



# *Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter*

It has been another busy and exciting week at Ashton Hayes, with the Book Fair, Comic Relief, and Cross Country standing out as particular highlights.

A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to support the Book Fair, as well as those who helped transport and cheer on the children at the Cross Country event—your support is greatly appreciated.

This was my first school cross country event since my time at Frodsham Manor House nearly twenty years ago, and it was a real pleasure to be part of it again. It was wonderful to see that, even after all these years, the event continues to thrive and that children still enjoy it just as much as ever.

## **Owls:**

This week in our class, we have had another fantastic week of learning across all subjects. In English, we have focused on completing our final piece of writing plan and have begun writing our first paragraph. The way everyone has been applying their writer's knowledge in this opening paragraph has been truly remarkable. In Maths, Year 3 have been revising previous learning, particularly focusing on measuring and key concepts from earlier in the year. The resilience and effort shown in recalling and applying this knowledge has been excellent.

In Art, we created our final masterpieces inspired by cave paintings, using all the techniques we have developed over the past few weeks. The results were wonderful to see. In PE, we are thoroughly enjoying our dance topic and are doing very well learning and performing the different movements. In Geography, we completed our work on desert formation and have now started creating our PowerPoint presentations. In PSHE, we focused on friendship and explored how to manage different social situations in a positive way.

## **Peregrines:**

It's been another busy and productive week in Peregrines! In Maths, Year 5 have been building their understanding of decimals and showing great confidence when tackling new challenges. Year 4 have been learning all about time. In English, we explored an example text about Jotnar the Cyclops, where the children did a fantastic job identifying the writer's knowledge and spotting how information was presented. There were some brilliant discussions and thoughtful ideas shared. Our Geography lessons saw us comparing physical and human features across different regions of the UK. The children showed great curiosity and were able to make some excellent comparisons. In DT, the class have really enjoyed getting creative by designing and making different sliders for a pop-up book. It's been



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wonderful to see their ideas come to life and their enthusiasm throughout the process. Well done, Peregrines. Keep up the fantastic work!

## **Buzzards:**

Buzzards have had another wonderful week! We're really enjoying our text, 'The Ways of the Wolf' and this week, we've started debating whether or not wolves should be reintroduced into the wild in the UK. We're working towards writing a balanced argument, sharing views for both sides of the argument and remaining impartial. Maths has been fun and practical this week. We've been focusing on area, perimeter and volume - it was fun to get the multilink out to support our understanding of how volume is calculated. In geography, we've been exploring OS maps and practising using 6-figure grid references. At first, we found it super tricky but we're getting the hang of it. Some of us enjoyed looking at a big OS map and spotting our school and our houses!

Mrs Mochrie and I had the pleasure of 'Buzzgrine Class' on Friday morning, made up of the Peregrines and Buzzards who didn't attend cross country. We had a lovely morning up in the forest where we played the Buzzard invented game, 'Risk it for a Biscuit', had some choosing time to work on projects and had popcorn made on the fire!



## **Kestrels:**

What a beautiful, sunshine-filled week it has been in Kestrels... we have lived outside, making the most of every sunshiney moment.



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We are deep into our learning about growing, and the children's understanding is amazing. Our peas have been a constant source of excitement, with roots and shoots now clearly visible through our compostable seed pots, the children have been able to see the growing process happening before their eyes. The wonder and fascination this has sparked has been magic. We have also planted sunflower seeds, cress and sweet peas this week, continuing to build a brilliant understanding of the seed cycle.

In the forest, we have been learning a poem together, and it has been a joy to hear the children performing it with confidence and expression, surrounded by nature.

We also took time to celebrate St Patrick's Day, sharing Irish stories and creating beautiful shamrocks through pepper printing...messy, just the way we like it!

Our curiosity has led us to investigate a wide range of seeds, exploring what is inside different fruits and vegetables. This has inspired so much independent writing, with the children eager to record their discoveries, ideas and observations. We continue to be so impressed by their enthusiasm to write and share their thinking.

Teamwork has been shining this week too, particularly as the children worked together to build the tallest beanstalk they could. There was so much perseverance, problem-solving and collaboration. Similarly, the care, time and effort the children have put into finishing their beanstalk collages has been gorgeous!

Next week, we are looking forward to turning our focus onto ourselves, thinking about just how much we have grown and all the things we can do now that we couldn't do as babies.





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## Sparrowhawks:

The children in Sparrowhawks continue to impress us with the way that they have responded to Mrs Booth and the absence of Mrs Cuthbert. The children decided that they wanted to make a card for Mrs Cuthbert and spent break and lunchtime making sure everyone signed it – even collecting some flowers! Mrs Cuthbert was delighted when I dropped them off for her. Thank you so much for your kindness Sparrowhawks!

## Attendance:

**A great week for attendance yet again – three superb weeks, one after the other. Thank you for supporting your children to be in school – it really does make a huge difference!**

Class	This week's attendance	Cumulative attendance for the year
Kestrel	99.43%	97.03%
Sparrowhawk	97.85%	94.9%
Owl	98.08%	97.12%
Peregrine	98.21%	97.55%
Buzzard	99.51%	96.62%
Whole school	98.52%	96.59%

update for schools about changes to Government support for residents who need financial support.

As previously shared, the Household Support Fund will end on 31 March 2026 and will be replaced by the Crisis and Resilience Fund from 1 April 2026.



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**Please see the message below from the Schools relationship team about changes to holiday household support fund.**

## **Families receiving Free School Meals**

Families receiving Free School Meals, who previously got automatic payments during the school holidays (as part of the Household Support Fund), will now need to apply to the Crisis and Resilience fund if they need help during a financial crisis.

We understand that the holidays can be difficult for families on low income, so applications will open early, on Wednesday, 18 March 2026, for these families.

[School Holiday Support Payment | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

While we will do our best to process applications as quickly as possible, if there is a high volume of applications, the Council cannot guarantee that approved funding will be paid by 2 April 2026. To help us prioritise your request, please submit your application **by 25 March 2026**. You can still apply after this date, but it may be less likely that your payment will be made by 2 April 2026.

If you're not in receipt of Free Schools Meals but need help with a sudden financial crisis, you can apply for the Crisis and Resilience Fund from 1 April. More information about the Crisis and Resilience Fund, and how to apply from 1 April 2026, can be found here:

[Crisis and Resilience Fund | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

## **Get support now**

If families require support now, they can also visit the Council's cost of living support webpages which bring together information about financial help, advice services, and emergency assistance:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/benefits-and-welfare-help/cost-of-living>

There is also support available through the Holiday Activities and Food Fund (HAF): [Cheshire West Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

And on Live Well Cheshire West where residents can search for a range of services including food provision, activities, and more: [Home | Live Well Cheshire West](#)

**Mr Bell**



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