



## Ashbrook Junior School

### March Newsletter

#### Welcome Back!

We are delighted to welcome everyone back for **Spring 2**. The days are getting lighter, there is lots of exciting learning ahead, and we have a busy half-term planned. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

#### We Are Proud to Achieve Silver Artsmark!



We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the **Silver Artsmark Award** by **Arts Council England**.

Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. Achieving Silver status recognises our commitment to:

- Embedding the arts across the curriculum
- Providing high-quality creative opportunities
- Developing pupil voice and leadership in the arts
- Ensuring all children can access and enjoy creative experiences

This award reflects the hard work of our staff, pupils and wider school community in championing creativity through art, music, drama and design.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and excited to continue developing the arts even further in our school- hoping for a summer arts festival later in his year. If you have any connections within the arts and think you could support an arts festival this year delivering a workshop in school please get in touch with Mrs Dell (Head of School) or Miss Wilkinson (Art Lead).



## Curriculum News

During Spring 2, this is the focus of our enquiry projects in each year group:

### **Year 6 – Climate Challenges/How is climate change affecting people and the planet, and what can we do about it?**

Year 6 are exploring the global issue of climate change. They will investigate:

- The impact of rising temperatures
- Extreme weather events
- Effects on wildlife and communities
- Practical actions we can take to reduce our carbon footprint

This topic encourages critical thinking, debate and hopeful, solution-focused learning.

### **Year 5 – Anglo-Saxons and Vikings**

#### **Who shaped England more – the Anglo-Saxons or the Vikings?**

Year 5 are diving into Britain's past to explore invasion, settlement and legacy. Pupils will:

- Compare leadership and laws
- Investigate daily life
- Examine artefacts
- Debate and write a response to who had the greatest influence on England

A fantastic opportunity to build historical enquiry skills!

### **Year 3/4 – Rivers, Oceans, Mountains and The Water Cycle**

#### **How do rivers shape the land, support people and change the environment over time?**

Our Year 3/4 pupils are developing their geographical knowledge by exploring:

- The water cycle
- River formation and erosion
- How rivers support communities
- Environmental change over time

Hands-on investigations and map work will bring this Geography learning to life including a visit to Carsington Waters!



## Staffing News

Please join us in welcoming **Priya**, our new chef, to the team! We are delighted to have her with us.

Our catering partners at **Aspens**:

- Provided a wonderful Lunar New Year lunch
- Will be hosting a special World Book Day menu (5th March)
- Will offer food samples during Parents' Evening
- Are planning exciting Family Food Workshops coming soon

Here are some photos from our recent themed lunch from Lunar New Year.



Keep an eye out for further details!



## Volunteering Opportunities

We have amazing school grounds and want to unlock their potential. We need your help!

We are looking for volunteers to support:

- 🌲 **Forest School sessions**
- 🌻 **Gardening in our amazing school grounds**

This can be flexible to work around you. The school will provide DBS checks where required.

If you are interested in supporting our outdoor learning and grounds development, please contact the school office or see Mrs Dell!

## Dates for Your Diary

### March 2026

- **2/3/26** – Secondary School Offer Date
- **2/3/26**- Assessment week Y3-5
- **9/3/26**- Practice SATs week Y6
- **3/3/26** – Year 6 SATs & Residential Information Meeting
- **5/3/26** – Special World Book Day Menu provided by our wonderful chef!
- **6/3/26** – World Book Day celebrations at Ashbrook
  - Dress as a character from favourite authors book (or book character)
  - Book swap
  - Focus author study: **Oliver Jeffers**
- **12/3/26**- 9am -10 am Guardians group with Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Everitt SEND whitepaper updates and coffee morning
- **18–19/3/26** – Parents' Evenings- contact class teachers for more info
- **20/3/26** – Comic Relief – £1 donation, wear something silly
- **26/3/26** – Drum hill Year 4 Residential – meeting will take place in March date TBC

### Easter

- **23/3/26** – Easter activities in school today (details TBC)
- **25/3/26**- Table of Awesomeness during lunchtime. A selection of children invited to a special table over lunch each term who show amazing, exemplary behaviour at lunch time every day! This will be a termly event.



### Summer Term

- **Monday 1 June 2026** – INSET Day (school closed)
- **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** (over two weeks) Y4 Multiplication checks- see Y4 teachers more information
- **11/5/26** – KS2 SATs Week
- **25–26/6/26** – Y6 Friesland Transition
- **7,8,9/7/26** – Y6 West Park Transition
- **15/7-17/7** Y6 residential to Lee Green- contact Y6 teachers
- **Thursday 23 July 2026** – INSET Day (school closed)

We will update with more key dates, as soon as possible with the aim of giving parents as much notice as we can.

### Sports Clubs – March

We are pleased to offer a range of sports clubs during March. These include: Benchball, Dodgeball, Paceball, Basketball, Multi-sports, Hockey and Football.

Further details, including days and sign-up information, will be shared via the school office.

We also have sports every day at lunchtime provided by CSSS sports providers Keiron, Richard and Ash- this changes every day and anyone can join in (girls football only Wednesday). We also have our popular game zone led by our lunchtime teachers which changes daily including music, bottle flipping, building, skipping and other games.

### Our School Logo

You may have noticed that we have made a change to our school logo, which we have introduced gradually with guidance from our pupils. The uniform shop will begin to sell items gradually featuring our new logo. There is no need to buy anything new.

The uniform shop remains closed for the moment and will reopen on 9th March. We will be joining them for their launch. They are currently in the process of designing a PE shirt for us to use for PE lessons and sports events — watch this space!

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to another exciting half-term of learning and enrichment opportunities as we continue to improve and make every day count!



We have had a number of worries brought to us about social media use and children. We will always try and support any child who has concerns or worries about anything online and want to keep communication very open. However, here are some of the guidelines as a reminder.

## Popular Social Media Platforms & Age Limits

### WhatsApp

- **Minimum age:** 13+
- Messaging app for texts, voice notes, calls, and group chats.

### TikTok

- **Minimum age:** 13+
- Short-form video sharing platform.
- Under 18s have additional privacy protections.

### Instagram

- **Minimum age:** 13+
- Photo and video sharing app with messaging and live streaming.

### Snapchat

- **Minimum age:** 13+
- Photo/video messaging app where content disappears after viewing.

### Facebook

- **Minimum age:** 13+
- Social networking site for sharing posts, photos, and messaging.

### YouTube

- **Minimum age:** 13+ (to create an account)
- **YouTube Kids:** Designed for children under 13 with parental controls.

### Discord

- **Minimum age:** 13+
- Chat platform popular with gamers; includes voice and group servers.



## Roblox

- **Minimum age:** No official minimum to play, but 13+ for full social features
- Online gaming platform with chat functions.

## A Reminder for Parents & Carers

Most social media platforms set a **minimum age of 13** due to data protection laws. Children under this age should not have their own accounts, even with parental permission, unless the platform specifically provides a child-friendly version.

We encourage parents to:

- Check age ratings before allowing downloads
- Use parental controls
- Regularly review privacy settings
- Keep open conversations about online safety

Warm regards,

The Ashbrook Junior School Team