

ASHTON GATE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



09.01.2026



Message from Mr Jones

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a lovely Christmas spent with family and friends.

As you may recall, I spent the past year working at another school within the Trust and have now returned to Ashton Gate full-time following the completion of my secondment. While I greatly enjoyed my time at the other school, I missed Ashton Gate very much and am delighted to be back as part of this wonderful school community.

Term 3 has already got off to a fantastic start, with classrooms full of engaging and purposeful learning. It has been a pleasure to visit classes this week and hear the children speak so enthusiastically about what they are currently learning. It is clear how much they gain from their time in school each day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Dowlman for taking such excellent care of the school in my absence. She has led Ashton Gate superbly over the past twelve months. I would also like to thank Mr Hawkins for stepping into the Head of School role during this time; he has done a tremendous job in supporting the school.

As a reminder, Mrs Dowlman is Head of School for Upton, Mrs Gerolemou continues as Head of School for Ashton, and Mr Hawkins and Miss Goodman are Assistant Heads.

Wishing you all the very best for 2026.

Mr Jones

Messages from Teachers

Year 1

Year 1 are learning about mechanisms as part of our DT curriculum.

In week 5 of this term, we are going to make cars. We will need rectangular boxes to construct our vehicles. We would like to kindly ask for donations of suitable rectangular cardboard boxes, such as pictures below. Please bring them into school and hand them over to your class teachers.

Thank you so much in advance,
The Year 1 team





Applying for Reception Place

The closing date for applying for a reception place for 2026 is 15 January 2026 – The quickest and easiest way to apply is online at Bristol City Council website. If you require further information, contact School Admissions at school.admissions@bristol.gov.uk

Park and Stride at Ashton Gate Primary School

We have observed road safety concerns and illegal parking on double yellow lines on Greenway Bush Lane near to the School Street barrier location. To ensure the rules of the road are being followed, and to ensure the safety of the children at Ashton Gate Primary School, parking enforcement has been informed and will be doing patrols.

As the school community, you are able to make a huge difference – improving road safety for all children attending the School. The map below shows a 5-10 minute Walking Bubble, your school is centred in the middle of the map, and the surrounding circle illustrates to a 5-10 minute walk to and from the school.

If your home is inside the walk zone, it means that you live very close to the school and that active travel could be a great option for you. If you're not already, why don't you try walking, scooting or cycling to school? Parents, if you need the car to travel to work, it may be quicker and easier to leave it parked at home while you do the school run.

If you live outside of the walk zone, in order to reduce congestion at the school gate we would like those who currently arrive by car to try parking outside of the zone and walking or scooting the rest of the way to school. You may even find it takes you less time than trying to find somewhere to park near the school gates.

We also have a Park and Stride agreement with Aldi, so you are able to park in Aldi car park and walk to school from there.

strengthening families strengthening communities



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

9.15am to 12.15pm, Settlement Site, Ducie Road, BS5 0AX

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PAPAYA

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.

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

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!

PAPAYA

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."

