








Newsletter

Attendance



Rabbits	 Squirrels	Otters	 Woodpeckers	Foxes	 Badgers	Owls
						
89.8%	97.1%	93.4%	96.8%	96%	91.9%	93.5%
91.9% Whole School		93.6% Year to date			Target – 96%	

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of this term, I find myself reflecting with immense pride on our school's achievements. The children have settled into their new academic year brilliantly, and I am confident that this will be an extraordinary year of learning and growth.

I have to start my newsletter by mentioning our recent Harvest Festival, which was a remarkable event. Despite Rev Sandra's initial illness (from which we are pleased to report she has recovered), the celebration was truly special. The children's singing was nothing short of exceptional, and the community support was outstanding. Approximately 300 people attended, demonstrating the strong, supportive community spirit that defines our school.

I would like to propose an optional holiday project for our children. They are invited to create a piece of work that brings them joy - this could be a poster, written piece, artwork, or any form of expression that makes them happy. I encourage them to bring their completed work to school by the first Friday after half term.

I feel compelled to address a recent BBC article about the new Ofsted report card, which now combines Attendance and Behaviour judgements. While our projected grading may be amber due to attendance, I want to emphasise that this does not reflect the exceptional behaviour of our children. Our children truly make this school wonderful, and it is disappointing that attendance metrics may overshadow their remarkable conduct. To improve this grading, we all need to work together to improve the school's attendance.

Speaking of attendance, while improvements are needed, I am incredibly proud to have awarded 100% attendance certificates to 83 children today - representing over half our school population. Their dedication is commendable, and I encourage them to maintain this standard. I will write to you formally next term about term dates for the next academic year but we will be having two weeks at May half term in 2027!

We have exciting news from our village scarecrow competition. Two scarecrows representing our school are currently displayed in the village barn. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Miss Stickles, Mrs Ball, and Mrs Hodson, along with the children who supported their creation. Interestingly, my partner and I became unexpected subjects of the scarecrows - though I'm reconsidering my previous offer to host it in our field after the competition! I am just glad it wasn't figures to go on the bonfire!

Thank you to all parents who completed our recent questionnaire. Your fair and constructive responses will help us continually improve our school. I will provide a detailed response to your feedback in next term's communication.

I wish everyone a wonderful half term and remind you that we return to school on Tuesday, 28th October. Please review the calendar at the back of this newsletter for upcoming events.

Warmest regards,

Tom Bird



Celebration Worship

Isabelle

Ellie C

Freddie J

Freddie K

Eadie

Elijah C

Jasmine

Lauren B

Christopher A

Phoebe

Jackson

Tommy H

Sam M

Baylei

Compassion

Friendship

Forgiveness

Resilience

Hope

This week in worship

In our Worship this week we celebrated Harvest: through our singing, Bible readings and prayers as part of our Harvest service in Church.

We also continued the theme of 'Doing the Right thing even when it puts you at Risk'. Our Bible text was from the Old Testament: Book of Daniel, Chapter 6. We wondered if any of us had ever carried on doing something, even when everyone else decided to do something else or whether we had ever done what is easiest because it causes less trouble than disagreeing with the crowd. In our story, someone broke the rules when everyone else was obeying them, because he believed that was the way that God wanted him to behave: Daniel was a clever and important young man who helped King Darius to rule his kingdom. He was so good at his job and so trusted by the king that he was in line for promotion. Sadly, this made the king's other helpers jealous, and when people get jealous of us, they might try to hurt us in some way. The king's helpers hatched a plan to bring Daniel down. 'Down with Daniel!' they said angrily. However, they just couldn't find fault with Daniel's work. This made them even angrier. The king's helpers knew that Daniel was a man of God, who always put God first in his life. They came up with a plan, then hurried to tell the king. 'King Darius. You are indeed the greatest king ever to live. We think you should issue a law that in the next 30 days, all people should bow down and worship you alone. The king liked the idea. Daniel went upstairs, threw his window wide open, got down on his knees and prayed out loud, not just once, but three times a day, as he had always done before. 'Down with Daniel!' the men said. They hurried to King Darius to tell him. The king was upset, he liked Daniel, but a law was a law after all. 'Have him taken to the lions!' he ordered. And what did God do? He shut the lions' mouths. When Daniel was brought out with not a hair on his head harmed, King Darius issued another decree; all the people in his Kingdom must obey Daniel's God. Daniel showed the way to obey God in the most terrifying of circumstances and he changed the mind of a powerful ruler.

