

ASHTON GATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

28.11.2025



Messages from Teachers

Year 2

On Friday 5th December each year 2 class will visit St Francis Church to experience 'Christmas Through the Keyhole'. If you are able to volunteer to help walk children to and from the church please contact your child's class teacher.

The timings for each class are as follows:

9.15 - 10.30: Oak

10.50 - 12: Rowan

1 - 2.10: Maple

2.10 - 3.15: Sycamore

Sycamore class will be dismissed from school at St Francis Church on Friday 5th December. Any children in clubs will be walked back to school.

Many thanks

Year 2 team (Mrs Lambert, Mr Brand, Miss Jenkins, Miss Wright)

Year 4

This term in DT, Year 4 will be sewing their own book sleeves. We will be doing this over the course of a day and would be very grateful for some extra pairs of hands to help with needle threading etc. If you are available to help out, please contact your child's class teacher.

Monday 15th December 12.30 - 3.00: 4G and 4L

Tuesday 16th December 12.30-3.00: 4D and 4A



Year 6

Homework - WW1 project

The dates for the WW1 project are as set out on the newsletter and not on the homework sheet that has been sent home - we had to make some date changes. Apologies for any confusion.

The dates are as follows:

Monday 15th December – Children bring in their WW1 projects into school

Wednesday 17th December- Parents are welcome into school to see our WW1 'Museum' - 9.15 in the main hall

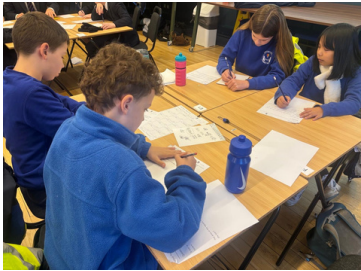
Ashton Gate Stadium trip

6BH and 6K were invited to Ashton Gate Stadium for a maths workshop, PE lesson and stadium tour led by Bristol City in collaboration with Bristol University. During the workshop, the children worked collaboratively on a maths investigation linked to the inflation levels of different footballs. They took part in a PE session led by the Robins and finally got a behind the scenes tour of the stadium! ITV were invited to film part of this special event - see link: <https://www.itv.com/watch/news/teaching-children-maths-skills-using-football/xv6tqc2>

6M and 6FH will be invited to the stadium later in the year.

Y6 Maths Challenge

This week, some of our Y6 pupils took part in a maths challenge at Clifton College. They worked really hard to solve challenging maths problems, competing against other schools. Well done marvellous mathematicians!



Lifeskills Trip

Our Year 6 children recently had a fantastic and educational trip to Lifeskills in South Bristol. Lifeskills have created a realistic, interactive village within the Create Centre that helps children learn how to deal with potentially dangerous or difficult situations in a safe and supportive environment. A big thank you to Lifeskills for providing such an important opportunity to help prepare our pupils for the real world.



Clubs terms 3 & 4

The club letter will be sent out 6pm on Monday 1st December. All clubs will be bookable from this time.



Basketball Tournament

Over the last few weeks a group of year 5 and 6 pupils have been taking part in a basketball tournament. For some of them, this was their first time playing basketball or first time playing against other schools. They improved week on week and had great fun taking part. A big well done to those who took part and a special well done to the year 6 team who came second in the tournament!!



Upcoming Events

4th December - National Elf Service Day. Come to school dressed as an elf. Donate here: <https://donate.bwhospitalscharity.org.uk>



5th December - Reception Nativities start

7th December 12pm-3pm Christmas Fair - Ashton Site.

9th December - KS1 Rock Steady Concert

10th December - Year 5 Concert

12th December - KS1 Rock Steady Concert

12th December - Year 6 concert

16th December - Ashton Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch day.

18th December - Upton Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch day.

PTA News - Christmas Fair – Volunteers

A HUGE thanks to everyone who has signed up to volunteer so far, but with just over a week to go until the Christmas Fair we're asking for one final push to try and fill as many slots as we can.

Remember, it's only one hour but that time will make all the difference – and don't forget you're welcome to bring along a partner, family member, friend or a child to make it even more fun.

