



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Welcome back to the final half term of the academic year. I hope that everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable break with family and friends.

Before looking ahead to another busy and exciting few weeks, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what a privilege it was to accompany our Year 6 children on their recent residential visit to Anglesey. Throughout the three days, they were an absolute credit to themselves, their families and our school. They approached every challenge with bravery and resilience, supported one another brilliantly, and consistently demonstrated the politeness, respect and kindness that we value so highly at Ashton Hayes. Whether abseiling down cliffs, tackling water-based activities or simply encouraging a friend, they were truly impressive in every way. It was a joy to spend time with them and create memories that I am sure will stay with them for many years to come.

Photos and social media posts from school (during residential visits)

As our residential visits for this academic year have now concluded, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff who have given up their own time to accompany our children on these memorable experiences. Whether supporting our Year 4 or Year 6 pupils, residential visits require staff to be on duty from early in the morning until late at night, often with no downtime. Their commitment, care and dedication to our children is something of which our school is incredibly proud.

It has been brought to my attention that a small number of parents have expressed disappointment with the quantity and quality of photographs shared during one of our recent residential visits, and the frequency with which updates were posted on social media.

Whilst I fully appreciate that parents enjoy seeing photographs and receiving updates whilst their children are away, I feel it is important to clarify our priorities during educational visits and residential experiences. First and foremost, our responsibility is to ensure that every child is safe, happy, well cared for and fully engaged in the activities and experiences being provided. This must, and always will take precedence over taking photographs or updating social media.

During residential visits, staff are actively supervising activities, supporting children, managing welfare needs, encouraging participation and ensuring that all children get the very most from their experience. These responsibilities rightly demand their full attention. Taking photographs and posting updates is therefore something that is done when time permits and should be viewed as an added bonus rather than an expectation.

As communicated before visits, internet access is often limited and opportunities to upload photographs can be restricted. Furthermore, many of the most memorable moments of a



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

residential are those where staff are fully immersed in supporting the children rather than standing behind a camera. Because of this, during our most recent Year 6 residential, we bought a camera, specifically for the children use themselves, to take photographs with.

Please be assured that staff do take photographs whenever practical and safe to do so, and these are primarily intended to help preserve memories of the experience for the children. However, we cannot guarantee the number, quality or frequency of images shared whilst a visit is taking place.

I hope parents will join me in thanking our staff team for their professionalism, commitment and willingness to give up their own family time to provide these invaluable opportunities for our children. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from the children themselves is testament to the care, effort and enthusiasm that staff bring to every visit.

As we look ahead to future educational visits and residential experiences, our approach will remain unchanged: our priority will always be ensuring that children are safe, happy and making the very most of every opportunity. Any photographs and social media updates shared during a visit will continue to be exactly that – a bonus, rather than the primary purpose of the trip.

Thank you, as always, for your understanding, support and appreciation of the staff who make these experiences possible.

Rock Kidz:

Today also saw the return of our much-anticipated Rock Kidz Day, and what a fantastic day it was! The children looked absolutely amazing in their rock-inspired outfits and fully embraced a day filled with singing, dancing, laughter and fun. More importantly, the day carried a powerful message about kindness, friendship and treating others with respect. The energy, enthusiasm and participation from children across the school were wonderful to see and the positive messages shared throughout the day will undoubtedly stay with them long after the music has stopped.

A huge thank you to our incredible PTFA for funding this experience. Their continued support provides our children with opportunities such as this that enrich school life and create lasting memories.



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter



Cheshire West Parent Carer Childcare Survey 2026:

We are supporting the Local Authority to gather views from families about **childcare for school-age children**, including before and after school and holiday provision.

Your feedback will help shape future childcare services in our area and ensure they meet the needs of local families.



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

- The survey takes **around 10 minutes**
- Your responses will directly inform local planning
- It is open to all parents/carers of school-age children

👉 **Complete the survey here:** [CWAC Parent Carer Childcare Survey - 2026](#)

The survey closes on Tuesday 30th June 2026.

