

# Ashton under Hill First School

## Prospectus



*"Shaping bright futures together"*

**Head Teacher: Mrs Alison Peacey**

Elmley Road  
Ashton under Hill  
Evesham  
Worcestershire  
WR11 7SW

Tel: 01386 881333

Email: [office@ashton.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@ashton.worcs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.ashton.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.ashton.worcs.sch.uk)

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## WELCOME



At Ashton-under-Hill First School we encourage participation, creativity, problem-solving and an enthusiasm for learning. We work in partnership with staff, governors, parents and the community to provide a caring environment to achieve a standard of excellence appropriate to each individual, enriching, encouraging and equipping each child for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Our school motto is “Shaping bright futures together” and we passionately believe that we offer a small, friendly learning environment in which everyone’s individuality is valued and encouraged. We support our pupils in developing to their full potential.

We received an Ofsted inspection in March 2017 and were deemed to be Good. Our full Ofsted report can be accessed via our website

([www.ashton.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.ashton.worcs.sch.uk)) but highlights from it include:

- Pupils at Ashton enjoy learning and appreciate the imaginative approaches taken by staff to help them learn in exciting ways.
- The older pupils explained that the school is close to perfect because learning is so much fun
- Staff know the pupils well and demonstrate a high degree of care for individual pupils’ welfare. All staff ensure that pupils can speak to a trusted adult whenever concerns arise, however minor. Pupils agree they feel safe because all adults are kind and caring. They say the school is like ‘one big family’ because they all know and look after each other.
- Children are attentive, able to reflect and try hard to succeed. Staff carefully plan purposeful and highly structured activities, which successfully capture the children’s attention and imagination. As a result, the children believe they come to school to play.

We work hard to provide a lively, engaging and balanced curriculum which encourages our pupils to develop a lifelong love of learning. Children learn best when they can make connections between concepts and subjects and so our teachers plan topic based learning. Examples of these are published on our website for each class. Our pupils experience a wide range of concepts, experiences, knowledge and skills throughout their learning, which promote their spiritual, moral, social, cultural, intellectual and physical development. We take pride in growing learners for the future and, to this end, provide our children with the experiences, opportunities and responsibilities needed for the rest of their educational careers and into adult life.





Each child is a unique individual and we endeavour to develop their separate talents and abilities. We encourage a respect in all our pupils – respect for themselves and those around them, respect for other cultures, beliefs and backgrounds. The achievements of our pupils are celebrated and shared as we strive always to raise their self-esteem and awareness of others.



## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL



Our school is set in the beautiful village of Ashton-under-Hill, in south Worcestershire at the eastern end of Bredon Hill, overlooking the Vale of Evesham. Whenever we can we use the wonderful countryside around the school to support the children's work.

There has been a school on this site since 1878 when there were 47 pupils. Extensions in 1911, 1960 and 2015 have created the school we see today.

Outside we are privileged to have a wildlife area, vegetable garden, playing field and a hard play area with marked games and play equipment. In addition we are very fortunate to have our own Forest School site on the side of Bredon Hill and pupils regularly visit this site with our Forest School leader to learn in the natural environment.



The inside of the school is bright and filled with lively wall displays, with well-resourced classrooms and an extensive library. The school shares a hall with the local community which we use for PE, lunchtimes, celebrations and performances throughout the year.

Our school is very much at the heart of the village and is, in every sense, a community school. Our children participate thoroughly in the life of the village. We participate in the annual Open Gardens village event and use St Barbara's Church for Harvest and Easter celebrations.



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## Our School Structure



We are a small school, and, as such, our school structure is often determined by the number of pupils in each year group. We have four classrooms in which we accommodate seven year groups, from pre-school (aged 3+) to Year 5. We are committed to giving our pupils an individualised education suited to their needs, both social and academic. For this reason we usually split Year 4 pupils across two classes. This gives the following structure and each class is usually around 28 in total:



Acorns	Pre-school, Reception
Hawthorn	Years 1 & 2
Willow	Years 3 & 4
Oak	Years 4 & 5

We ensure a high staff to pupil ratio and we are extremely lucky to have well qualified teaching assistants who support pupils within the classes. At the end of six years with us most of our children move on to Bredon Hill Academy. There are excellent transition arrangements in place so that the children feel well equipped for the next stage in their schooling.