I wonder if there are any situations in the world today where people are standing up for justice by opposing those in power. I wonder how brave you need to be in such situations.



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*Dear Father God,
Please give me strength when I am
weak,
love when I feel forsaken, courage
when I am afraid,
wisdom when I feel foolish, comfort
when I am alone,
hope when I feel rejected, and peace
when I am in turmoil. Amen*



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Announcements

INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster about is [10 TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE](#) at the end of the newsletter. Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour and access. If you need help with a specific app we have not highlighted yet, please talk to Mrs



ATTENDANCE - If your child is poorly and unable to come to school, please ensure that you inform the office via telephone or leave a message on our answer phone. Can we please request that all attendance related emails are sent to the following:

Mrs Alessandra Alexander
attendance@charing.kent.sch.uk

DROP OFF

Can we please remind parents that school gates shut at **8:55am**. If you arrive late, please drop off your child/ children at the school office (Pedestrian gate).

For safeguarding reasons we do not allow parents/carers to drop off their children to their classes.



We would politely ask all parents/carers to park sensibly when dropping and while picking children off at school.

Please be considerate that the school setting is within a neighbourhood area so please be mindful of village residents.

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MEDICATION SAFETY - We understand that at times children are unwell and need to stay at home to recover, however please remember that we can administer *prescribed medication (IF REQUIRED)*, so if your child is feeling better but needs medicine, this can be brought to the office and managed as necessary. The office would be able to assist in this



Nut-free school

Please be reminded that we are a nut-free school. We have children in school who have potential life-threatening nut- allergies which can be triggered by direct or indirect contact with nuts in the environment. To keep our children safe, we request that parents please find a nut-free alternative. This also includes NUTELLA or any CHOCOLATE spread.

EAT WELL - We promote healthy eating at Charing CE Primary School and would appreciate parents adhering to the healthy eating guidelines as below:

Sweets: Please do not pack sweets or chocolate bars.

Drinks: children under 5 receive free milk with their snacks and water is available for everyone whenever they want to drink. Please do not send in fizzy drinks with your child's packed lunch.



SCHOOL DINNERS – cost £3.05

Please be reminded school meals are to be paid for in advance. Our caterers will not allow a debt to build and as of next term, any unpaid accounts will result in your child not receiving a meal and you will need to provide a packed lunch.

WRAPAROUND CARE: Both Breakfast and Afterschool club bookings are placed under this tab and payments need to be made when you book your session for your child. *This is done to avoid any payments not made.*

If payments have been made otherwise and in advance before booking the sessions, please call or email the office to book your child's space. ***Please be reminded to clear out any outstanding balances under individual accounts of your children.***



PARENT CONSENT: Please select the options given to update your child's consent

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TERM 2

27th October	School closed – Inset Day
31st October 7th November 13th November 21st November 27th November	Open Day viewings – please contact the office to book an appointment 9.30-10.30/10.45-11.45/1.30-2.30
11th November	Year 6 Trip to Parliament – more details to follow
20th November	Theatre performance of the Jungle Book – Whole School
10th December	2pm Adult led Christingle Service in the school hall – parents welcome
15th December	9.30 – KS1 Christmas performance to Parents
16th December	2 – KS1 Christmas performance to Parents
17th December	9.15 Christmas service at the church PM – Christmas Fayre in the hall
18th December	AM EYFS and KS1 – Sing along with Santa PM KS2 movie afternoon
15th December	9.30am – KS1 Christmas performance to Parents; 2.15 - Year R Nativity performance to Parents
16th December	9.30 - Year R Nativity performance to Parents; 2.15 – KS1 Christmas performance to Parents
19th December	School closed – Inset Day



Home-start is looking for volunteers.

