

ASHTON GATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



19.12.2025



Message from Mrs Dowlman

As we reach the end of this long and busy term, I would like to say a huge well done to everyone for all their hard work and commitment. There has been so much to celebrate this term, from our wonderful Reception nativities and KS2 concerts, to the many trips, homework exhibitions, and the fantastic Rock Band, Rock Steady and piano/keyboard performances, alongside all the usual busy day-to-day curriculum learning that happens in every classroom. It has been wonderful to see the children grow and progress, both academically and socially.

Thank you to the entire Ashton Gate staff team for their endless energy each and every day. A massive thank you must also go to our incredible PTA for their commitment and of course for the wonderful Christmas Fair- it was fabulous and incredibly well supported. Events like this take a huge amount of planning and hard work behind the scenes, and we are extremely grateful for all that the PTA does for our school community.

This term also marks the end of my year as Interim Executive Head while Mr Jones supported at Headley Park; it has been a real honour to work with the whole Ashton Gate community and I am extremely grateful for the support shown to me over the last 12 months. Mr Jones is very much looking forward to returning full time to Ashton Gate in January, and I will be stepping into the Head of School role at Upton, with Mr Hawkins returning to his Assistant Head role alongside Mrs Goodman. Mrs Gerolemou will continue as Ashton as Head of School.

I wish you all a very restful and happy winter break.

Christmas Lunch

Over 800 Christmas lunches were served to children and staff this week. A huge thank you to our amazing catering team for cooking a lovely Christmas lunch. Also a big thank you to all the parent helpers who helped to serve, set tables and clear up. We couldn't do it without you all.



Messages from Teachers

Year 2

In January, Year 2 will be given weekly spellings to take home and practise. As well as a test to complete in school every week. We will be giving you more information about this in January so please keep an eye out for your child's spellings.

Year 3 DT Castle Making

Year 3 had two fantastic DT mornings designing and making their very own castles! The children worked with great enthusiasm and creativity, producing some truly amazing final creations.

We couldn't have done it without the support of our wonderful parent volunteers, who generously gave their time to help make the morning such a success. A huge thank you to all the parents who came along – your support made a real difference!



Message from Governors



At our meeting this term we voted in a new Chair, Amar Shah, to replace Sue Waller, who is standing down as she has taken up a position as Deputy Head of another school.

The Vice-Chair, Pen Williams, also stood down to focus on her PhD, and is replaced by co-Vice-Chairs Sarah Luther and Kate Jarman. A huge thank you to Sue and Pen for their many years of hard work for the school.

This term the Governors have been focusing on Reading across the School and the support for pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant.

Gareth Jones returns as Executive Head full time in January. The Governors would like to thank Laura Dowlman and the rest of SLT for stepping up in the last year, and for all their hard work.



Parking on Greenway Bush Lane

Residents on Greenway Bush Lane have complained to the school that driveways are still being blocked by parents parking across them at the start and the end of the school day. We kindly ask that you do not block residents' driveways. If you travel by car, you are able to park in Aldi Car Park who are the school's Park and Stride partner if there are no spaces on the road. Thank you for your support with this.

Bikes and Scooters



Due to a recent incident in which a bike was stolen from the bike shed, we ask that you collect their bikes and scooters at the end of each day and not leave them overnight.

strengthening families strengthening communities



Every Thursday from 15th January 2026 for 11 sessions, excluding school holidays. Last session on 2nd April.

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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 -- 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM



Dr Susie Davies



Susie Davies is the CEO and founder of PAPAYA.

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*.

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."

