

# Ashleigh News



Issue 30

27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful half term break. It's been wonderful to welcome the children back for this short, but busy, half term leading up to Easter.

The children are continuing to have great fun in their *Wild One* outdoor learning sessions, developing confidence and teamwork along the way.

A reminder that Parents' Evening takes place on 4th March, appointments are filling up quickly and we look forward to seeing you there. We also have exciting sporting opportunities coming up, including cross country and Year 5 Bikeability.

With lighter evenings and warmer days hopefully on the way, it certainly feels like spring is approaching.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mr. Matthews and the entire Ashleigh Staff



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



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## Important Update: Changes to School Bags

To help keep our cloakrooms tidy and safe, we are phasing out large rucksacks. Please note the following changes:

- **No Rucksacks from September:** From the new academic year, we ask that children no longer bring rucksacks to school.
- **Please Start Now:** While the official rule starts in September, it would be a huge help if children could avoid bringing large bags into school as much as possible. Certainly, any bags which do come into school, must not have toys etc attached to them.
- **Why the Change?** Cloakroom space is really limited. Bulky rucksacks are often mostly empty, but they take up so much peg space that children's coats frequently end up on the floor.
- **What to Bring Instead:** Children only need a standard, handled book bag, a lunchbox/bag (if on packed lunches), and a small playtime snack. *(Y6 plastic-handled book packs are still fine to use).*
-  **Outdoor Learning Days:** The only exception is when children have outdoor learning. On these days, spare clothes should be brought to school in a **named, plastic bag**.
- **Free Book Bags:** If your child does not currently have a handled book bag, please don't worry! The school will provide one free of charge before September.

Thank you so much for your support in helping us keep our school environment safe and organised!



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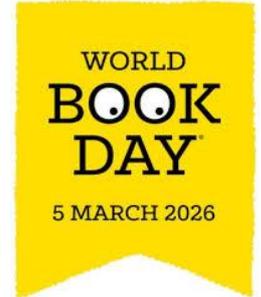
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## WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026. On this day children can come to school as either their favourite book character or in their pyjamas.



Our competition this year is for children to design their own book cover. There will be a winner per class. Entries should be given to class teacher by 9 o'clock on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Children will be taking part in a range of fun book activities throughout the day to celebrate our love of reading and will get their book token on the day.

## LET'S GO SING

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, our Year 3 children will be travelling to Blackburn Ice Arena to take part in the Let's Go Sing event, alongside other schools from across Lancashire.



This is always a fantastic evening, tickets are selling quickly. If you still need to purchase tickets, they are available online at: <https://iceaccount.co.uk/lets-go-sing>

Please select **Zone 2 - Yellow**, as this seating area faces the section where Ashleigh will be performing, giving you the best view of the children.



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## EASTER EGG BINGO

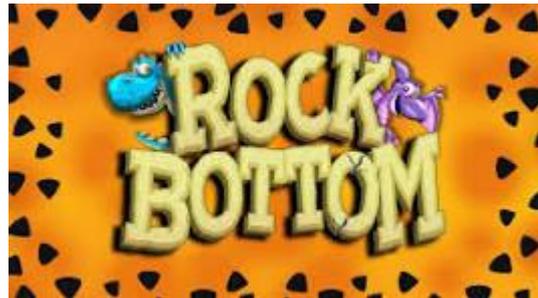
We will be holding Easter Egg Bingo on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm. This is a fun event that both children and parents greatly enjoy! A letter will be coming home tonight with your child. Tickets are likely to sell out very quickly, so please book soon to avoid disappointment.



## YEAR 3 & 4 PRODUCTION

Year 3 and 4 are working hard rehearsing and are very excited to present their production of 'Rock Bottom'.

The first performance will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, when the entire school will be invited to enjoy the show. We are delighted to invite parents and relatives to attend one of our 2 performances on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 1.30pm and 6pm\* Admission is by ticket only. *\*Please note the 6pm show is now sold out.*



## BATEMAN & BEST DENTIST

Bateman and Best Dental Practice have asked us to share with you that they are taking on children via the NHS and have Saturday appointments available. If you would like to register, please contact them on 01254 773512.



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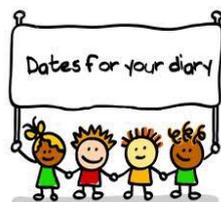
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Cross Country Witton Park (invite only)	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	4.15pm
Darwen Fire Station to visit Reception Class	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Pm
Lifeguard to visit Reception Class	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Am
Parents Evening	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30pm-7.30pm
Outdoor learning - Year 4	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Am
Outdoor learning - Year 3	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Pm
World Book Day - Dress as a book character or in Pyjamas	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	
Cross Country Witton Park (invite only)	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	4.15pm
BikeAbility - Year 5	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	
Outdoor learning - Year 2	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Am
Outdoor learning - Year 1	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Pm
Non-Uniform Day - Bring an Easter Egg/Raffle prize for Bingo being held that evening.	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	

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