If you would like to know more, please visit their website

<http://home-start-ashford.co.uk/volunteer/>

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Ashford Family Hubs Timetable

8th September 2025 - 17th October 2025

All of our groups and services are free to attend.

NEW

Stanhope Family Hub Coming soon

Our Family Hubs:

Ashford North
Family Hub
03000 417567
Mabledon Avenue
Ashford
TN24 8BJ

Bockhanger
Family Hub
03000 418600
Belmont Road
Kennington
Ashford
TN24 9LS

Tenterden
Family Hub
03000 418400
Recreation Ground
Road
Tenterden
TN30 6RA

Email: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Ashford North

Sports Connect
Monday
5.30pm - 7.00pm

Baby Steps
Pre-walkers only
Thursday
10.00am - 11.30am

Talking Walk In
1.00pm - 2.30pm
2nd Tuesday of the Month
Starting October 2025

Breastfeeding Support
Thursday
10.00am - 11.30am

Invite Only
Compass Wellbeing Group
Wednesday
3.30pm - 5.30pm

BeYou Project
Thursday
5.00pm - 6.30pm

Booking Only
Includes Us Too Youth Group
Wednesday
6.00pm - 8.00pm
To book email:
info@includesus2.org.uk

Invite Only
Compass Resilience Group
Friday
3.30pm - 5.30pm

Please Note: Signing in will not be available until 10 minutes before the session starts.

Bockhanger

Talking Walk In
9.30am - 11.00am
4th Monday of the Month
Not 26th October 2025

Baby Steps
Pre-walkers only
Monday
1.30pm - 3.00pm
Please note not running on
1st Monday of the month

Stay and Play
Tuesday
9.30am - 11.00am

Booking Only
Little Bookworms
Friday
10.00am - 11.00am

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

Tenterden

Child Health Clinic
Monday
9.30am - 12.30pm
Last admission 12.15pm

Baby Steps
Pre-walkers only
Tuesday
12.30pm - 2.00pm

Stay and Play
Wednesday
10.00am - 11.30am

Talking Walk In
1.00pm - 2.30pm
26th November 2025

Mildred Trust Larder
Friday
9.30am - 10.30am

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council



Ashford Family Hubs Timetable

8th September 2025 - 17th October 2025

All of our groups and services are free to attend.

NEW

Stanhope Family Hub Coming soon

Our Family Hubs:

The Willow
Family Hub
03000 418800
Halstow Way
Ashford
TN23 4EY

Waterside
Family Hub
03000 418700
Turner Close
Willesborough
TN24 0PQ

Email: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

The Willow

Booking Only
Little Bookworms
Monday
1.00pm - 2.00pm

Parent Advice Drop In
10.00am - 11.30am
Last Thursday of the Month

Stay and Play
Wednesday
9.30am - 10.30am
or 11.00am - 12.00pm

Baby Steps
Pre-walkers only
Thursday
12.30pm - 2.00pm

Booking Only
Introducing Solids
9.45am - 11.30am or
1.30pm - 2.30pm
2nd Wednesday of the Month

Child Health Clinic
Friday
9.30am - 12.30pm
Last admission 12.15pm

Talking Walk In
9.30am - 11.00am
1st Thursday of the Month

Talking Walk In
1.30pm - 3.00pm
3rd Friday of the Month

Waterside

Child Health Clinic
Monday
12.30pm - 2.30pm
Last admission 2.15pm

Stay and Play
Thursday
9.30am - 10.30am
or 11.00am - 12.00pm

Invite Only
Compass Healthy Relationships
Monday
3.30pm - 5.30pm

Young Parents Stay and Play
Friday
10.00am - 11.30am

Baby Steps
Pre-walkers only
Tuesday
1.30pm - 3.00pm

Stanhope Parish Hall TN23 5TG
Moat Housing Baby and Toddler Group



Ashford Family Hubs

Timetable

8th September 2025 - 17th October 2025

All of our groups and services are free to attend.