## Timetable

Time	Activity	Notes
08.00am	Breakfast Club	Runs daily with a healthy breakfast prepared by Mrs Matuszak and Mrs Pirelli. This can be booked at the office. 
08.30am	Gates open	Playground supervised so parents may stay or drop off
08.45am	Registration & Lesson time	Children escorted into school and lessons begin with either English or Maths
10:30am	Snack and break time	Weather permitting outside and chance for the children to get some exercise. There are different zones for the children to enjoy, including a playground, field, all-weather track, trim trail, and "imaginarium" for imaginative play as well as a Quiet Garden.
10:45am	Lesson time	
12.00am	Lunch	 All children eat together in the school hall with older pupils supporting the youngest.
1.00pm	Assembly	This is time when the whole school (except the pre-school children) come together to hear stories based on a weekly theme. We sometimes welcome visitors to this assembly including the local Open The Book team.
1.15pm	Lesson time	Foundation subjects
3.00pm	Home time	Parents are asked to collect from the playground. The gates are opened at 2.50pm
16.00	Clubs finish	Parents are asked to collect from the main entrance

## Our Team

HEAD TEACHER		
Mrs Alison Peacey B.Ed (Hons)		
TEACHING STAFF		
EARLY YEARS Pre-school & Reception	KEY STAGE 1 (RECEPTION, YEARS 1 & 2)	KEY STAGE 2 (YEARS 3, 4, 5)
Mrs A Stephenson BSc (Hons) PGCE	Mrs S Emond BSC (Hons) PGCE	Mrs K Thompson B.Ed (Primary)
	Miss K Miller BA PGCE	Mrs E Tulley B.Ed (Geography)
TEACHING ASSISTANTS		
Mrs J Shiels (HLTA) Mrs R Barnett	Mrs L Chamberlain (HLTA)	Mrs L Thornton (HLTA) Mrs H Cooke Mrs S Morgan
	Ms V Bevan	
OFFICE MANAGER and FINANCE Manager		
Mrs N Brown & Mrs C Ward		
Breakfast Club		
Mrs N Matuszak & Mrs S Pirelli		
Lunchtime Supervisor		
Mrs Clayton and all teaching assistants		
Caretaking and Cleaning		
TTB Cleaning Company		

## GOVERNORS



Our Governors are a valued and integral part of our school team. Our Governing Body is comprised of parents and members of the community. They meet regularly every half term for full and sub-committee meetings. In addition to working closely with the Head teacher and staff members to monitor all aspects of school life, they contribute to the life of the school in many other ways. Many of

our Governors visit school regularly, listen to readers or work with groups of children, attend school productions or join us for school outings and activities. If any parent wishes to contact our Chair of Governors, they may do so via the school office, marking the correspondence for the attention of the Chair. Our current Chair of Governors is Mrs Deborah Lincoln.

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## TEACHING AND LEARNING

We believe that, just as each child is an individual, so, too, do they learn in individual ways. Therefore, we strive to ensure that our curriculum is delivered in a variety of teaching methods every day. These may include whole class teaching, paired or group work, or one-to-one sessions.



Also during the school year, the children have the opportunity to learn in mixed aged groups, usually according to their House Teams, and may participate in an Eco, Arts or Science day.



Whilst Maths and English are taught as discrete subjects on a daily basis, we strive to make links across all subjects where appropriate and every class studies a topic each half term where such links can be made. Teachers in each Key Stage plan the topic together, so that staff may share their curriculum expertise and subject co-ordinators ensure that there is progression across the teaching and learning. For this reason, it does not matter which class your child is being taught in within the key stage, as they will be

studying the same topic at the appropriate level. We encourage you to take a look at our website to see our curriculum topic webs and class letters.

All of our teachers and support staff work hard to get to know each child as an individual so as to provide them with learning opportunities best suited to their needs and interests. Children make progress at their own rates and in their own ways. Central to our school ethos is the need to value children and individuals and to provide learning opportunities that will build on their strengths and allow them to overcome any weaknesses. Every child's progress is tracked very carefully, and we strive for our pupils to make accelerated progress, achieving standards well above national expectations.



One of the greatest benefits of a small school such as ours is that we can and do know each of our children individually. We offer them the support and encouragement they need to grow and flourish in their learning environment, setting down firm foundations for their future educational success.