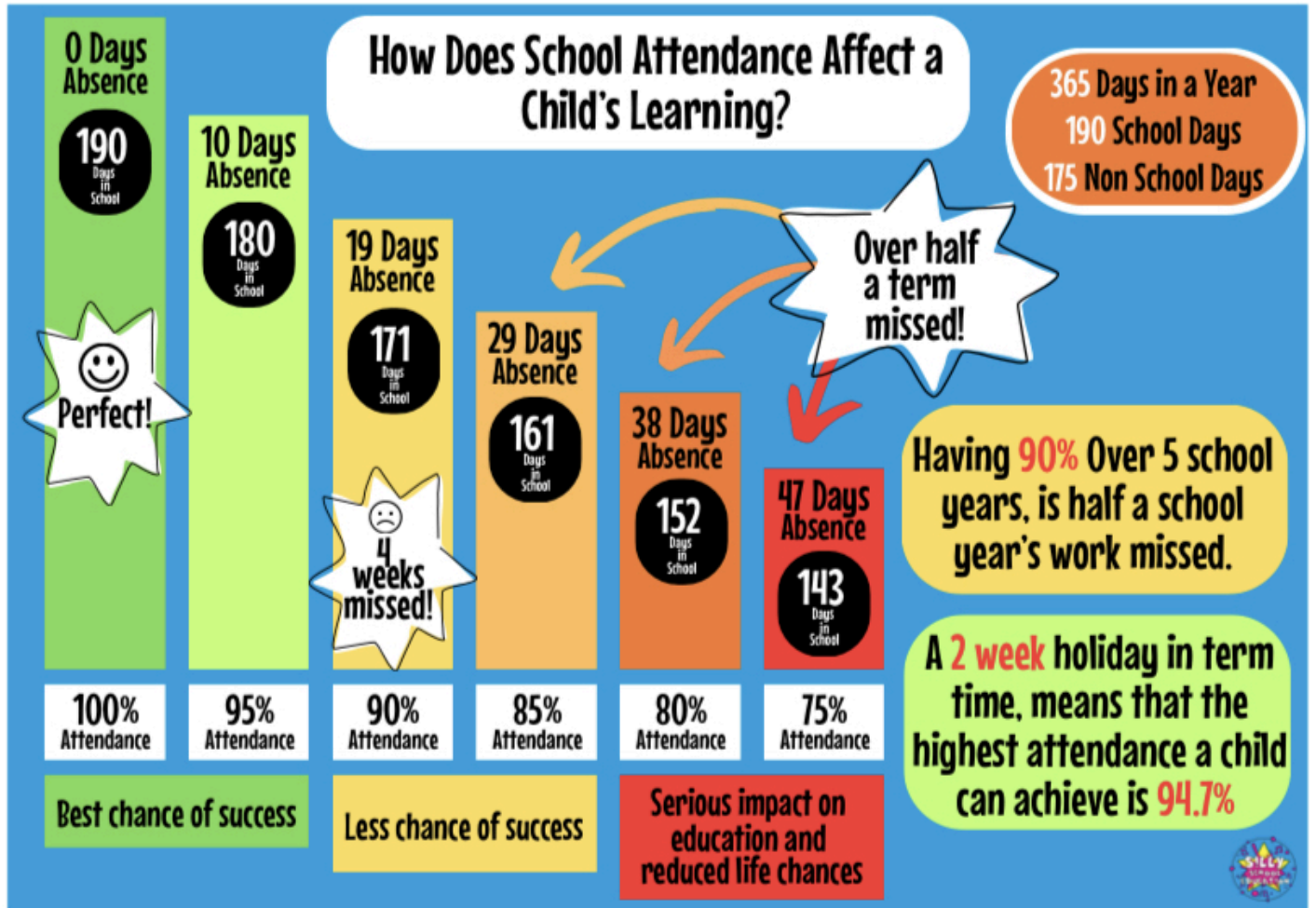
— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.



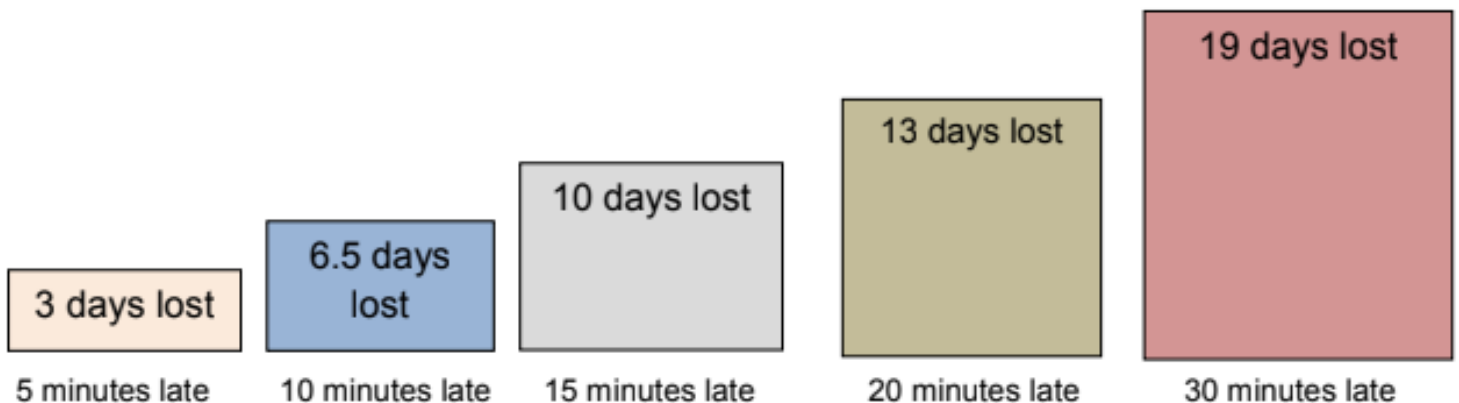
Attendance at Ashton Gate Primary School



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

