Our School Newsletter | Friday 6 November 2026

A warm welcome to Autumn 2

A little note from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to everyone! I hope you all enjoyed a lovely half-term break and managed to find some time to relax, recharge and enjoy being together as a family.

After what was a particularly long and busy eight-week first half term, I think it is fair to say that everyone was ready for a well-earned rest, children and staff alike! It has been absolutely lovely to welcome the children back this week, and I have been so impressed by how positively they have returned to school. There has been a real sense of enthusiasm, happiness and readiness to learn throughout the school, and it has been wonderful to see the children settling straight back into their routines, friendships and learning with such confidence.

As I have visited classrooms this week, I have been reminded once again of just what a special little school we have. The children's positive attitudes, their kindness towards one another and their genuine excitement about learning are a real pleasure to see. It has certainly been a fantastic start to the new half term.

And what an exciting few weeks we have ahead of us! The run-up to Christmas is always a particularly special time in a primary school, and this year promises to be no exception. We have class trips, pantomimes, nativity performances, Christmas carols in the church, maths and sporting competitions, and plenty of other exciting opportunities and experiences to look forward to. There really is so much happening, and I know the children will throw themselves into it all with their usual enthusiasm!

Of course, alongside all these wonderful experiences, there will be plenty of important learning taking place in our classrooms too. We are determined to make every week count, whilst also ensuring that the children enjoy all the little moments that make this time of year so memorable.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a lovely first week back, and I am really looking forward to sharing all the exciting things that the coming weeks have in store for our children.

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone!

Martin Bell

Headteacher

FREE Storyhouse tickets for our families!

As part of our exciting new partnership with Storyhouse Theatre in Chester, made possible through the fantastic fundraising efforts of our PTFA and the events that you so generously support, our families have been offered FREE tickets to see Myth Monster at The Garret Theatre this Sunday, 8 November.
Myth Monster combines performance, music, sound and movement, inviting children to get involved, dance and explore stories about ourselves, our ancestors and the future.
Sunday 8 November — 11:00 am and 2:00 pm
Booking code: MYTHMONSTERCOM
Book your free tickets at storyhouse.com
We are incredibly grateful to Storyhouse, our wonderful PTFA and everyone who supports their fundraising events. We hope lots of families enjoy the show!

Children in Need — Friday 13 November

We're looking forward to supporting BBC Children in Need next Friday! Children are invited to wear their own clothes, with a spotty theme if possible. We can't wait to see everyone looking wonderfully spotty! Families who would like to make a donation can do so online: Donate to BBC Children in Need. There is no obligation to donate, and every child is welcome to join in the fun. Thank you for your kindness and support!

Kestrels

What a lovely first week back we have had in Kestrels! I missed them so much! After what sounds like some wonderful half-term adventures, the children have returned full of stories, smiles and excitement to be back together. And goodness me, they have settled straight back into school life as though they had never been away!
With Bonfire Night this week, we have been thinking about fireworks and how we can keep ourselves safe while enjoying the celebrations. We have been busy making our very own nature sparklers using beautiful natural materials to create the magic ... as well as glitter, of course!
Our phonics has picked up right where we left off, with new sounds to learn and lots of opportunities to show off just how much we already know. We have also been sharing our half-term adventures through writing, and it has been wonderful to see the children so eager to put their ideas onto paper. In number... we have been counting, lots! Continuing to take note of what makes amazing counting and what mistakes can happen along the way.
Another gorgeous week with our very special little people. We are so proud of how confidently they have returned, and we cannot wait to see what this half term brings!
Have a wonderful weekend everybody, and enjoy any firework celebrations safely!

Sparrowhawks

Welcome back!

Sparrowhawks have returned from their lovely week off school and are ready to start their learning again. We have now finished writing instructions in our English based on the book King Lion. The progress the children have made in their writing is wonderful to see.

In maths, we have been consolidating our number sentences and exploring the different ways to make eight, including how many more we need to add to a given number.

We have had an introduction to our History topic on the Great Fire of London, finding out where it started and how it spread. We are really looking forward to our school trip next week to become history detectives and learn more about it!

In PSED we have been thinking closely about our bee rules and what makes a kind friend. We have created some beautiful bee drawings! In phonics we have learnt the sounds i-e, o-e, u-e and c.



Owls

What a brilliant first week back after half term! It has been lovely to see everyone return with such positive attitudes, enthusiasm and a real readiness to learn.

