

Dear Parents and Carers,

A range of things to celebrate at the end of the autumn term. First, a huge thank you to the school band, recorder group and of course choir for our brilliant Carole concert on the last Monday of the term. A particular thanks to Laura in organising the choir all year and to Billy for supporting the band. It was great to see so many of you join us but also to have the support of Ashmount Together. A real community event!

Secondly a huge thank you to the Year 1 team for their brilliant production of The Nativity. It's always such a challenge for the young children to perform in front of their families but I thought they gave a brilliant performance at both sittings, but again it was great to see so many family members join us for both performances.

It was also wonderful to see so many families join us for the annual Children's Christmas lunch. A huge thank you to Katie and Millie for organising this but also to Michael and the kitchen team for organising such a great spread. Thank you also for the many positive comments from parents following the meal, these are always hugely appreciated.

Thank you to all of you who collected school uniform items from the patio outside of the main hall. The remaining items will be bagged on the first Friday of term and recycled so please take a last look!

I have included new dates for the school diary this term and will early next week issue the term dates for 2026-2027. Can I ask you to make dates for your child's class assemblies, BAATS day and of course our terms Parent and Child Conferences.

A reminder that you can still join Ashmount's Fantasy Football league, see page 5 but an update on December's Managers of the month! 1. N Lotun, 2. Matt Wicks 3. Abdur Rahman. Well done to everyone who is currently involved.

Great news that we managed to appoint our second parent governor Anna Delvig who has children in Year 1 and Year 3.

Finally, I am including an update on the outcomes from the parents survey last year and our response to this. You can read more about this on page 2. Apologies, but I couldn't put this into a column format.

Best wishes, Anthony

School Diary Dates

Full school term dates are on our website.

Educational Visits and Workshops

Thur 15th Jan—Year 5 British Museum

Fri 23rd Jan—Year 4 Sealife Centre

Fri 30th Jan—Year 6 Neasden Temple

Tuesday Class Assembly dates

Tues 20th Jan 1 Blue

Tues 27th Jan 2 Green

Tues 3rd Feb Reception Blue

Tues 10th Feb 5 Green

Tues 3rd Mar 6 Blue

Tues 10th Mar Reception Green

Tues 17th Mar 2 Blue

Tues 24th Mar 1 Green

Whole School/Ashmount Together Events:

Fri 6th Feb - Valentines Disco

Thur 12th March—Bring An Adult To School Day

Parent/Child Conferences

Tues 17th March 2:15 p.m.—5:15 p.m.

Wed 18th March

Fri 20th March — Quiz Night

Tuck shop dates: TBC

Term Dates

Spring 1 starts:

Monday 5th January 2026

Spring 1 finishes:

Friday 13th February

Survey Outcome Update

I am updating you all about the outcomes of our Annual Parent Survey from last academic year but also the response to this from myself, the leadership team and the school's Governing Board. I will first explain the process, then outcomes and finally an update on the actions we have begun implementing from this.

The process involved in actioning the survey, as many of you will recall, is an online Survey Monkey questionnaire that broadly follows the format Ofsted use when they inspect schools. The survey ran last spring for 1 month. We sent out 566 surveys and had 130 responses, though it is impossible to know whether a family completed a survey for each child in their family, or separate parents or carers in a household made individual responses. However, if we work on the premise of a return per household, there are 306 households with our community this would suggest we had a return of about 44%. The survey outcomes and comments were then reviewed by the Children, Families and Communities Committee and finally the Full Governing Board of the school so we could discuss the areas for development going forward.

The results for the 'Three key questions' are shown in three columns showing trends over the last 6 years. The left-hand columns show positive responses to the questions over the last 6 year (either agree or strongly agree responses); the central columns (in blue) show neutral responses (neither agree nor disagree) and the right-hand columns (in light green) negative responses (disagree or strongly disagree).

Results

The 3 key questions show an overall decrease in parental response satisfaction.

In the 'neutral' answer count increased in 2 and decreased in 1 (i.e. the number of questions answered 'neither agree nor disagree'.)