Signing up is nice and simple, just follow this link: <https://signup.com/go/XnXtpTH> and don't forget to let your Class Rep know when you have. If you can spare one hour, then please sign up over this weekend so we can get an idea on whether we will be able to run all the stalls as planned.

Class Christmas Hampers

First off, we have to say we're amazed at all the incredible class Christmas Hampers this year. The photos have been flooding in, and we've been blown away by how fantastic they all look – so a MASSIVE thank you for all your hard work and kind donations.

This means we have now opened up the raffle tickets for sale, which can be purchased on line by following this link:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/ashton-gate-pta-christmas-raffle-2025> or by scanning the QR code on the posters you will find around the school. Not only can you buy tickets on this link, you can also see all the amazing photos we have received (more will go up as we receive them). But here are a couple to tempt you....



Christmas Trees – Collections

Final reminder to say, don't forget that this Saturday is Christmas Tree collection day! Our Tree Elves will be on hand to help you take delivery of your tree between 07:30 am – 10:30am. And don't worry, they aren't fair weather Elves so will be waiting for you come wind, rain or snow! Collection location: **CAR PARK BEHIND UPTON PLAYGROUND, Greenway Bush Lane.**

Thanks again from us all here at the PTA for all your help and support!

Schools Triathlon

This week we welcomed the charity Restless Development to school and they delivered an assembly telling the children all about the school triathlon which has been a huge hit in recent years. If your child is interested in taking part, please see below for further details. If you have any questions, please contact them directly on:

schoolstriathlon@restlessdevelopment.org



RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT
POWERED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

You are invited to
THE SCHOOLS TRIATHLON

Clifton College **Sunday 3rd May 2026**

Registration Deadline: **Friday 19th December 2025**

Register Here

Registering

1. Create a team of four children, then choose your team name!
2. Select one parent to register your team's interest in the event via the link above (you will need all participant names and their parent/guardian's email)
3. You will receive an email to confirm if your team has or hasn't been successful 3 weeks after the deadline date given above
4. If your team is given a place, we will email all parents within the team to invite them to register their child for the event

Fundraising & RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

Each participant must fundraise a minimum of £60, with a target of £100. You can set up an online JustGiving page or download a sponsorship form. Your fundraising supports Restless Development: a global charity who champions the collective power of young people to create a better world. Watch this video to learn more!

Head to our FAQs for more info and to find out what's included!

Year Group	Swim	Cycle	Run
Year 3 & 4	50m	1000m	750m
Year 5 & 6	50m	1000m	750m
Year 7 & 8	50m	2000m	750m

As a relay, each participant completes these distances.

Help For Heroes

This year, the charity Help For Heroes are inviting people to send messages of hope to veterans at Christmas, to help combat loneliness and isolation and bring them some Christmas cheer. Selected messages are put into printed Christmas cards and sent to veterans across the country. If you'd like to send a message, please go to

www.helpforheroes.org.uk/christmas.



HELP for HEROES



Christmas Lunch



Merry Christmas



There will be a change of menu week beginning 15th December.

Please be aware that there jacket potatoes, salad bowl/bar will only be available on Monday and Friday.

If you have already booked your child's meals for this week and want to change them, you are able to do this on Parentpay until Wednesday 10th December.

Monday 15th December

Margherita Pizza (V) (H)

Jacket Potato

Salad Bar/Bowl

Tuesday 16th December

Ashton Site

Christmas Lunch

Upton Site

Hot Dog

Vegetarian Hot Dog (V) (H)

Wednesday 17th December

Sausage Roll

Vegan Sausage Roll (V) (H)

Thursday 18th December

Ashton Site

Hot Dog

Vegetarian Hot Dog (V) (H)