We started the week by finishing and editing our final pieces of writing from our previous English text. The children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of their finished work! We have also begun exploring our new story, Noah's New Home, making predictions about what might happen. During our reading sessions, we have started enjoying our new text, Pinocchio, which has already sparked plenty of interest and excitement!

In Maths, we have launched our new topic of multiplication and division, and the children have shown great enthusiasm and determination to become multiplication superstars! Please encourage your child to practise their times tables as often as possible at home, as having a secure knowledge of these will be incredibly important throughout this topic and will really help build their confidence.

We also took some time this week to revisit our class contract, routines and expectations. I was particularly impressed with the children's maturity, thoughtful contributions and positive attitudes. They have certainly shown that they are ready for another fantastic half term!

In History, we revisited everything we learnt about Toys and Childhood before travelling much further back in time to introduce our exciting new topic, Stone Age to Bronze Age. We have already started thinking like archaeologists, and we are looking forward to bringing our learning to life during our school trip later this half term.

One of the highlights of our week was our visit to our local church, where we put our sketching and watercolour skills into practice. Inspired by the work of artist John Piper, the children created some absolutely wonderful artwork. I was blown away by their creativity, attention to detail and the beautiful masterpieces they produced. We certainly have some budding artists in Owl Class!

To finish off an action-packed week, we have also kicked off our new sport in PE – Tag Rugby! The children have made a fantastic start, showing plenty of enthusiasm and energy, and we are looking forward to developing our skills over the coming weeks.

What a wonderful start to the new half term!

Peregrines

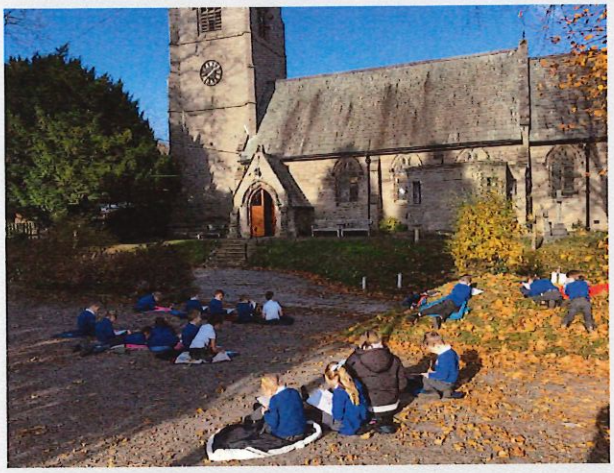
Peregrines have made a good start to the new half term. After the holidays, we have spent some time refreshing our memories of our class contract and reminding ourselves of our behaviour expectations, including how we can make breaktimes and lunchtimes enjoyable for everyone. The children then put their ideas together to create some fantastic PowerPoint presentations, which they confidently shared with the rest of the class.

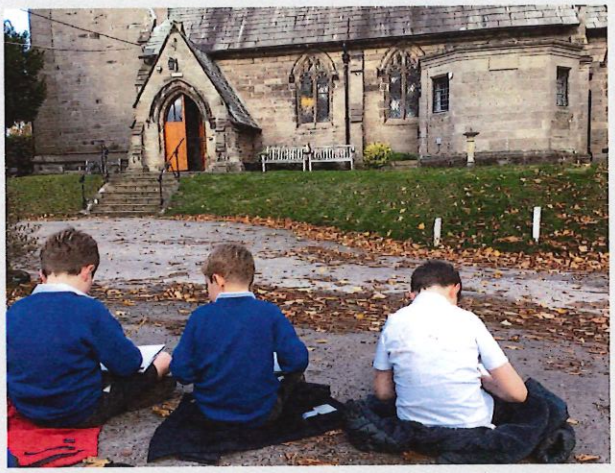
In Art, we have started our new project all about drawing faces, beginning with some lovely pencil sketches of our own self-portraits. In Maths, Year 4 have kicked off a focus on times tables and have been working hard to learn their 6 times tables. We even had a go at singing them to the tune of Taylor Swift's 'Shake It Off' – a catchy way to help us remember them!

Well done, Peregrines, for such a positive start to the half term.

Owls | Our church artwork

Sketching and watercolours inspired by artist John Piper









Buzzards

It's been a lovely first week back in Buzzard class and we've enjoyed catching up with friends and sharing our holiday news. We've taken it a little slower this week and made time for the really important things that can sometimes feel rushed when school gets busy.