In the 'positive' answer count there were drops in each question and similarly there were rises in each of the 'negative' answer count.

Three Key Questions:

Question	Agree					Neutral					Disagree				
	+2025	+2023	+2022	+2020	+2019	Neutral 2025	Neutral 2023	Neutral 2022	Neutral 2020	Neutral 2019	-2025	-2023	-2022	-2020	-2019
1. My child is happy at school	85.6% Down 5.9%	91.5% Up 4.2%	87.3% Down 6.5%	93.8% Up 9.0%	84.8% Up 1.6%	8.8% Up 2.9%	5.9% Down 1.4%	7.3% Up 3.1%	4.2% Down 6.2%	10.4% Up 2.4%	5.3% Up 2.8%	2.5% Down 1.8%	4.3% Up 2.2%	2.1% Down 2.7%	4.8% Down 4.4%
2. The school is well led and managed	73.3% Down 13.3%	88.9% Up 8.5%	80.4% Down 3.6%	84.0% Up 15.1%	68.9% Up 8.1%	18.7% Up 9.4%	9.3% Down 4.7%	14% Up 3.2%	10.8% Down 7.7%	18.5% Down 1.5%	8.1% Up 7.2%	0.9% Down 4.7%	5.6% Up 0.2%	5.4% Down 7.2%	12.6% Down 6.4%
3. I would recommend this school to another parent	79.5% Down 7.1%	86.6% Down 0.8%	87.4% Down 5.6%	93.6% Up 15.6%	78% Up 7%	7.4% Down 1.5%	8.9% Down 1.0%	9.8% Up 4.6%	2.2% Down 11.4%	13.6% Up 0.7%	13.1% Up 8.6%	4.5% Up 1.7%	2.8% Down 1.5%	4.3% Down 4.2%	8.5% Down 7.6%

Results

Obviously, these outcomes are a disappointing outcome for the leadership team, wider staff body and myself as Headteacher for which I take responsibility. Hence, we have shared these with the relevant sections of the schools Governing body and whilst an array of internal and external school review data would challenge particular outcomes of the survey data it would be wrong not to take the responses seriously and so we have been working hard this term on an array of actions to ensure the next Annual Parents Survey has a more positive outcome. Our work will continue across the year to include work on other topics raised in the survey including inclusion and behaviour in addition to improving communication.

Actions in response to the Annual Parent Survey

- ◆ You said the newsletter wasn't clear enough and hard to read. We have changed format and style and are continuing to review.
- ◆ You wanted clearer and more concise information about calendar dates for the school. We have reformatted these and are now issuing these in advance of each term start.
- ◆ You wanted us to provide clearer processes around complaints that don't meet the threshold of a formal grievance. We are producing a flowchart to show who to direct your questions to, where to find information and what our response process will be and within what timescale.
- ◆ You wanted more contact with class teachers at drop off and pick up. Teachers in Year 1 and Year 2 are now downstairs on the patio on 2 mornings a week as well as other staff members.
- ◆ You wanted more clarity and a revamp of the website. We are partially through this process and we are hopeful of a full review by the end of the first half of the spring term.
- ◆ You wanted more presence from the leadership team on the gate. Annabel or I are now on the gate each morning and I am predominantly not class based.
- ◆ You wanted us to review our communications channels and set out a clear procedure/process for how teachers communicate and when and where parents can get information about the school year and events. We have refined this in the newsletter and at the start of each term are also adding these to the school website calendar.
- ◆ We will before next year Annual Parents Survey carry out a smaller scale sample of parents to see whether our actioned improvements are having the impact we hope for and complete the other actions by the Spring half term.