Upton Site

Christmas Lunch

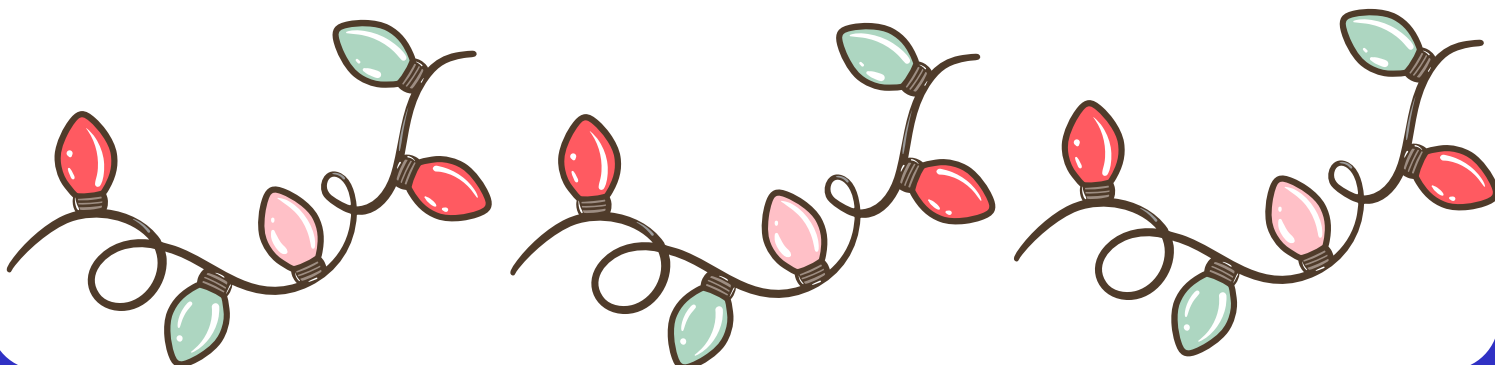
Friday 19th December

Fish Fingers/Salmon Fishcake (H)

Cheese and Onion Quiche (V)

Jacket Potato

Salad Bar/Bowl

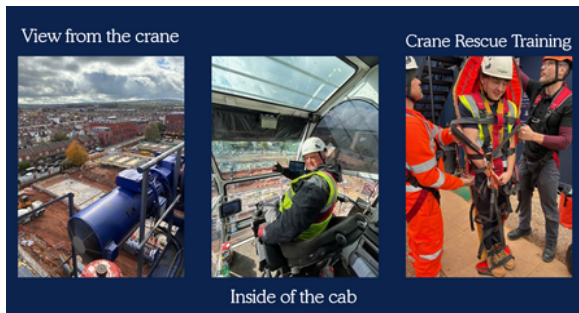


HILL GROUP ASSEMBLY TO KS2

Liam, the Site Manager working on the Raleigh Road development, came and spoke to the KS2 children this week in assembly.

He talked about what the plans were for the site and all the different roles and jobs that are needed on such a big project. The children especially enjoyed hearing about Alex, the crane driver, and looking at photos of inside the crane cab!

The Hill Group are also helping to repair our old wooden planters on the Upton playground and will be donating and furnishing a calm space portacabin for the playground too!



Bristol Parent Carers

Bristol Parent Carers are running a free information session on supporting children who find changes connected to Christmas difficult; for example, children who are autistic, may be autistic, or have other neurodivergent needs. The session will take place online on Monday 1st December at 6:30pm, with Hats Darley from Neurodiverse Training.

You can book your place here: <https://bit.ly/43MQZRG>

The festive season brings joy and excitement, but for some individuals, the lead-up to Christmas and the big day itself can be tricky.

The session will cover:

- Sensory changes at Christmas
- Routine changes, especially in schools!
- Communication changes (as there are often different social requirements at Christmas on children and parents)
- Your questions answered

Please join us - it will be brilliant to have you!



The Power of Play

How to Set Your Children up for Success in the Digital Age

Helping families to thrive in the digital age

Bringing up children in the digital age is complicated and fraught with decisions and judgement around screen time, online games, gaming consoles, and even device use for homework. Knowing how to navigate these decisions is challenging, and yet at the heart of it, all of us just want what is best for our children.

In this talk, Dr Davies unpicks some of the myths and explores the real issues around the use of screens and online games in childhood in an evidence-based way, complemented by anecdotal evidence from her patients and her experiences as a parent.