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## Forest School



We believe in a curriculum that goes beyond the four walls of the classroom and Forest School exemplifies this approach. We have our own dedicated Forest School site in a woodland and also have access to an orchard and a meadow as well as our own school grounds. A member of staff is a trained and enthusiastic Forest School leader. Children in Reception and Year 1 make weekly visits one of our Forest School sites.



This offers the children an invaluable opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.

We also arrange termly Forest School visits for all our classes.



## Extra-Curricular Activities

We provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities after school to enhance our curriculum. There is at least one club every evening, often more, and we try to spread these across different age groups. There is always a range of sporting clubs and other activities may include: art, construction, gardening, music and singing.



## Trips



Educational visits are also an important part of our curriculum. We believe these reinforce and enrich what the children are learning in school. These visits might take the form of trips to museums, churches, art galleries or places of historical interest. Children in Years 2 & 3 also have the opportunity to take part in a residential trip to Malvern Outdoor Centre for one night, whilst children in Years 4 & 5



participate in a three night residential trip. As a school, we believe that children benefit greatly from these residential trips in terms of increasing independence, confidence and maturity.



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## Visitors



To provide a rich experience for our pupils we encourage different people to be involved with the school day, from parents, Governors, students from Teacher Training colleges or Year 11s on work experience from our local high school. We also invite 'expert' visitors from a diversity of backgrounds to talk to the children.

## Pupil Voice

We have a strong school council who meet regularly to discuss important issues related to school and they nominate the charities that they wish the school to support. We also have a group of Sports ambassadors who organise lunchtime activities and inter house competitions. Every Friday the Head Teacher meets the "Star Learners" of the week to talk about their learning and listen to their views on their school experience.



## Buddies



In Reception all of the pupils have a buddy from year 5 who will look after them when they first come to school. The buddies will help them to settle and be around for reassurance at break and lunchtimes.



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## HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

### Homework

We believe that children's learning continues long after the bell has rung at the end of the day. Homework is an important part of this learning and our pupils receive homework from their earliest days in school. The type, length and depth of this homework increases as children progress through the school and range from reading, learning spellings and multiplication tables to researching a new topic. When setting homework, we aim to:-

- ✓ Promote positive attitudes to work and school
- ✓ Raise the achievement of all our pupils
- ✓ Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding taught in lessons
- ✓ Encourage and develop independent learning
- ✓ Increase self-discipline
- ✓ Develop the home/school partnership

### Parents' Consultation Meetings

It is known that children learn best in an environment which fosters an active partnership between school and home. Parents need to be informed of the progress of their children so that they can work alongside the school in supporting and encouraging their learning. Parents are always welcome in school to ask questions about their child's progress and we hold "open classroom sessions" where parents are invited in to class and have the chance to look at books, displays and talk to the pupils about their learning. We have three formal reporting sessions over the course of the year:



**Autumn Term:** Formal parents evening to meet your child's teacher and discuss how they are settling and their targets for the year.

**Spring Term:** Parents' Evening - review of general progress and against targets set.

**Summer Term:** Written school report.

As parents, you can do a great deal to assist your child to settle and thrive at school. Talk to your child about school before they start and encourage them to discuss any worries which they may have. Encourage their independence by letting them do things for themselves whenever possible. The more confident your child is, the happier they will be when first coming to school. If you have any concerns please do see your class teacher or the Head Teacher, who are always happy to listen.

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## PUPIL MATTERS

### Uniform

Our children are encouraged and expected to wear the school uniform so as to develop a sense of pride in being a member of the school community.

### Winter Uniform

- ✓ Grey Trousers, skirt, pinafore dress
- ✓ Embroidered sky blue school polo shirt
- ✓ Embroidered royal blue school sweatshirt or cardigan
- ✓ Black sensible school shoes



### Summer Uniform

As above with the option of:

- ✓ Girls – blue & white checked dress
- ✓ Boys - grey tailored short trousers

### Optional

- ✓ Embroidered Royal blue Fleece/Reversible Fleece

### PE Kit

- ✓ Embroidered White logo T shirt
- ✓ Navy shorts (girls may wear navy cycle shorts)
- ✓ Black PE Pumps
  
- ✓ Named PE Bag
- ✓ Children in Key Stage 2 require outdoor trainers
- ✓ Navy jogging trousers for outdoor PE in colder weather



### Equipment

- ✓ Embroidered Royal Blue Book Bag



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## Food and Drink



We are a "Healthy School" and encourage our pupils to think about the benefits of a balanced and healthy diet. Children are allowed to bring a snack or a drink for morning break and we ask that parents provide healthy snacks such as fruit or bread sticks,. Children in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) receive free fruit from school. Parents are able to order and pay for a daily 1/3 pint of milk for their child to have at break time. Children under 5 receive this milk free.

