stories about **Ernest Shackleton's famous expedition**. The children listened with wide eyes and even wider smiles—after all, it's not every day you get to meet real explorers!

- **Leo** wanted to know, “Which ocean is Antarctica in?”—a great geographical query!
- **Fred** was keen to hear more about just *how cold* it really was.
- Charley shared lots of facts he has been learning about Shackleton and Elephant Island.
- And **Darcy** absolutely dazzled everyone with her incredible penguin knowledge!



To celebrate Darcy's enthusiasm, here are a few fun **penguin facts** she helped inspire:

- Penguins can't fly—but they are *excellent* swimmers, zooming through icy waters at up to 20 mph!
- Emperor penguins keep warm by huddling together in huge groups—sometimes thousands at a time!
- A penguin's feathers are waterproof and tightly packed, helping them stay warm in harsh Antarctic winds.

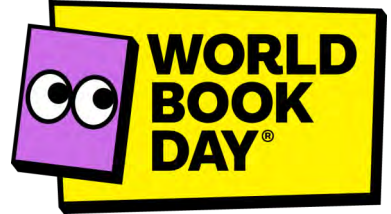
The afternoon was full of wonder, curiosity, and plenty of smiles. A huge thank you to Jonah and Judy for inspiring our young explorers—who knows, perhaps a future Antarctic adventurer is sitting in our classrooms right now!

Year 4 Heatree Residential

The Year 4 Residential was a great success. The children enjoyed completing a range of outdoor activities from Archery, a walk on Dartmoor, low adventure and Tree climbing. The most enjoyed activity was the river walk which included walking up a river and using the slide in the river!



World Book Day



World book day 2026 was a super day full of laughter, costumes and enjoyment of reading. Classes across the school took part in many exciting and engaging activities, including a trip to our local book shop – The Green Dragon book shop – to spend our book vouchers and choose a book to bring home. Thanks to the amazing team at Green Dragon book shop for your knowledge, enthusiasm and time to make our visits such a lovely experience.

In school we all admired the amazing costumes and cosy outfits worn to be able to enjoy sharing our love for books and the adventures they can take us on.

We began the day with a whole school worship to celebrate all the outfit choices, both creative and cosy. We talked about books from some of our childhoods, what a hobby is and how reading can be a hobby. We also explored all the different things we can read – story books, comics, fact files, recipes, even a cereal box – they all help us to understand our world a little better.

The whole school was involved in writing a short story based on an image. The story began with Sweet Chestnut class seeing and discussing this picture. They opened the story and made some characters for the story to be based around. Then, it was passed on to Willow class who decided to bring some action to our tale. Wild Cherry class took up the challenge of reading what had been written so far and what kind of adventure our characters would go on. Apple class were keen to add extra characters and action to the tale of Cheeka and his cat mouse, Bob. Finally, Maple class read the incredible story that had been created and had to find a way to make a conclusion. It was a great activity for oracy, teamwork and using our school values to work collaboratively to create a story to be proud of.

It was a great day for all and thank you for your continued support to encourage a love of reading in all our children.

Reading is the cornerstone of so much of a child's education but also a skill for life that can enhance opportunities.

If a child is never read to they will have heard approximately **4,662** words by the time they are 5 years old.

If a child is read to 1-2 times per week, they will have heard approximately **63,570** words by the time they are 5 years old.

If a child is read to 3-4 times per week, they will have heard approximately **169,525** words by the time they are 5 years old.

If a child is read to daily, they will have heard approximately **296,660** words by the time they are 5 years old.

Exposure to vocabulary is good for all children. Please read them a book today!



Our Whole School Story

How Cheeka Became a Star

Once upon a book day, in the light of the moon. In the tiny town of Crewkerne, there lived a brave boy called Cheeka and his pet cat, mouse, Bob.

Suddenly a magic carpet appeared. Cheeka jumped onto the floating carpet. Bob sprang onto the carpet too, ready for an adventure.

All of a sudden, the carpet went out of control and started to roll around in the sky. It dropped out of the air and was whooshed into a portal which took Cheeka and Mouse Bob to a different realm...