The aim is to inspire us all to connect with our children rather than default to devices. If you're looking for hope and positivity around navigating family life and screens, then this is the talk for you!

PARENT TALK WITH DR SUSIE DAVIES:

ASHTON GATE PRIMARY SCHOOL—UPTON SITE

DATE & TIME:

WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2026 — 9:15 AM to 10:45 AM



Dr Susie Davies

Susie Davies is the CEO and founder of PAPAYA.



Topics

- explores the role of play in children's development and well-being.
- examines how children's screen time is affecting play and childhood experiences.
- offers practical ideas and realistic solutions to help families find a healthy balance with screens.
- question and discussion time.

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.

Susie Davies is a GP with a special interest in adolescent mental health. She is the founder of PAPAYA and is passionate about improving mental health outcomes for today's adolescents.

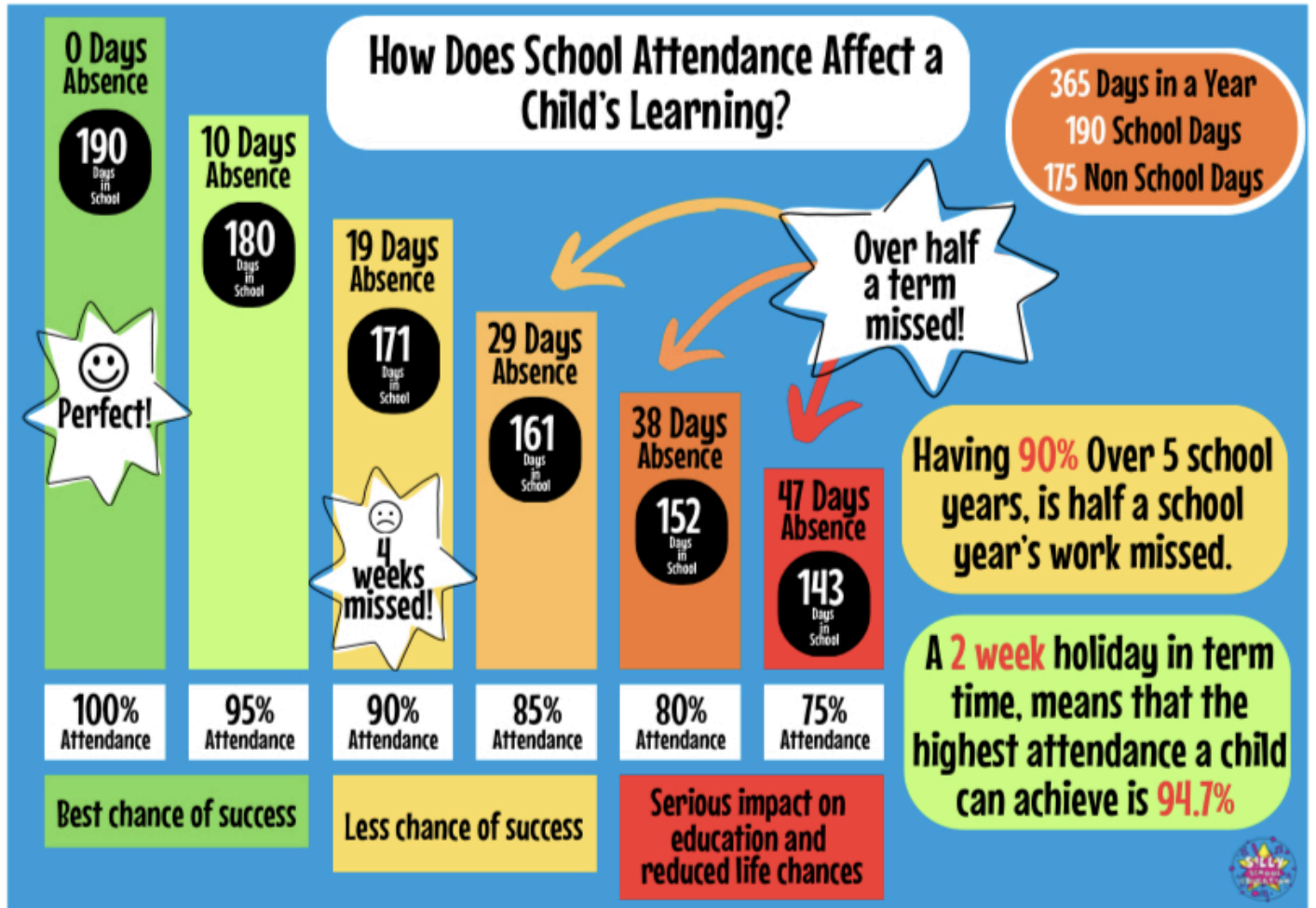
She founded PAPAYA seven years ago after recognising the link between technology use and poor mental health in students. She has given countless talks across the UK and is recognised as a national advocate and speaker on this topic. She is also the author of The Healthy Selfie: How to Like Yourself in the Digital Age.



