◦ Resilience ◦ Determination ◦ Consideration ◦ Community Mindedness ◦ Responsibility ◦ Honesty ◦

Growing minds for learning, crafting skills for life

Autumn Term Bulletin

Issue 07: Friday, 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a great week and you are looking forward to the half term break.

Half Term Dates

It is the half term break next week, and we have an INSET day on Monday 2nd November. This means children will return to Ash Hill on Tuesday 3rd November.

Ofsted Monitoring

Our Ofsted report card has now been updated following last term's monitoring visit. We are pleased that it recognises progress since the full inspection in December, including improvements in teaching writing. The inspector commented "Leaders' sharp focus on strengthening the teaching of writing has led to improvements in how teachers model writing for pupils." The report also recognises that resources and adaptations in some lessons are beginning to match pupils' additional needs more closely. It notes that pupils' success in phonics and reading is moving closer to the national average.

Our latest SATs results, received after the monitoring visit, show further improvement. Writing remains a priority, and we are continuing to build on the improvements in teaching recognised by the inspector.

The school continues to be designated as requiring significant improvement. This designation can only be removed following a full inspection. We recognise that further work is needed to ensure improvements are consistent across the school, and we remain firmly focused on this. We are proud of our pupils and staff and pleased that their hard work is reflected in the progress recognised in the updated report. You can read the updated report card here.

School Update

As you know, we are due to join Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust this term. This is likely to be from 1st November 2026, but we will confirm once this change has taken place. From the date we join, in line with the school becoming an academy, our name will become Ash Hill Primary Academy. You will begin to see this new name on our communications once the changes take effect.

Parents Evenings

A reminder that parents evenings are taking place after half term, on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November. Please ensure you have booked in to meet your child's on one of these days.

Have a wonderful break!

Mrs Manning

Headteacher

Attendance W/C 12/10/2026

Class	Attendance %	Lates
Reception	91.7	1
Year 1	90.5	4
Year 2	85	6
Year 3	91.1	3
Year 4	94.3	7
Year 5	94.3	3
Year 6	94.8	5

Hero—Here Everyday, Ready On time!

100%	Excellent
96-99.9%	Good
90-95.9%	Needs to improve
88.9% or less	Really needs to improve

Coming Up...

Click here to view the full academic calendar

Diary Dates 2026/2027

DATE	EVENT	Year groups
October Half Term: 26.10.2026 - 30.10.2026		
02.11.2026	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	
03.11.2026 (Weekly)	Year 3 Group 2 Forest School Starts	3 (Group 2)
04.11.2026	Flu Immunisation Drop in with School Nursing Team	For all, at pickup time
09.11.2026	School Photos	
09.11.2026	Parents & Carers Consultation Evening	
10.11.2026	Parents & Carers Consultation Evening	
14.10.2026	Reception 2027 Open Day (1.30pm)	
18.11.2026	Reception 2027 Open Day (1.30pm)	
18.11.2026	Flu Immunisations	R-6
19.11.2026	Reception 2027 Open Day (9.30am)	
26.11.2026	Year 1 Trip to Hughenden Manor	1
27.11.2026	Reception trip to Micklefield Library	R
08.12.2026	Year 3 Group 2 Forest School Last Session	3 (Group 2)
Christmas & New Year Break: 21.12.2026 - 01.01.2027		
07.06.2027	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	
19.07.2027	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	
20.07.2027	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	
21.07.2027	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	

Letters Home This week:

- Reception Visit to Micklefield Library
- Poppy Merchandise

Important Reminder: Parents & Carers Consultation Evening

Parents & Carers consultation evening is taking place on Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th November. Please ensure you have booked an appointment with your child's teacher via ParentMail no later than Monday 9th November.

Miss Kennedy; Assistant Headteacher-Inclusion, will also be available on both days for 10minute drop in sessions. There is no need to book these in advance.

This Week in School....

Reception

During the last week of this half term, we have loved learning all about Autumn and everything 'spooky'!

We collected leaves and sticks to add to our Autumn tray, noticing the beautiful variety of colours. We also enjoyed reading some wonderful stories, including Room on the Broom, Pumpkin Soup and Christopher Pumpkin.

In phonics, we revised the phonemes we have learnt so far by playing a game called Silly Soup – making our very own soup using objects that begin with different sounds! We also had a go at writing our own potion lists, with some children including some very interesting ingredients in their spooky concoctions!

In maths, we have been learning about 'more than' and 'fewer than', comparing groups of two objects and developing our understanding of these important concepts.