◆ Upcoming Events 2026

JAN
13
8 PM - 9 PM
PTA Meeting (online)

FEB
06
3.30 PM - 5.30 PM
Valentine's Disco

MAR
17
TBC
*PTA AGM - voting of
new committee*

MAR
20
7 PM - 10.30 PM
*Quiz night - adults
event*

MAY
16
7 PM - 10.30 PM
*Band night - adults
event*

JUN
20
11 AM - 3 PM
Summer Fayre

JUL
05
9 AM - 12 PM
*Islington Schools Fun
Run*



**ASHMOUNT
TOGETHER**



**Spaces available.
Register before 2nd Feb
to reserve your space**

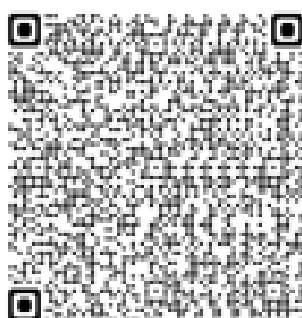
Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities

A free inclusive 13 week course to help parents and carers to raise healthy and happy children.

The course will help you to:

- Build positive family relationships
- Manage anger and stress
- Implement effective discipline strategies
- Gain confidence and communication skills
- Understand your child's development
- Recognise and value your family and cultural traditions
- Meet others and share ideas
- To book a place or talk about the programme, please contact: BrightFutures@islington.gov.uk

- **Scan QR code below to link to booking page**



**Location: Willow
Children's Centre
Date: Monday 12
January
Time: 10.00am -
1.00pm**



First fundraiser of the school year!

If you or your kids love football and want to join the ashmount fantasy league, set up your team, donate the minimum £5 per team to the Ashmount Together our school PTA, then contact your year rep to get the code to join the league.

It doesn't matter if you have never played it before or you are a seasoned pro. You can also join late and still be in with a chance of winning something. There will be prizes for the league and the cup. We will also recognise the managers of the month, so get picking your team!

<https://fantasy.premierleague.com/>

<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/ashmountschoolpta>



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

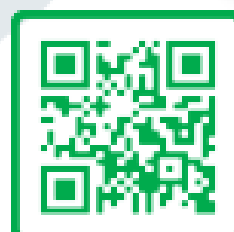
Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

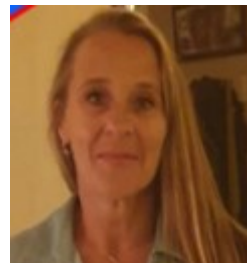


SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Annabel's Inclusion Corner



Attendance Mentor Program

The pilot programme will run for 18 months, with each pupil receiving up to eight weeks of intensive support.

What will the Attendance Mentors do?

Mentors will work directly with pupils to identify the root causes of absence at the earliest opportunity, ensuring tailored support can be provided to maximise impact.

This includes:

1. **Building trusted relationships with pupils** through one-to-one sessions.
2. **Identifying and addressing the underlying reasons for declining attendance**, which may include personal, social, emotional, or practical challenges affecting the pupil's ability to attend school regularly.
3. **Providing practical support**, including help with routines, strategies to rebuild confidence in attending school, practical support tailored to each pupil's needs and, if appropriate, referrals to other services.
4. **Acting as a bridge between home and school**, liaising with staff and families to ensure a joined-up approach.
5. **Monitoring progress and adapting support plans** as needed, with a focus on sustainable improvement.

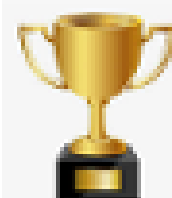
This requires parental consent so if you are contacted by Seline, our School Home Support (SHS) practitioner or me then you will have this information about the program in advance.



The NHS provides clear [guidance](#) on when children are well enough to attend school. Most mild illnesses — such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough — do **not** require time off school, unless a child has a temperature. Vaccinations are a key line of defence against flu and other preventable illnesses. When children and young people receive all the recommended vaccines in the national immunisation programme, it helps protect their health and support the wellbeing of the whole school community.

Overall lining up winners for the Autumn term are: KS1: 1G and KS2: 3G.

As a reward and thank you, each child will receive a prize on their return in January. Well done to both classes and to their teachers Keely and Fahmida for having high expectations of their children!



