



Ashton Gate Primary School
'Rising High Together'
Executive Headteacher: Mr G Jones
Interim Executive Headteacher: Mrs L Dowlman
Head of School Ashton: Mrs L Gerolemou
Head of School Upton: Mr A Hawkins
Tel: 0117 9030236 Email: school@ashtongateprimary.org



Ashton Gate Primary School News & Information

5th September 2025

NEWSLETTER 1

Welcome Back!

Parking

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Lunch Ordering

Social Media

Recording Absence

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Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back after the summer holidays. The children have returned with excellent attitudes, and the start of term has been calm and purposeful across the school. After only 2 days it already feels as though we have slipped back into our Ashton Gate rhythm, and it is lovely to see classrooms full of smiles, learning and energy again. Our new Reception children begin their staggered start next week, and we look forward to welcoming them and their families into our school community.



Over the summer, a great deal of work took place to improve our school buildings. The Ashton site, which proudly celebrates its 150th anniversary next year, has seen long-awaited progress on the wall project that has impacted our library and Reception classrooms for the past two years. These spaces are now open, refurbished, and looking fantastic, with external work due to finish by the end of October. The PTA-funded Calm Space in the Ashton playground is also nearly ready, as a quiet retreat to use at playtimes and lunchtimes if they need a break from the busy playground.

On the Upton site, work on the roadside wall (currently behind scaffolding) is now about 75% complete and also due to finish by the end of October. We have also been working closely with the Hill Group, who are building on the site next to the school. They are kindly providing a new Quiet Space on the Upton playground. Preparations began over the summer, and we anticipate the space will be ready for children to enjoy by November.

A few reminders as we settle into the new year:

- **Information about your child's class** (including routines and class teacher email addresses) can be found on the *Year Group* pages of our website. Class teachers are your first point of contact for any social and academic questions. For administrative matters, please contact the school office: school@ashtongateprimary.org
- **Leadership team:** Mr Hawkins (Interim Head of School at Upton) and Mrs Gerolemou (Head of School at Ashton) are available on the gates each day and by email for wider concerns. Mrs Goodman will remain as Assistant Head supporting across both sites. I will continue as the Interim Executive Headteacher until Mr Jones returns in January and I am available across both sites daily; you can also reach me by email. All email addresses are on the school website.

Don't forget:

Paper copies of newsletters are available from the school office

- **School lunches** should be booked for the following week by Wednesday 10pm.
- **Snacks in KS2**- don't forget that children need to bring healthy snacks for breaktimes- please remember no crisps and chocolate and that we are a nut-free school.
- **Lost property:** Last year we had an unprecedented amount of unclaimed items, which we were unable to even give away! Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly named so that we can return them quickly. We will also be encouraging children to take responsibility for their own things.

Finally, we will soon be holding our **Meet and Greet** sessions– a chance to come into your child's class, meet their teacher and hear about routines, systems and the exciting curriculum ahead. Further details will follow shortly.

Thank you for your continued support – it has been a brilliant start to the year!

Laura Dowlman

Interim Executive Head

School Day Timings

Year Group	Classroom doors Open	Registration	Pick up
Reception	8.40	8.50	3.10
Year 1	8.40	8.50	3.10
Year 2	8.45*	9.00	3.20
Year 3	8.30	8.40	3.00
Year 4*	8.40	8.50	3.10
Year 5*	8.40	8.50	3.10
Year 6	8.30	8.40	3.00

*Year 4 and 5

The back playground gates open from approx. 8.35am.

Registration for years 4 and 5 takes place from 8.40am when the classroom doors open until 8.50am. The classroom doors and the back playground gates will close just after 8.40am but the small door next to the back playground on Upton Road will remain open until 8.50am for the children to access the Y4 and 5 classrooms.

Any late arrivals (arrivals after the registration time) need to come to the school office to be signed in.

Parking on Greenway Bush Lane

One of the residents on Greenway Bush Lane has reported that their driveway was blocked by a parent collecting their child from school. If you collect your child by car, you are able to park in Aldi Car Park who are the school's Park and Stride partner if there is nowhere else to park. Please do not block residents driveways. Thank you for your support with this.



Hello Parents and Carers



Bristol City Council would like to know whether childcare in our city is meeting your needs.

Please complete this quick survey. It's completely anonymous.

<https://forms.office.com/e/HHLiEXct3a>

If you have a smart phone, open your camera and focus on the QR code to go straight to the survey!

Thank you, The Early Years Team

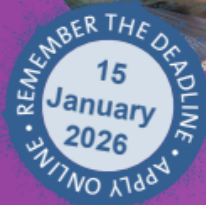
Thrive Clubs

There are still places available on the KS1 Girls Football Club on a Wednesday, KS2 Hoop and Circus Skills on Friday and KS1 Football Club on Friday. You can book onto either of these courses using the below link: <https://www.thrivekids.uk/classes#ASHTONGATEKS1>



A guide for **parents and carers** on applying for a **primary school** place for the school year **2026–2027**

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 you will need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2026



TRADING WITH SCHOOLS
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www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions



What do I need to do to apply for a school place?