There have been lots of exciting activities to explore, too! We made monster pine cones, painted pumpkins and investigated what was inside them. We played with 'spooky' castles, role playing our own stories and made spiders out of playdough, carefully counting out all eight legs! Overall, we have had a fantastic week full of creativity, exploration and spooky fun.

Well done, children, for such a brilliant first half term! Wishing all our families a wonderful and restful half-term break.

Year 1

This week in Year 1, we have been learning about the Ten Commandments and how they guide Christians and Jews in the way they should live and treat others.

In English, the children have been writing their own stories based on The Three Little Pigs. In maths, we have been exploring number sentences, fact families and number bonds, helping us to understand the different ways numbers can be added and subtracted.

In science, we explored our sense of taste and learnt about the five different tastes: sweet, sour, salty, bitter and savoury. We tasted a variety of foods and tried to match them to the correct taste.

We also enjoyed our first Ready to Celebrate afternoon, where the children were able to choose activities based on the tokens they had collected. It was lovely to see them enjoying their chosen activities and celebrating their achievements!

We hope you all have a lovely half term and enjoy a well-deserved break! We look forward to welcoming the children back after the holiday.

Year 2

Our Final Week of the Half Term!
What a fantastic way to finish our first half term in Year 2! The children have worked incredibly hard over the past few weeks, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and independence grow.

In English, we have completed and published our own stories! The children have worked hard to use their descriptive vocabulary and adjectives to bring their characters and settings to life. They are very excited to show off their finished stories and share all the fantastic learning they have been doing.

Our phonics sessions are continuing to go well, and we have been practising more of our Year 2 Common Exception Words to help us become confident and accurate spellers.

In Maths, we have started exploring subtraction, focusing on subtracting across a ten and finding the nearest ten. We have been developing our understanding of how numbers change when we subtract and using different strategies to help us solve calculations.

In PSHE, we have finished our Being Me in My World unit, reflecting on our hopes, responsibilities, choices and how we can all contribute to making our classroom a safe and happy place.

The children have made a brilliant start to Year 2, and I am so proud of all their hard work and enthusiasm this half term. I hope you all have a lovely, restful break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term of learning!

Year 3

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 3!

In English, we have been completing our hot writes, and they have been amazing! We are so proud of the creativity, effort and detail the children have put into their writing. In maths, we have almost mastered column addition with exchanging (borrowing), and the children are becoming much more confident and independent when using this method.

In science, we have been learning all about the different food groups and how much of each we should eat to maintain a healthy, balanced diet. Finally, in computing, we have started planning and drawing our very own stop-frame animations. We are excited to see the children's creative ideas come to life! Well done, Year 3, for another brilliant week of learning.

Parents: No homework this week, but please encourage your children to read and log on to Numbots/TT rockstars. Their logins are on the cover of their reading diary!

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy your half term!

Year 4

Year 4 travelled back in time to visit the site of the Roman settlement of Verulamium and its fascinating museum. Handling genuine artefacts such as Roman pottery, jewellery and even a toilet brush (clean!) after having seen one of the best examples of a hypocaust or underfloor heating. Everyone was well-behaved (as most Roman children were) and explored past lives of the Romans with excellent questions and answers for our museum guide.

Back at Ash Hill, we have been analysing our science data from spotting living things in our school grounds. In addition, we have been using maths to read graphs and tallies while adding and subtracting with exchanges in our maths lessons using column methods. Our plaster models have now been attached to their plinths ready for painting at the end of the week - look out for them in our gallery presentation coming soon.

Finally, it has been great to see such writing skills on display in our portal stories. To see the progress our Year 4 writers have made since September in adding description, tension and even, personification, is truly out of this world. Please keep reading over half term and practising TT Rockstars.

Enjoy your break with friends and family.

Year 5

Year have created some spectacular pages of their zines using the backgrounds they have been painting. They should be proud of the work they produced. In English, they have finished writing their defeating the monster stories and most have been publishing them. In Maths, they have worked hard on their times tables, identifying factors and common factors. I hope they all enjoy a restful break and look forward to seeing to them refreshed after half term.

Year 6

Well, that's another half term that has flown by and it has been another busy week in Year 6.

In Maths we have been looking at long division and answering lots of questions to become familiar with the method. Whilst in English we are coming to the end of our Warning Tale unit and have been writing our own independent stories which I have thoroughly enjoyed reading.

In Science we have been learning more about microorganisms and have set up and investigation for over half-term to find out what are the best conditions for mould to grow in.

In History we have been finding out about the origins of the Ancient Olympic games and the events that took place at them.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable and restful half term break,

Holiday Activities