Class	Percentage
Nursery	93.8
Reception Blue	93.9
Reception Green	87.4
1 Blue	95.2
1 Green	91.6
2 Blue	94.7
2 Green	89.2
3 Blue	93.1
3 Green	93.8
4 Blue	95.1
4 Green	94.6
5 Blue	95.8
5 Green	95.1
6 Blue	92.9
6 Green	94.7

Our best attending classes this term were:

Reception Blue, 1 Blue, 4 Blue and 5 Blue

Well done children and parents. These classes will get to chose a treat of an ice cream of their choice or hot chocolate and biscuits after the Christmas break.

At Ashmount, we are aiming for at least 97% attendance in each class. Attendance for all pupils is a huge focus with the mantra being:

“Every minute matters, Every second counts”

If you need support with attendance contact Nadia, our School Home Support lead, or Katie and Millie at the school office.

Congratulations to this week's current most improved speedy timetable answering correct scores over the last seven days.:

Year 3 Ekram, Usman and Colt

Year 4 Zakariya, Abdulfattah, and Ezra

Year 5 Yusuf, Mumin and Abdullah

Year 6 Oliver, Henry and Elham



What we are learning next week:

Nursery:

English: We will be immersing ourselves in the fairytale 'The Three Little Pigs.'

Maths: We will be exploring numbers in our environment.

Reception

English: We will be immersing ourselves in 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet.

Maths: We will be understanding the number zero.

Year 1

English: We will be exploring our new story, 'Whatever Next!'

Maths: We will be exploring adding with numbers up to 20.

Year 2

English: We will be learning to identify features of a newspaper report.

Maths: We will be exploring temperature.

Year 3

English: We will be immersing ourselves in our new story 'The BFG'.

Maths: We will be exploring measuring length in millimetres, centimetres and meters.

Year 4

English: We will be exploring our new text 'A Close Call'.

Maths: We will be continuing to explore multiplication.

Year 5

English: We will be exploring our new text, 'The Attic'

Maths: We will be continuing adding and subtracting fractions

Year 6

English: We will be exploring our new text, 'Stormbreaker.

Maths: We will be converting units of length, mass, volume and time.

Our learning in pictures: Christmas Carols



Our learning in pictures: Nursery



PIC•COLLAGE

Our learning in pictures: Reception



PIC-COLLAGE

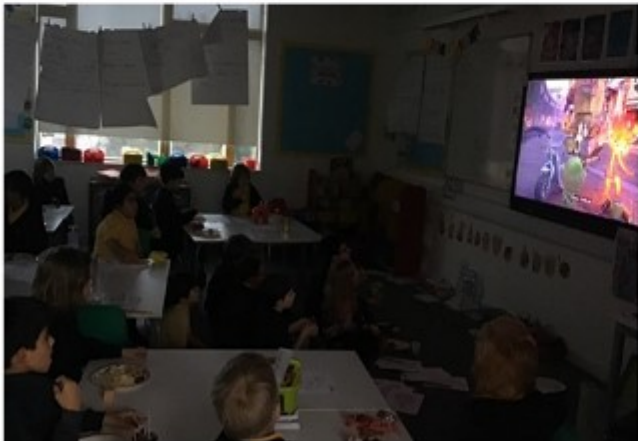
Our learning in pictures: Year 1



Our learning in pictures: Year 2



Our learning in pictures: Year 3

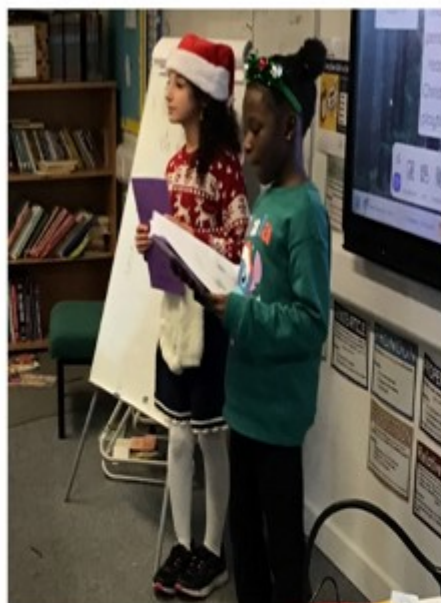


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Our learning in pictures: Year 4



Our learning in pictures: Year 5



Our learning in pictures: Year 6

