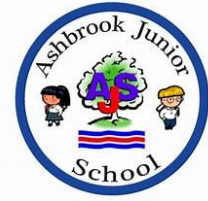


Ashbrook Junior School

November Newsletter



Welcome back to our second Autumn half term!

We're looking forward to welcoming all children and families back on **Monday 3rd November at 8:40am**. We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for another exciting half term filled with learning and special events.

What's happening in our curriculum?

During November, our classes will be beginning new topics:

- **Years 3, Year 4:** The Mayans
- **Year 5:** Rainforests and Deforestation
- **Year 6:** Rainforests with a case study of the Maya
-

Alongside our curriculum lessons, we'll also be focusing on key events that support pupils' personal development, including **Remembrance Day**, **Bonfire Night** (with fire and winter safety), **Anti-Bullying Week**, and **Road Safety Week**.

We're also very excited to start our new **Junior Jam sessions** this half term! These take place every Monday and include **Electric Drums**, **French**, and **iProgramme** lessons — all carefully adapted to suit each year group.

A final curriculum update: we're delighted to have rolled out **Magma Maths** across all classes to further enhance our excellent Maths teaching at Ashbrook. This platform provides a variety of maths activities and resources that teachers can tailor to meet each pupil's needs. The children are very engaged with the resource and they talk highly about their lessons.



magma

Things to Celebrate

- **Guardian Group:**

A big thank you to all parents who joined our first Guardian Network session! These meetings offer a chance to enjoy a coffee, meet other parents and carers, and connect with agencies that support **SEND and pupil wellbeing**. The sessions are organised by **Mrs Johnstone** (Deputy Head and SENDCo) and **Mrs Thompson** (Designated Safeguarding Lead and Attendance Officer).

Our next session will be held with **Compass** on **Thursday 6th November**. Mrs Thompson has built a fantastic link with Compass Changing Lives, who provide early emotional wellbeing and mental health support for children, young people, and families across Derby & Derbyshire.

Everyone is welcome — please keep an eye on **Class Dojo** for updates!

- **Halloween Disco:**

A huge thank you for supporting our Halloween Disco — we raised over **£600!** 🎃

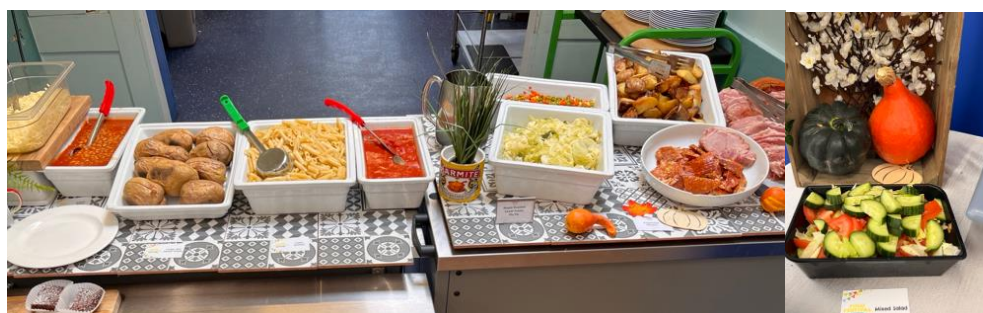
- **Staff News:**

Congratulations to **Mr Huntington**, who has joined our wider Senior Leadership Team as the lead for **Mathematics and Digital Strategy**.

We're also delighted that **Mrs Mallinson (Teaching Assistant)** will now be with us more days each week, supporting pupils across Key Stage 2.

Lunchtime Changes

Our wonderful cook **Tracy** has been working as a development chef in our school kitchen, and the children have been full of praise for the delicious meals she's created. The new **Aspens Menu** starts on **November 3rd**.



We're also making some positive changes to our lunchtime routine:

- From this half term, lunchtimes will be slightly staggered to give each year group more space and time. **Years 3 & 4: 12:00 – 12:45** **Years 5 & 6: 12:15 – 1:00**
- As this is a slightly shorter lunch period, we'll now be introducing an **Afternoon Playtime** for classes, with games led by teachers. We know how valuable outdoor play and social time are for our pupils and want to make sure everyone still enjoys this.

- We're also launching **Happy Lunchtimes** in mid-November to continue improving the lunchtime experience for all. More details to follow soon!

School Admissions

Applications for **Year 3 places at Ashbrook Junior School** are now open! You can apply any time from this month and have until **January 2026** to submit your application.

We're hosting an **Open Morning on Wednesday 13th November at 9:15am** to share more about life at Ashbrook and show prospective parents around our school.

If you'd like to attend, please complete the sign-up form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnx9Kddd4XDD6hPtx2xNUYdYqsPx3m9vVGVzCrIKIBG63Efg/viewform>

Key Dates for Your Diary

November

- **Monday 3rd November** - School reopens for Autumn Term 2.
- **Thursday 6th November** - *Guardians Network Meeting and Coffee Morning* with Compass at 9:00 am.
- **Monday 10th November** - *Anti-Bullying Week*.
- **Monday 10th November** - Year 6 assessment week.
- **Thursday 13th November** - Year 2 *Open Day* (for prospective Year 3 parents and children).
- **Tuesday 18th November** – School Immunisations
- **Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th November** - *Parents' Evenings* (details to follow).
- **Monday 24th November** - Year 3, 4, and 5 *Assessment Week*.
- **Monday 24th November**- Bikeability
- **Tuesday 25th November** - Bikeability

December

- **Monday 1st December** – Year 6 *Practice SATs Week*.
- **Thursday 4th December** – *Guardians Network Meeting and Coffee Morning* with Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Thompson.
- **Thursday 11th December** – *Christmas Jumper Day, Reindeer Dash, and Pantomime Visit*.
- **Friday 12th December**- Reading Rocks assembly- parents invited
- **Monday 15th December**- Christmas Fayre 2-4pm
- **Thursday 18th December** 9:15 am Year 3 nativity morning performance. **Please note this is a change of date due to a clash with infant school event**

- **Thursday 18th December (2:00 pm)** – Year 5/6 Christmas Songs and Carols – parents invited.
- **Friday 19th December** – Year 3/4 Nativity: 2:00 pm – Afternoon performance
- **Friday 19th December**- school closes for Christmas break.

Please note: We have an additional INSET Day set by Transform Trust on **Thursday 23rd July 2026**, and school will be closed on this day.

Clubs

This half term, our morning and after-school clubs (provided by CSSS Sports) will be:

Morning Clubs:

- Tuesday – Dodgeball
- Wednesday – Paceball
- Thursday – Basketball
- Friday – Hockey

After-School Clubs:

- Thursday – Multisport
- Friday – Football

Friday Brunch Club

We are having a re-vamp of our tuck shop on Friday and changing some of the food on offer. On Fridays, we will now sell croissants, fruit pots and other delights. All priced at 50p.

Job Opportunities

We currently have these roles advertised in school:

Teaching Assistant Level 1 (17.5hours a week, afternoons only)

Senior Midday supervisor (7.5 hours a week)

School cleaner (10 hours a week)

For more information, please contact school to speak to Mrs Whittaker (School Operations Manager) or visit this website with details of how to apply [Search for Jobs | SAMpeople Recruit](#)

Warm regards,

The Ashbrook Junior School Team