We've spent time thinking about what makes a great learning environment and how we all contribute to that through our attitudes, choices and actions. We've explored the impact of interruptions, not only on the speaker, but on those listening too and we've considered the invisible choices that we can all make as a team to create a calm and happy classroom. We've also been looking at respect, how we can approach conflict maturely, how we can take ownership of our choices (including the wrong ones!) and make things right again. The children have considered these ideas really thoughtfully and maturely and there have been some brilliant discussions!

In the mornings, we've been gathering ideas and planning a diary entry based on the story I Go Quiet. We've been trying to put ourselves into the character's shoes and imagine how she might be thinking and feeling. In Maths, Year 6 have started working on fractions.

A wonderful bonfire evening!

What a lovely evening we enjoyed at our recent bonfire gathering!

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA and Mrs Mochrie for organising such a special event for our school community. It was fantastic to see so many children and families coming together, enjoying the warmth of the fire, delicious hot chocolate and, of course, some rather lovely s'mores!

There was such a happy, relaxed atmosphere, and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves and spending time together.

These are the moments that make our little school community so special, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped organise the evening and to all the families who came along to support it.

Thank you for making it such a lovely occasion!



SENDCo update — welcoming Miss Fray

As many of you will already know, Mrs Bacchus will be leaving Ashton Hayes at the end of this term.

We are delighted to share that Miss Fray will be taking on the role of our school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) from January.

We are absolutely thrilled that Miss Fray has agreed to take on this important role. She already knows our school, our children and our families so well, and we know she will bring her warmth, enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring every child receives the support they need to thrive.

Over the coming weeks, Miss Fray and Mrs Bacchus will be working closely together to ensure a smooth and thorough handover. This will allow us to maintain continuity of support for our children and families, which is incredibly important to us.

We know that changes in staffing can sometimes bring questions or worries, particularly for families whose children receive additional support. Please be reassured that ensuring every child continues to receive the very best care, support and opportunities remains our absolute priority.

We are really looking forward to supporting Miss Fray in her new role and are delighted that we can make this transition with such a strong sense of continuity.

Birthday treats — a little reminder about food allergies

We absolutely love celebrating birthdays at Ashton Hayes, and it is always such a lovely gesture when families send in treats for their child to share with their classmates. We really do appreciate the kindness and thought that goes into this.

We would, however, like to ask for your help with something very important. As a school, we have a number of children with food allergies, some of which are particularly severe. Keeping every child safe is, of course, our absolute priority.

With this in mind, if you would like to send birthday treats into school for children to share, please ensure that they are shop-bought, in their original packaging and clearly labelled with ingredients and allergen information.

Unfortunately, this means that we are unable to give out homemade cakes, biscuits or other homemade treats, however delicious and thoughtfully prepared they may be! Without clear ingredient and allergen information, we simply cannot be confident that they are safe for everyone.

We know that families send these treats in with the very best intentions, and we certainly don't want to discourage anyone from celebrating their child's special day. We just need to make sure that we can do so safely and inclusively.

Thank you so much for your understanding and support. It really does make a difference in helping us look after all the children in our Ashton Hayes family.

For further information, please see our school's Allergy Policy, available on the Ashton Hayes Primary School website.