As he travelled through the pink and blue portal, it disappeared and vanished into thin air. Cheeka was greeted by pink and blue aliens, who were mysterious, funny creatures with short legs and funny-looking eyes. Cheeka felt scared, petrified and worried. He wanted to run, but his legs were like jelly! Mouse Bob came to his side and meowed loudly. The aliens smiled and said, "welcome to our planet."

"Wait... What? ... who are you? ... where are we?" stammered Cheeka while Mouse Bob looked curiously at the scene in front of him.

"Good question," replied the aliens with their robotic sounding voices echoing through the land "we are the aliens. You are on the planet Jellytopia."

"Jelly what?!?!?! I've never heard of that!"

"We are a small planet – but very important." The alien replied, sounding slightly frustrated. "Follow me to get you protective suits."

Cheeka and Bob followed obediently but cautiously. As they walked into the dark, gloomy storage room they noticed something felt wrong. In the blink of an eye, the door slammed shut. They were left in complete darkness. Out of the corner of his eye, Cheeka saw a vibrant green glow. He looked down and saw Mouse Bob's eyes glowing. Mouse Bob started scurrying around with Cheeka trailing behind.

After a while, Cheeka found Bob next to a small jelly covered vent. Curiously, he stared and looked all around the rusty vent. Cheeka poked it. The vent jiggled and flopped to the floor. Without hesitation Cheeka, pushed Bob through the hole and followed him in. Bob's tail brushed Cheeka's nose. Cheeka tried not to sneeze, but Mouse Bob's tail wouldn't leave his nose alone.

" A,,,, a,,,,,,,,a,,,,,,,,a,,,,,,,,a,,,,a,a,a,a,achoo"

Catastrophe. The walls wobbled, the floor jiggled and kaboom! A massive hole appeared. Cheeka spotted his magic carpet rolled up beyond the hole. Both of them looked at each other and ran for the magic carpet. Before they knew it they were back at home wondering what on earth just happened.



Year 3 Recorders

This term, our Year 3 children have had the wonderful opportunity to learn the recorder with the incredibly talented Sephi Williams, who has joined us every Wednesday to lead their music sessions.



Sephi's enthusiasm, patience, and love of music have made these weekly lessons a real highlight. The children have not only learned how to hold and play the recorder correctly, but they've also begun exploring rhythm, reading simple notation, and playing their very first tunes. Their confidence has grown week by week, and it has been a joy to see their excitement as they discover new skills.

Easter Bingo

What a fantastic Easter Bingo event! A huge thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and to all who joined us on the evening. It was a wonderful turnout, and the PTA did an absolutely brilliant job organising everything.

Together, we raised an incredible **£1,137.11** for the school — a truly tremendous amount. Thank you for your amazing support!



Wild Cherry Class

As part of their English learning this week, Wild Cherry Class explored how to follow a set of instructions by making their very own bird feeders. Using pinecones, lard, and bird seed, the children carefully followed each step to create a tasty treat for garden birds.



KS2 Roman Homework

Roman Shields: Apple Class made some fantastic shields, mosaics and models of the colosseum as part of their home learning for their Roman Topic. They were enthusiastic in sharing what they had made and loved explaining additional facts they had learnt in their research.



Wild Cherry Class also made some wonderful shields



Opera Workshop

The whole school joined 4 wonderful opera singers who taught us about the world of Opera. They showed us how they sing at different pitches and then played a game of 'guess how many people are singing'. Y4 then took part in a further workshop, in readiness for their Opera performance on Wednesday.



Apple Class

Sound Experiment: Apple class investigated how sound changes over distance by making noise across the playground. We started off close together, using quiet voices. As we moved further apart, our voices had to get louder. We then took this one step further by dropping a ball from different heights.

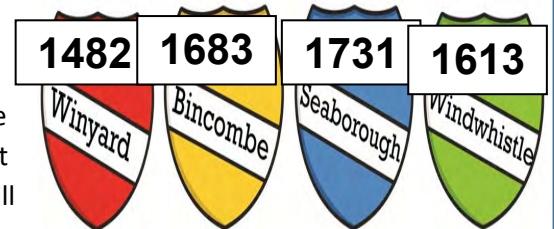


They had to use a decibel meter to

measure the amount of sound that each drop made. We then used this to work out how much the sound changed over distance.