We would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to share your views and experiences.

Thank you for your support.

Owls:

What a fantastic start to our final half term of the year in Owl Class!

In English, we have begun exploring our new text, *Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau*. We have been making predictions about the story and discussing the life of this inspiring explorer. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the opening chapters and are excited to find out more.

In Maths, we have continued our learning about time, focusing on converting minutes into seconds and counting in hours. We are nearly at the end of this topic and will complete our review next week. Please continue to practise telling the time at home, as this really helps to build confidence.

In Geography, we have started our new topic on rivers, coasts and waterfalls. We have already identified the key features found along the journey of a river and are looking forward to learning more about how rivers shape our landscape.

In Computing, we have begun our new project, developing our skills and confidence using Paint and Word. The children have enjoyed exploring the different tools and creating their own digital work.

In PE, we were excited to try badminton, a sport that was new to many of us. The children showed great enthusiasm, determination and sportsmanship throughout the lessons. Well done, Owl Class, on another week of fantastic effort!



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Peregrines:

Peregrines have made a fantastic start to the new half term and have returned to school with enthusiasm, positivity and a great attitude towards learning.

In Geography, we have begun our new fieldwork topic on waste disposal, exploring where our rubbish goes and how we can help protect the environment. Our English learning got off to an exciting start when the class discovered a mysterious letter hidden inside a wallet! This intriguing discovery has sparked lots of discussion and will form the basis of our writing over the coming weeks.

The Year 4's have been working hard in preparation for their Multiplication Tables Check, showing determination and improving their recall speed and accuracy each day. In Art, the children have proudly completed their final clay sculptures inspired by sea creatures. The finished pieces are fantastic, demonstrating creativity, perseverance and excellent sculpting skills. Well done to everyone for such a successful first week back – keep up the great work!

Buzzards:

What an exciting first week back for Buzzard Class! One holiday ended and another one began! Buzzards had an amazing time this week at the Conway centre and they truly were a joy to take on residential. Myself, Mrs Mochire and Mr Bell were SO impressed with our children and the way in which they conducted themselves for the whole trip. They challenged themselves, showed amazing resilience, supported one another, used beautiful manners and most importantly, they were asleep at a reasonable hour! Buzzard parents - your children really are wonderful! I've never taken away a group so responsible and trustworthy.

After returning from Conway, all a little tired, Buzzards spent time looking through photographs from the trip and creating memory books. They then had a very exciting Thursday afternoon of auditions for our upcoming show. The parts for the show have been cast and rehearsals have begun - they are all so perfect for their roles! It was great to see some unexpected talent and just how many children wanted to perform and sing! It was also lovely to see how kind and supportive the children were of each other when the roles were announced. There were no disappointed faces, only genuine happiness for their friends.



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Kestrels:

What a brilliant week back it has been in Kestrels, with so much wonderful learning taking place.

We are becoming true insect experts as we prepare to care for our very own caterpillars and watch them grow into butterflies. This week we have learnt the "rules" of being an insect (including naming them), designed our own insects, imagined what we might look like as butterflies, collected bugs and even created homes for them. We have also been enjoying the story *Frank is a Butterfly* - we love Frank and his positive, happy outlook on life!

Our phonics learning continues to shine through in our writing, and we have been using our sounds to write some amazing sentences about everything we have been discovering. In Maths, we have been exploring doubles, using creepy crawlies and their many legs to help us spot patterns and build our understanding.

We had our whole class photograph taken this week. The photographer told us he thought we were Year 6 because we were so sensible and grown up! We couldn't have been prouder of how wonderfully the children represented Kestrels. And finishing it, we have rocked all day long...thank you to all of you for such amazing costumes, hair and fake tattoos! The children look amazing!