Children are also encouraged to bring a plastic bottle of water to school. It has been proven that if children have regular access to water during the day, they are more able to concentrate. These bottles are kept in the classroom and can be replenished in school from a central water dispenser. At lunchtime all of the children eat together in the hall, with the older pupils helping the youngest. All Key Stage 1 children are provided with a meal free of charge and we encourage parents to take up the option of a hot lunch provided by our catering company. Please enquire at the office if you think your child is eligible for free school meals whichever Key Stage they are in as this entitles you to additional funding known as Pupil Premium.



## Payments

We use an on-line payment system, ParentPay which can be used to pay for trips, swimming etc. using credit or debit cards. When your child enters school, he/she will be given a unique number which you can use to make payments on line. We also accept Childcare Vouchers.

## Admissions

The Worcestershire Local Authority is responsible for co-ordinating all school admissions in the area. A Guide for Parents on Admissions and Transfers is available on-line at: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions). The website contains full details on the application and allocation process, including the oversubscription admission criteria for each school. You are advised to read this guide prior to making an application.

We encourage parents who are considering Ashton-under-Hill First School to contact the school for an appointment with the Head Teacher and to view the school in action. Please also refer to our full school admissions policy on our website.



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### **How to apply for a place:**

The parents of ALL pupils resident in Worcestershire, including parents, whose preference is for the catchment area school for the child's home address, seeking a place at any First School must go online to complete an application.

Applications must be made online at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

### **If you require assistance please call School Admissions on 01905 822700**

If you are not resident in Worcestershire, then you should obtain admission details from your home local authority, even if your preferences include schools within Worcestershire.

The closing date for Reception in take is always in January prior to them starting school in September, but you should go online to ensure that you meet the specific closing date.

### **When are decisions made?**

Offers will be issued direct to parents in April (exact date is available via the Admissions website) and you must accept or decline the offer by the date specified.

### **If you are applying for an in-year transfer:**

Again, you need to visit the Worcestershire County Council Admissions website for an in-year application form (CA1), which has to be signed by the Head Teacher of your child's current school.

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## **Keeping in Touch:**

### **Weekly Newsletter**

Every Friday we publish a newsletter to all parents and members of the school community, which contains news about the events over the week as well as promoting forthcoming activities. This will automatically be sent to you electronically. Copies can be found on our website.

### **Texting Service**

We have the facility to send out broadcast texts to registered mobiles, for such items as snow closures, trip reminders or about important events. Parents have found this service to be particularly useful.

### **Class Email**

Each Class also has its own email which is used by the class teacher to communicate directly with parents.

### **Family Assembly**

Every Friday morning at 8.55am we hold a Family Celebration Assembly at which parents, family and friends are most welcome. At these assemblies we share the work and events that have taken place in school as well as celebrating our "Star Learners" achievements.



### **The School Website**

Our school website can be found at [www.ashton.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.ashton.worcs.sch.uk). When your child joins our school we will ask for your permission to publish their photo and work on the web site. (Children are never identified by last name). Every week we upload our newsletter onto the website. We also publish policies and other school information on the website. Each class also has their own space on the website.

### **A Quick Chat**

The Head Teacher is usually on the school gate each morning and afternoon for a quick chat. Similarly teachers make themselves available on the playground each day. Alternatively, please contact the school office to make an appointment. We pride ourselves on our friendly, approachable nature and would always want parents to air any concerns at the earliest opportunity, so that any problems can be nipped in the bud.

### **Policies:**

Full copies of all relevant policies are available from the office or via the school website.

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## AND FINALLY...

Thank you for reading this document. We hope that you found it useful. Please consult our school website for the latest details and above all else, we encourage you to visit the school in person to see the teaching and learning in action or to discuss any matter. You are assured of a very warm welcome.