Our Family Hubs:

NEW Stanhope Family Hub Coming soon

Ashford North Family Hub
03000 417567
Mabledon Avenue
Ashford
TN24 8BJ

The Willow Family Hub
03000 418800
Halstow Way
Ashford
TN23 4EY

Waterside Family Hub
03000 418700
Turner Close
Willesborough
Ashford
TN24 0PQ

Email: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Adult Education Courses

Booking Only

Supporting Teens Mental Health

Ashford North Family Hub
Wednesday 17th September
10am - 12pm

Booking Only

Exploring Behaviour Strategies

The Willow Family Hub
Tuesday 14th November
1.00pm - 3pm

Booking Only

Supporting Your Child's Anxiety

Online Via Zoom
Wednesday 5th November
12.30pm - 2.30pm

Booking Only

Confident Parent Confident Child

Waterside Family Hub
Wednesday 26th November
9.30am - 11.30am

To book your place on one of these **FREE** Kent Adult Education courses please contact:

Email: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Call: 03000 418600

Go Online: KAE Family Learning

Parenting Courses

Booking Only

Baby, Family and You

Using Triple P
The Willow Family Hub
TN23 4EY
Wednesday 17th September to
Wednesday 5th November
10.00am - 12.00pm

Booking Only

Solihull Parenting

The Willow Family Hub
TN23 4EY
Thursday 2nd October -
11th December
9.30am - 11.30am

Booking Only

Strengthening Family Relationships

Ashford North Family Hub
Monday 22nd September
10.30am - 12.30pm
The Willow Family Hub
Thursday 20th November
10.00am - 12.30pm

Health

Hothfield Village Hall

TN26 1EG

Child Health Clinic

Tuesday
9.30am - 12.00pm
Last admission 11.45am

Ashford Gateway

TN23 1AS

Breastfeeding Clinic

Wednesday
9.30am - 12.30pm

Booking Only

Ready For Baby

A free session for parents to be offered expert NHS advice, led by your local Health Visiting Team.

Book your place at:
family.kent.nhs.uk/baby
or ask your Health Visitor.

Please Note: Signing in will not be available until 10 minutes before the session starts.

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

Information on our groups and sessions



Drop In

Child Health Clinic

Come along with your baby/child to speak to one of the Health Visiting Team, for information, advice and support, any worries or concerns you may have. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the end of the session. These run throughout the school holidays.

Drop In

Baby Steps

A group for pre-walkers, supporting your baby to make independent choices and respond to new experiences. Providing sensory experience and new textures to investigate. Introducing different themes and ideas to support adult and child bonding/interaction.
Limited numbers

Drop In

Stay and Play

Enjoy free play activities to support your child's development including active movement, singing and socialising. Suitable for children aged 0-4 years with their parents/carers.
Limited numbers

Drop In

Young Parents Stay and Play

This group for young parent aged 19 and under (up to 25 with SEND), provides support, advice, activities and information on a variety of subjects tailored to your needs. You can attend antenatally and postnatally and bring someone to support you.

Booking Only

Baby Massage

A 5 week course suitable for babies from 8 weeks until crawling. Parents learn a new set of massage strokes to perform on their baby, each week. Parents learn the benefits of baby massage including helping baby relax and sleep better, alleviating colic, and constipation as well as bonding with their baby. Dates will be shared after registering interest

Drop In

SEND Stay and Play

This group is for pre-school children aged 0-4 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Enjoy free play activities to support your child's development, singing and socialising. Your child does not have to have a diagnosis to attend.

11th September 2025
9th October 2025
13th November 2025
11th December 2025

Drop In

Parent Advice Drop In

A group to help you with understanding your child's needs, tips and strategies to help at home, signposting to local SEND support services and getting the best from your child's education.

25th September 2025
30th October 2025
27th November 2025

Booking Only

Introducing Solids

A Face to Face session (no siblings please) which is aimed to support you in preparation for starting solid food from around 6 months old.