- Check the guidance on applying for schools – available at www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions, or by contacting School Admissions. The guidance contains details on how & when to apply, information on each school along with their admissions policy and oversubscription criteria. With the mix of different types of school from Church schools, Foundation schools, Academies, Free Schools and Community schools the admissions policy could be different for each school you put as a preference so it's important to ensure you check this carefully.
- Some schools require supplementary forms to be completed as well as the common application form. Make sure you check if this applies to the school(s) you are interested in.
- Visit the schools. All schools hold open days. Contact the school directly for further details on open days.
- Look at the school's prospectus and its website which are useful sources of information.
- You can name up to three school preferences. We advise you to name more than one school.
- Make sure you apply on-time. The deadline is 15 January 2026.

School Admissions (CH)
Bristol City Council
PO Box 3399, Bristol, BS1 9NE
www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions
e school.admissions@bristol.gov.uk
t 0117 903 7694



Why apply online?

- The system helps you by checking for errors.
- There is no risk that your application will be lost in the post.
- It is quick and easy to do.
- You will get an immediate email confirming that your application has been received.
- You will receive an email notification of the outcome of your application on the same day as the offer letters are posted.
- The system is available 24 hours a day until the final submission time of midnight on 15 January 2026.

Apply online www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions

apply for a **secondary school** place for the school year **2026–2027**

If your child was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 you will need to apply for a school place by 31 October 2025.



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- Visit the schools. All schools hold open days. School websites provide details of open evenings and other events.
- Look at the school's prospectus and its website which are useful sources of information.
- You can name up to three school preferences. We advise you to name more than one school.
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Hello from the PTA

First off, hello to all our returning parents and a huge welcome to all our new ones!

We hope you all had amazing summer breaks filled with lots of exciting and fun things – we know we did! But we also know that we felt a slight sense of relief with school up and running again this week.

As always, we'll be here each week updating you on what going on / coming up during the term, how you can help, and what all your amazing support means to the school.



Bristol City coming to Ashton Gate

You may remember at the end of last term (or maybe not, it does feel a long time ago now) we said that Bristol City will be bringing a huge inflatable goal, along with Red and Robyn, to Ashton Gate. Well, we're pleased now to confirm more details and dates for the event.

Your kids will have the chance to try and score a penalty and maybe win a prize! All you need to do is ask your family and friends for some sponsorship to help support the PTA and the Robins Foundation.

The event will take place during the school day on the following dates:

Monday 15th September - Yr 1,2 and 3

Monday 22nd September – Yr 4, 5 and 6

All those who take part will receive a certificate and have the chance of winning a prize, including tickets, a signed shirt and many more. These will be chosen at random and presented in assembly on 29th September.

What do you need to do if your child wants to take part?

Please sign up your child using the following link. We need this information to be able to manage numbers.

<https://forms.gle/UmUU53uoK4hAqBSH6>

Please ask family and friends to sponsor your child using the form your child will bring home in the next couple of days. We would love to raise as much as possible from this event and any amount, however small or large, will be greatly appreciated. However, please do not let money stop your child from taking part if they want to, just go ahead and sign them up on the form.

There is no obligation for anyone to do this event if they don't want to. All children who don't want to take a penalty will be able to cheer their classmates on from the sidelines.

PTA AGM – Date for your Diary

This year the PTA Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th September and we would love to see some new faces there – whether you're a new parent to the school or one who has enjoyed some of the great work we do and feel like finding out more, we would love to see you there.

We're a very friendly bunch at the PTA, so while the AGM is a formal event we always spend some time afterwards catching up, so it's a really great opportunity to find out more with absolutely no obligation to sign up to anything.

You really have nothing to lose...except (and sorry, here comes the serious part) your PTA. This term has seen more parents depart the PTA due to their kids leaving the school, so this means we will be more stretched this year – plus next year we will see our biggest number of parents leave for a while, so we really do need more of you to get involved.

So come down, meet the team, have a drink and see if you would like to give some of your time to help support the PTA. Time and location will be confirmed here in the next couple of weeks.

Lunch Ordering

Please remember to order your child's lunch before 10pm on a Wednesday. If your child only has a meal once a week, you will still need to book this.

We are still having a lot of children who do not have a lunch booked with no packed lunch. Please remember the default meal is always salad bar. No other option will be available.

Please remember not to order a school lunch if your child is on a school trip, where a packed lunch is required. If you have already booked a meal for this date, the meal can be cancelled by the payer until midnight on a Wednesday for the following week. As all food is pre-ordered there will be no refunds issued for non-cancelled meals.

Social Media

We are now on Facebook. Please like our page, we will be using this page to celebrate events and learning moments taking place across the school. We encourage you to invite other parents and family members to join as well, so that too can be part of our vibrant school network.

Rest assured, our Facebook page will prioritise the privacy and security of our children. We will follow all the necessary precautions and guidelines to protect identities and ensure a safe online environment.



Recording Absences

Studybugs is no longer in use.

Please record any illnesses/medical appointments using the Arbor parent portal app.

For planned absences please complete the online form on the attendance page of our website.



Arbor

Term Dates and Inset Days 2025 to 2026

Term Dates 2025 to 2026

Term 1: 2 September 2025 to 24th October 2025

Term 2: 3 November 2025 to 19 December 2025

Term 3: 5 January 2026 to 13 February 2026

Term 4: 23 February 2026 to 2 April 2026

Term 5: 20 April 2026 to 22 May 2026

Term 6: 1 June 2026 to 22 July 2026

Inset Days 2025 to 2026

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Friday 26th September 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 2nd February 2026

Monday 29th June 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026