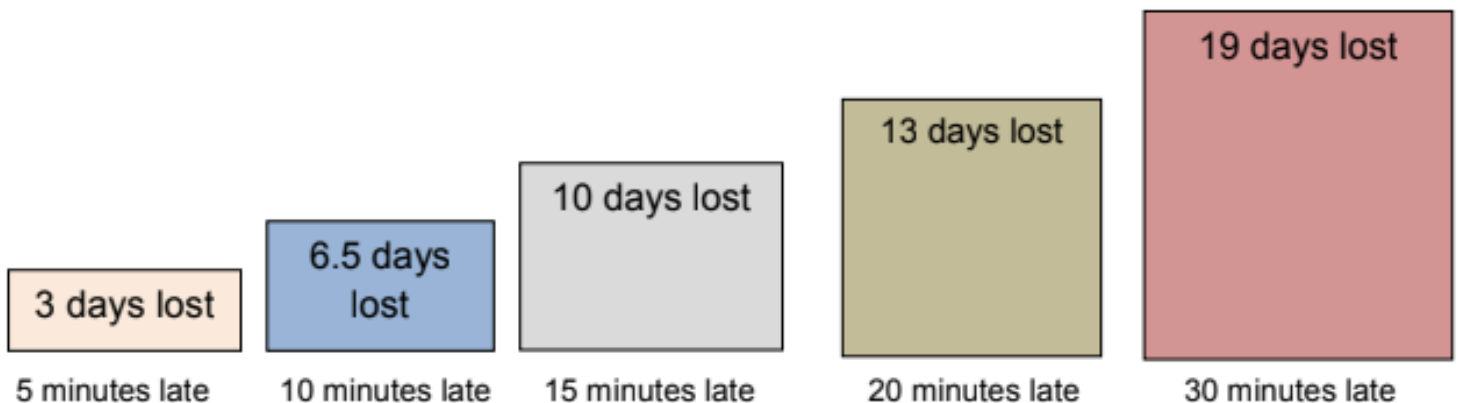
Attendance at Ashton Gate Primary School



Regular school attendance is one of the best ways to help your child succeed. When children come to school every day, they keep up with their learning, build confidence in their skills, and develop good routines that set them up for the future. Every day at school matters—it helps your child stay on track and get the most out of their education.



It is also important to arrive at school on time. If a child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time over one academic year.



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 10pm on a Wednesday for the following week. As all food is pre-ordered there will be no refunds issued for non-cancelled meals.

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.



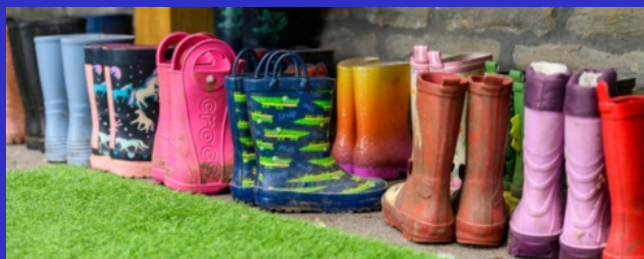
Social Media



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.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092199529256>



Term Dates and Inset Days 2025 to 2026

Term Dates 2025 to 2026

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

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 2nd February 2026

Monday 29th June 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