10th September 2025
8th October 2025
12th November 2025
10th December 2025

To book: call 03000 418800 or email: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Drop In

Breast Feeding Support

Breast feeding support is available by a member of the Health Visiting Team.

Wednesday - Gateway Ashford
9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday - Ashford North Family Hub
10.00am - 11.30am

Drop In

Little Bookworms

A short 3 week programme for 1-4 year olds. Step into the magical world of books! Each week is themed around a well-loved story focussing on positive interaction and communication. A reading gift will be given on completion of the three sessions.
To book please call: 03000 418600

Booking Only

Solihull Parenting

A 10 week face to face parenting course aimed at anyone with a child over 1. The programme is designed to help parents and carers understand their children's behaviour and emotional needs. This course can also be adapted for children with SEND.

Healthy Start Vitamins

Are you eligible for Healthy Start Vitamins?

If so, complete this form to order Healthy Start Vitamins to your door.



Free for 2

Some 2 year olds can get up to 15 hours of free childcare per week!

For more information and how to apply:



Useful Contact Numbers:

Health Visitor
0300 123 3092

Midwife
ekhuft.ashfordmidwives@nhs.net

Please Note:

For Health and Safety please note there are room capacity limits in place.

For more information about opening times give your local Family Hub a call

@ashfordfamilyhubs



@ashfordfamilyhubs



@ashfordfamilyhubs11to19



www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

Compassion Friendship Forgiveness Resilience Hope

Information on our groups and sessions



Drop In

BeYou Project

Porchlight runs the BeYou Project to support LGBTQ+ young people to ensure they feel included, have positive mental health and a bright future. BeYou strives to promote allyship, helping to create an environment where everyone can be themselves.

For more information please email:
beyou@prochlight.org.uk or
ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Invite Only

Includes Us Too

A youth group for young people aged 14-25 with SEND. Make friends and enjoy fun together. Numbers are limited.

For more information and to book please email:
info@includesus2.org.uk

Booking Only

Strengthening Family Relationships

For families who find themselves in conflict for a variety of reasons, facing new triggers such as money or debt, a new baby, unemployment, relationships with wider family, family breakdown, health and/or mental wellbeing issues and more.

To book please visit:
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/kent-family-hub>

Invite Only

Compass Groups

This group is for 11-19 (25 SEND) for young people to support their emotional wellbeing, and build self esteem and confidence. The group meets in a calm and accessible environment and the young people have time within the session to practice what they have learnt.

For more information please email:
ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Referral Only

Little Talkers

A 6 week course for parents/carers and their children, to learn new techniques along with useful hints and tips for developing speech. During these sessions there will be focussed 'fun' activities for parents/carers to do with their child as well as some group time to improve listening skills and turn taking.

Suitable for parents and their children aged 2-5 years.

Drop In

Talking Walk In

For pre-school children and their parent. You can speak to a speech and language therapist with your child, if you have concerns with their speech. They will provide you with advice and ideas, signpost you to other services or refer you to their service. Runs at different Hubs throughout the Month.

Drop In

Sports Connect

Multi sport with coaches from Sports Connect.
 For ages 11 - 19 years old.

Booking Only

Baby Family and You

This is a 4 week course to help you understand your baby's cues, promote social and cognitive development, learn strategies to cope with crying. This positive parenting programme uses the content of Triple P for Baby.

To book please call: 03000 418700

@ashfordfamilyhubs



@ashfordfamilyhubs



@ashfordfamilyhubs11to19



Healthy Start Vitamins

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Some 2 year olds can get up to 15 hours of free childcare per week!

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Useful Contact Numbers:

Health Visitor
 0300 123 3092

Midwife
ekhuft.ashfordmidwives@nhs.net

Please Note:

For Health and Safety please note there are room capacity limits in place.

For more information about opening times give your local Family Hub a call

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

Email: office@charing.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.kent.gov.uk Telephone: 01233 712277

Email: office@charing.kent.sch.uk

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