

# Ashleigh News



Issue 27

9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, and Happy New Year to everyone. We hope you all had a good break and found some time to relax and enjoy being together.

It's been lovely to see the children return so positively and settle straight back into school life. The spring term is always a busy one, and we have lots to look forward to. This term, we're especially excited to be continuing our Wild One outdoor learning sessions. These give the children valuable time outdoors to explore, work together, and learn in a different way – something they always respond to with enthusiasm.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support. We're looking forward to a happy and productive start to 2026.

Warm regards,

Mr. Matthews and the entire Ashleigh Staff

## WINTER CLOTHING

As the colder weather continues, we would like to remind families of the importance of children coming to school dressed appropriately for outdoor play. The children go outside to play every day, unless weather conditions make it unsafe to do so, and being warm and comfortable helps them enjoy their time outdoors.

Please ensure your child has suitable clothing for cold weather, such as a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves. Waterproof footwear is also very helpful during wetter days.



[www.ashleighdarwen.co.uk](http://www.ashleighdarwen.co.uk)



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## BOARD GAMES

As families have a post-Christmas clear-out, we would be very grateful for donations of board games, card games or table-top games that are in good condition and no longer needed. Games of any age range are welcome.

Games help children develop important skills such as cooperation, communication, problem-solving and resilience, and they are a popular part of indoor playtimes, wet play, nurture sessions and group activities.



If you can donate, please ensure games are complete and in good condition. Donations can be sent into school with your child or handed in at the school office.

## CHANGE TO SCHOOL LUNCH PAYMENT

From the beginning of March, we will no longer be using ParentPay for school lunch payments. Instead, all lunch payments will be made through SchoolSpider.



We hope this change will make things simpler for parents and carers by allowing all school payments to be managed through one app, making it easier to keep track of payments and information in one place.

As and when we receive further details about the transition, we will share these with parents and carers.

In the meantime, please ensure that your **ParentPay account is up to date**. This will help ensure that the transfer of payments to SchoolSpider is as smooth and straightforward as possible.



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## SPORTING NEWS

What a night for the Ashleigh Primary School football team!

The boys secured an incredible 2nd place in the DPSSA Football League, a fantastic achievement that reflects their hard work, commitment, and teamwork throughout the season. We are incredibly proud of every single one of them.

Week after week, the boys turned up in challenging weather conditions, played some exceptional football, and earned excellent results against tough opposition. They have represented Ashleigh brilliantly and worn the Ashleigh badge with real pride.

To top it all off, the team were also awarded the Fair Play Award, voted for by all teams in the league – a truly special achievement and a testament to their sportsmanship, respect, and character both on and off the pitch. They were superbly led by their captain Henry R, whose leadership and sportsmanship set the standard for the whole team both.

Congratulations to Avondale Primary School for a fantastic season... we pushed you all the way!

Well done boys – you've done yourselves and the school proud!



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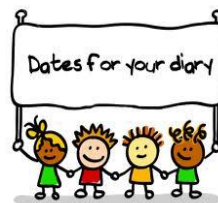
## BOLTON CHILDRENS CHOIR

Bolton Music Service are looking to recruit children to join their choir!  
If your child loves to sing, play, and have fun, this is a great opportunity to get involved.

Where: Bolton Music Service, Mere Hall, BL1 2QT

When: Thursdays, 4:45-6:00pm

For more information, please contact Bolton Music Service at:  
[music.service@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@bolton.gov.uk)



Outdoor learning - Year 6	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	AM
Outdoor learning - Year 5	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	PM
Outdoor learning - Year 4	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	AM
Outdoor learning - Year 3	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	PM
Recycling Sessions for Years 2,4,5 and 6	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	
Outdoor learning - Year 2	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	AM
Outdoor learning - Year 1	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	PM
Outdoor learning - Reception Rabbits	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	AM
Outdoor learning - Reception Bears	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	PM
Young Voices Concert	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	
<b>School Closes for Half Term Break</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>
<b>School re-opens</b>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>8.45am</b>

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