House Points - House Captains and Vice Captains

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. Last half term Seaborough House won the most house points, so got to celebrate by having a non-uniform day last Friday. Which House team will be next? A letter will follow the first Monday back.



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

Sweet Chestnut –Reuben, Elvie, Alana x2, Jacob, Chloe, Toby, Angel, Fred, Caitlin, Chloe, Lottie, Hunter

Willow – Elodie, Hanna, Arlo, Harry, Prue, Harper, Elsie, Lexy, Reuben, Arthur, Prue, Harriet, Rory, Darcie M, Ada, Phoebe

Wild Cherry— Sofia, Bree, Callum, Isabelle C, Marselis, Isabella, Zachary, Evie, Hannah

Apple – Amartya, Tupou, Milo, Tomika, Amos, Felix, Riley, Charlee, James, Oliver, Eric, Fleur, Kyra, Rilo, Reggie-Lee, Bella, Haza, Milo, William, Sam

Maple – Hermione, Summer, Chloe, Kaiya, Willow, Hazel, Annie-Rae, Coco, Star

Bronze Certificate Alana, Chloe Ma, Fred, Jacob, Elvie, Reuben, Caitlin, Otis, Bonnie, Leo, Toby, Lena, Liliana

Silver Certificate Charlee, Elliott, Amartya, Darcie-Mae, Eric, Lily, Kyra, Aaden, Milo, Olivia, Tupou, Tomika, Felix, Riley, Fleur, James, Oliver, Amos, Sam, Rilo, Bella, Hamza, Prue, Phoebe, Rory, Walter, Harriet, Reuben-Lee, Darcy P, Elsie, Lexy, Alice D, Harry, Elodie



Miss Ball's Proud Wall

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Mrs Bryant was incredibly proud when she came to share Felix's Beliefs and World Views work with me. She set him the challenge at the beginning of the Spring Term to improve his presentation and show his passion for his work through his recording of ideas. What a change I have seen in his work – this week was particularly amazing with clear labelling, detailed explanations and well formatted layout of work. Well done Felix!

#Aspiration #Love of Learning

5th February 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Alana shows a wonderful love of learning. She is a conscientious and kind little girl who is a good friend to everyone. I am so proud of her positivity and her aspirational attitude. Alana has been working hard on her letter formation and remains very focused when practising her learning. Her writing is developing beautifully, and I am looking forward to seeing more of her sentence work.

Well done, Alana!

#Respect #Trust
5th February 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Coco really impressed Miss Ball and Mrs Kenway with her brilliant English learning this week. She wrote a very detailed and descriptive character description which really made us smile.

#Aspiration #Trust

27th February 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall

Elvie has been working hard on listening to instructions and is making good progress with completing directed tasks. I particularly enjoyed hearing her read back her sentence work, and it is lovely to see her growing confidence. Keep up the good work, Elvie!

#Respect #Trust
5th February 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Rory really impressed Miss Ball and Miss Marshall – James this week with his super attitude and effort in his English learning. He managed to show his knowledge and ideas well and we are all very proud of his learning.

#Aspiration #Trust
27th February 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



We are incredibly proud of these four boys, who not only produced fantastic English work but also showed real maturity by turning their behaviour around. Their hard work, focus, and positive attitude have truly paid off, and they should feel very proud of what they've achieved. Keep shining—your progress is inspiring!

#aspiration #forgiveness

20th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Amartya has been working immensely hard on his handwriting and adding detail to his work. He has shown great creativity, focus and enthusiasm for this story writing

#Aspiration #Compassion

13th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Riley has been spotted being a fabulous friend on the playground this week! He has been helping others and making sure one little boy was having a good time and had a friend to play with. Thank you for your kindness and sense of fun Riley.