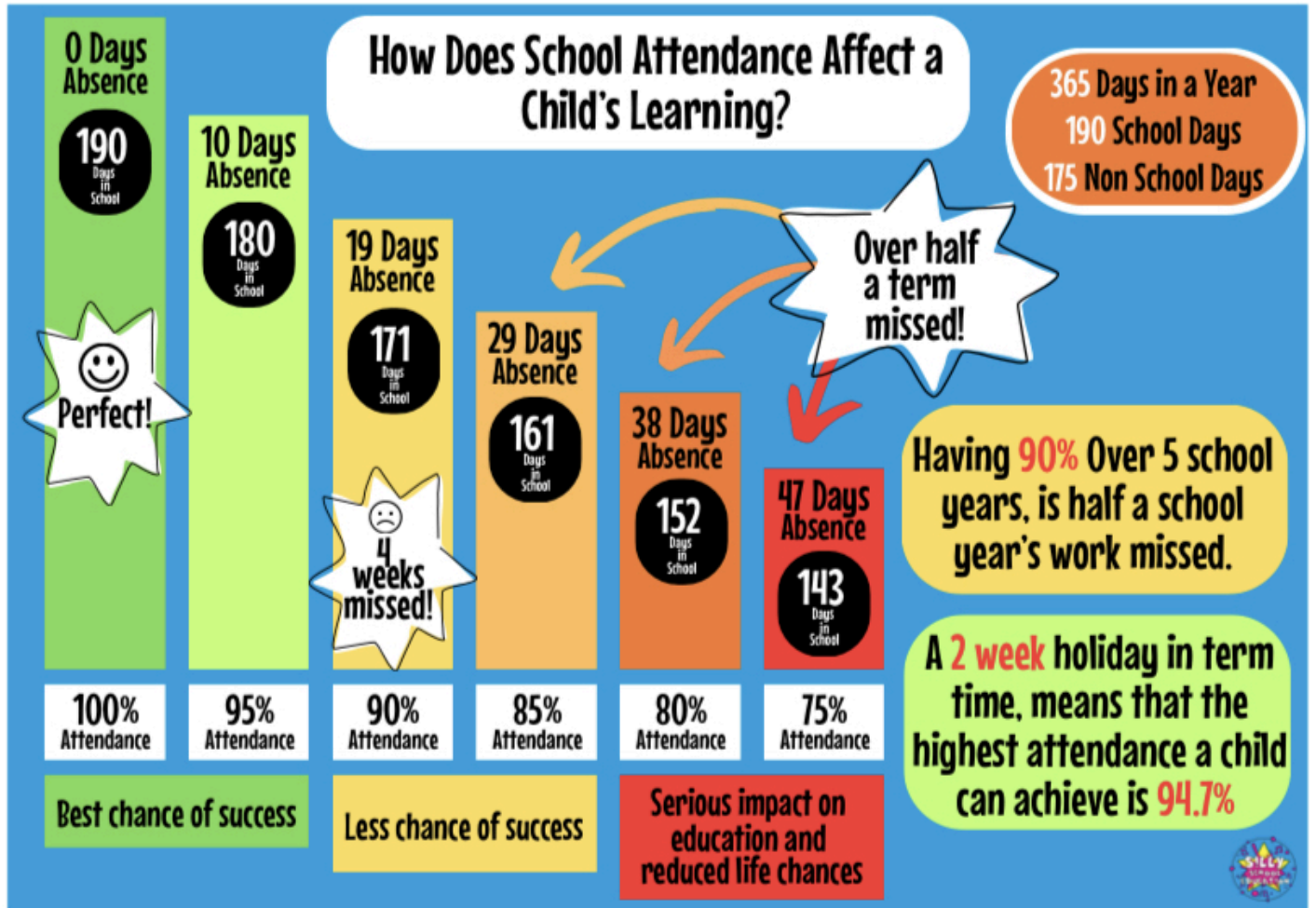
— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.



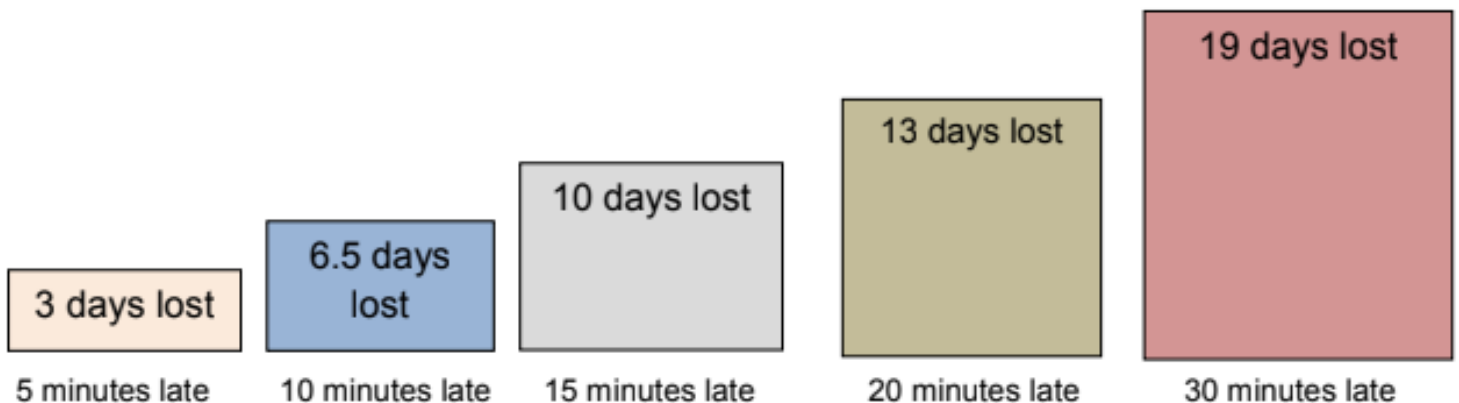
Attendance at Ashton Gate Primary School



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