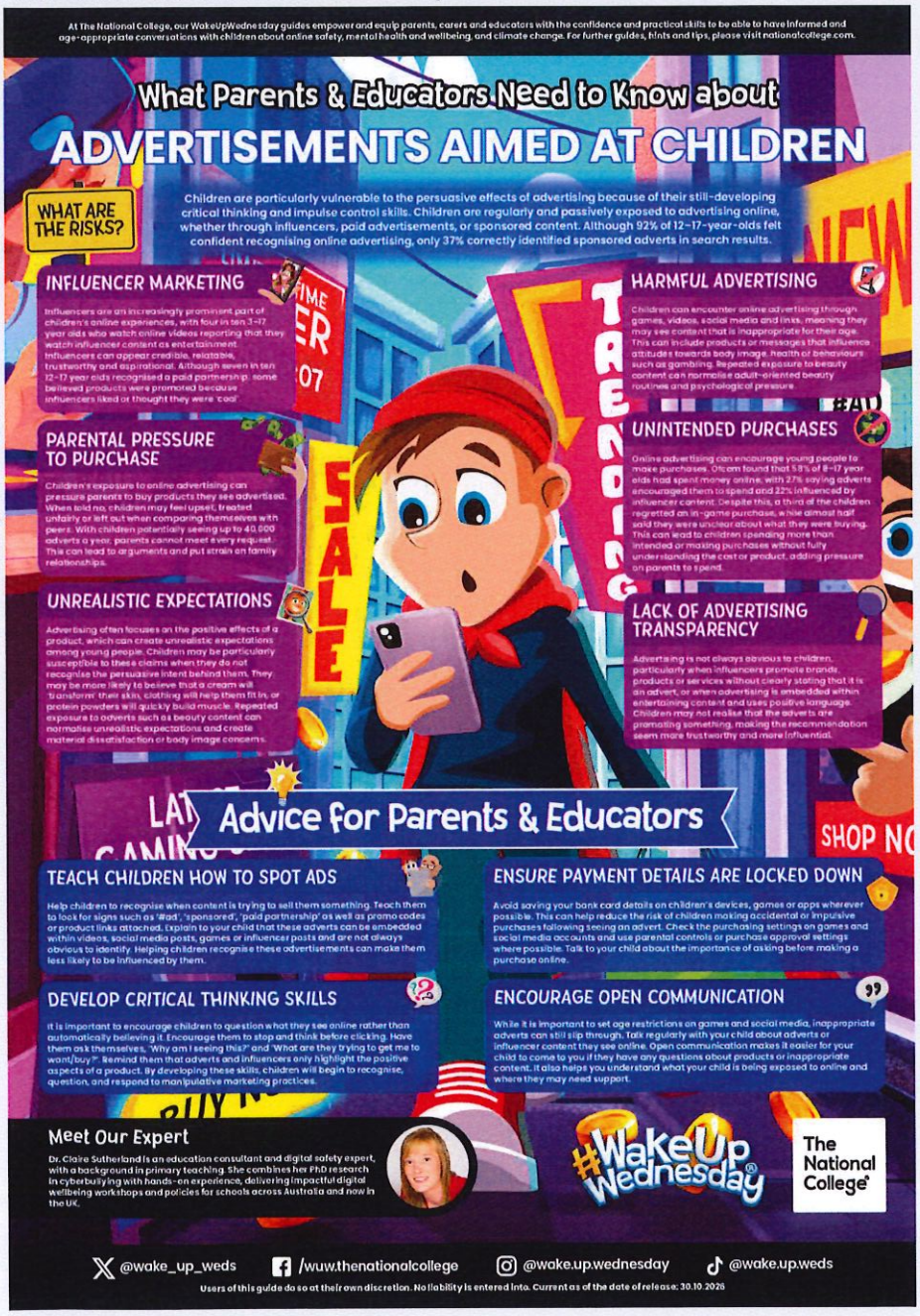
Wake Up Wednesday — advertising aimed at children

Children are surrounded by online advertising, often without even realising it. From sponsored posts and influencer promotions to adverts hidden within games and videos, it isn't always easy for children to recognise when someone is trying to sell them something.

This week's Wake Up Wednesday guide explores how online advertising can influence children's choices, expectations and spending habits. It also highlights some of the risks, including misleading claims, unrealistic expectations and pressure to make purchases.

The guide offers practical advice to help parents support their children in recognising advertising, thinking critically about what they see online and making safer, more informed decisions.

Please take a few moments to read the guide below.



Our attendance this week

A fantastic week, with Buzzards achieving 100% attendance! Whole-school attendance was 98.26%.

Class	This week	Year to date
Kestrels	96.43%	98.49%
Sparrowhawks	96.60%	96.65%
Owls	99.05%	96.34%
Peregrines	97.96%	98.59%
Buzzards	100%	97.88%
Whole school	**98.26%**	**97.53%**

Celebration assembly — well done!

Kestrels: Selina & Evelyn
Sparrowhawks: Dylan
Owls: Alice & Joe
Peregrines: Benji & Reuben
Buzzards: Bella & Millie
A huge well done to all our celebration children!

Community news — Christmas at the community shop

Ashton Hayes & Mouldsworth Community Shop invites families to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies on Saturday 5 December at 10:30 am.
There is also a Luxury Christmas Hamper Prize Draw. Spend over £10 in a single transaction in the weeks leading up to Christmas for entry into the draw (terms and conditions apply). For details, see the shop's Facebook page, website or ask in-store.

Community news — Blakemere fireworks

Saturday 7 November — gates open at 5:30 pm, with fireworks at 7:30 pm. Fireworks set to music, DJ and main-stage entertainment, funfair, children's mascots, food and drink, and free parking.
Blakemere Village, Cheshire, CW8 2EB. Tickets from £12.50 for under-9s and £15 for ages 10+.
blakemereevents.co.uk.