#Friendship #Compassion

13th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Amos has shown continued passion for writing his narrative. He has concentrated on his handwriting, thought about depth of detail and kept his focus on his own work.

#Aspiration #Compassion

13th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Bobby has really shone this term. His care and kindness for others across the school is lovely to see and really makes a positive impact on others. Bobby has taken responsibility for role modelling teamwork and I love seeing him being a helping hand on the playground. Well done Bobby.

#Living our vision
6th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall

Just finished in my first round 1 min of Queen for being a little pick around our beautiful village this M. miss



A huge well done to Owen, who took it upon himself to do a litter pick around his village of South Petherton. Looking after the environment is such an important thing to do, and Owen has shown real care, responsibility and community spirit. Well done, Owen, for being:

- a role model for others,
 - a fantastic caretaker of the environment, and
 - a true agent of change!
- We are all very proud of you!

#Agent of Change
13th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Toby's writing keeps on going from strength to strength. He knew what an adjective was and he used fabulous adjectives to create images of things he could see in a garden – his favourite example was 'I hear a singing robin'.

Your positivity towards doing your best in writing is superb – well done Toby!

#Aspiration #Compassion
18th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Max represented Crewkerne with his team at the Under 8's Age Grade Festival at Wellington. Max shared that he had a great time and enjoyed playing alongside some of his friends from school. Max was awarded Player of the Match as he showed resilience and friendship. We learn so many transferrable skills through playing team sports. Well done Max.

#Aspiration
27th March 2026

Out of School Achievement

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Sofia has really impressed me this term – she always comes in with a smile on her face and is ready for her learning. Mrs O'Grady has told me Sofia is a super role model for her class and always demonstrates a positive attitude to learning opportunities. Keep this up Sofia – you are a superstar!

#Love of life
6th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



It was wonderful to see Daisy and Callum playing together on the playground today. Callum was patiently coaching Daisy to improve her keepy-up skills, and Daisy listened beautifully, responding with enthusiasm and clear joy at the interaction. Their teamwork, encouragement, and mutual respect were lovely to watch. I think Callum could even teach me next!

Well done to both of you – fantastic friendship skills in action.
#Friendship
27th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Elise was very proud when she came to show me her Karate Award. She shared that at the end of every karate session the Coach selects a member of the club that has shone! Elise had found a move tricky and had been practising until she mastered the move – her coach was so proud!

We see Elise persevere with her learning everyday at school and is great to hear about her successes outside of school too!

#Respect
27th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



It was great to see Reuben taking responsibility for engaging his friends in musical play on the playground today. By creatively using the stepping stones and bats to form his very own samba band, Reuben invited others to join in, showing real leadership and enthusiasm. This kind of imaginative play not only encourages teamwork but also helps build strong friendship skills – including cooperation, communication, and making sure everyone feels included.

#Friendship
27th March 2026

Miss Ball's Proud Wall



Lexy brings a smile to my face when she comes to share her reading with me. She understands our three read system and how this supports her knowledge and understanding of each text and how she can share this with others. Keep up the great effort Lexy – you are an awesome reader.

#Respect #Forgiveness
6th March 2026

Attendance for March

Our whole school attendance to date is **92.8%**, which is slightly below our target of **96%**. We will continue working closely with all our families to help improve this.

Lateness and Its Impact

Arriving at school on time is very important for children's learning, confidence, and daily routines. Please be aware of how lateness is recorded:

- **Children arriving between 8:55am and 9:00am are marked as late.**
- **Children arriving after 9:00am are recorded as 'late after the register has closed'.** This is classed as an **unauthorised absence** and will therefore impact your child's overall attendance record.

Regular lateness impacts on our children's learning, they will be missing valuable learning time, morning instructions, and opportunities to settle into the school day calmly.

All pupils arriving after 8:55am must be signed in at the office by a parent or carer. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children arrive on time.

If you need any support with lateness or attendance, please do not hesitate to speak to your class teacher or contact Tracey Lawrence, our Attendance Lead.



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



	School Attendance %
Attendance	92.9%
Authorised absences	2.0%
Unauthorised absence	5.1
Lates	1.7%