Sparrowhawks:

Sparrowhawks have got straight back into their learning this week after a lovely week off! We have enjoyed hearing about their fabulous adventures in the sunshine last week. The Year One children were able to finally hear the end of our Black Rock story after completing their most fantastic rewrites of the story. In maths Year One children have been exploring fractions and have been learning about halves and quarters. We have been using keyboards in our computing lesson - learning where the different keys are and how to use a Word document. In science we have started learning about habitats and what animals need to survive in their different habitats - the children have been displaying some fantastic knowledge.

We are very excited for Rock Kidz and looking forward to becoming mini rock stars! I'm sure you will hear all about it on Friday evening!



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Attendance:

Another really solid week of attendance. We are now up to 96.75% for the year! This is 0.5% above our target. Thank you so much for continuing to support school and your children with this!

Class	This week's attendance	Cumulative attendance for the year
Kestrel	96.97%	96.97%
Sparrowhawk	96.42%	95.34%
Owl	96.43%	97.29%
Peregrine	96.83%	97.45%
Buzzard	98.91%	96.94%
Whole school	97%	96.75%

What Parents Need to Know about Image-Altering Filters

Image-altering filters are now embedded in everyday online interactions, from playful effects to more subtle appearance-enhancing tools. This guide examines how these features can influence perceptions of beauty and reality, particularly for children and young people navigating social media. It highlights how filtered content can quietly shape expectations and online behaviours.

Focusing on risks such as low self-esteem, social pressure and hidden advertising, the guide also addresses more serious concerns like sexualised edits and blurred boundaries between real and altered images. It provides supportive, practical advice to help parents build media literacy, encourage confidence and promote healthier relationships with online content.

Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IMAGE-ALTERING FILTERS

From playful puppy ears on Snapchat to 'beauty mode' on TikTok, image-altering filters are now a routine part of how young people communicate online. While many are harmless, others subtly reshape people's faces and bodies. This can blur the line between reality and edited content, potentially influencing how children and young people see themselves and others.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALTERED BEAUTY STANDARDS

Many 'beauty' filters smooth skin, reshape facial features, or adjust body proportions. Over time, repeated exposure to these filters can shift a child's idea of what is 'normal' or attractive, creating unrealistic expectations about their own and others' appearances.

PRESSURE TO LOOK PERFECT

Filtered images can often attract more 'likes' and positive comments. This can encourage children and young people to rely on editing tools to gain others' approval, rather than feeling confident in their natural appearance.

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

Regularly viewing heavily filtered content can lead to comparisons with unrealistic images. This is linked to body dissatisfaction and reduced self-esteem, particularly among children and teenagers.

HIDDEN ADVERTISING

Some filters are linked to beauty products or trends, subtly promoting third-party brands. Children and young people may not recognise this as advertising, while also sharing personal data – such as facial images and usage habits – with apps and third parties.

BLURRED REALITY

As filters become more advanced and natural-looking, it can be difficult for children and young people to distinguish edited content from real life, especially when filters are used in everyday photos and videos.

SEXUALISED EDITS

Certain tools can make users appear older or more sexualised. This may attract unwanted attention, increase the risk of images being shared without consent, and expose young people to unsafe interactions.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly about filters, such as how they work and why people use them. Ask the children and young people in your care how filtered images make them feel and encourage honest discussion without judgement.

CHALLENGE 'PERFECT' POSTS

When viewing content together, gently point out the signs of editing, filters, or posing techniques. This builds critical thinking and helps children and young people question unrealistic images.

REINFORCE WHAT'S REAL

Help children and young people understand that filtered images are digitally altered and are not an accurate reflection of real life. Emphasise that they don't need to meet these artificial standards.

PROMOTE OFFLINE CONFIDENCE

Encourage activities that build self-worth beyond appearance, such as sports, hobbies, friendships, and creative interests, so that confidence isn't tied solely to online validation.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a digital parenting expert and founder of Kids N Clicks, a platform dedicated to helping parents navigate the online world alongside their children. She is an expert contributor for Internet Matters, offering practical guidance on emerging online safety issues. Her insights have been featured by the BBC, The Telegraph, TalkTV, and other major media outlets, supporting families across the UK.



See full reference list on our website



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Have a great week!

Mr Bell