

Dear Parent/Carers,

Another fantastically action packed half term has literally flown past. This half term has been packed with fantastic learning, amazing new enrichment ventures and super assemblies lead by our parent guest speakers. The school is looking vibrant and revitalised. All display boards are riddled with colour and information, which provoke thought and curiosity towards our learning. Subsequently, it highlights the true pride that we all share for creating an enticing and dynamic school.

Display Boards



Remembrance Service

This service is always a special and important occasion here at Ash, as many of our children have relatives who serve in the armed forces. This year, children were tasked with investigating their family history and discovering which family members were involved with either WW1 or WW2. We had many stories to share and even medals from WW1. The Yr4 children shared their poetry about no man's land and the poppy fields, whilst the Yr6 children read their informative pieces revolving around the poppy and its symbolic history.



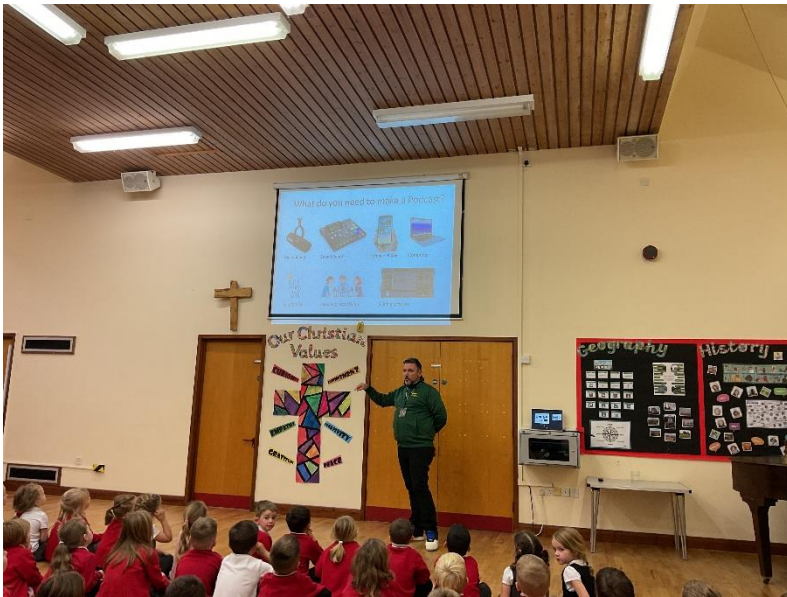
Early Years

Cooking, investigating, counting, writing, exploring, communicating, collaborating, playing, learning and laughing, these children are super confident in all elements mentioned. Their enthusiasm for school radiates towards you, as soon as you enter the room. They are constantly eager to discuss their learning activity with you, which is fantastic to see. Such a joy to watch their development and progress over the course of this term.



Careers, professions and people within our community

Our successful parent led career assemblies continued across the course of this half term. The children remained enthralled to learn about the professional world that awaits them and the various opportunities available. A massive thank you to all parents involved. Your time and efforts truly are greatly appreciated. Please remember, there is still time to volunteer if you wish... just contact the school office with a suggested Monday date. Assemblies run from 2.45pm.

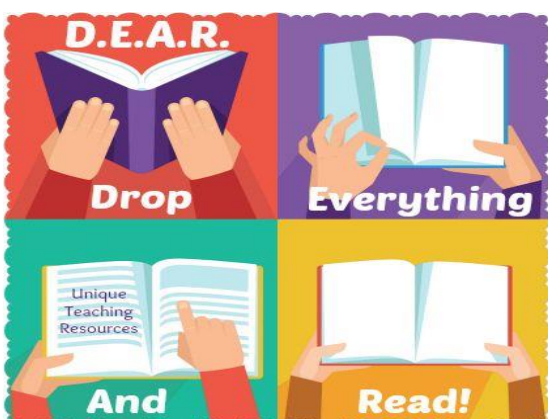


PTA

I would personally like to thank all members of this wonderful group, who dedicate so much of their time and effort towards supporting our children and the school. The Halloween disco proved a tremendous success in the new location, raising a good amount of money. The wreath making workshop and evening session proved exceptionally popular again. This event was a huge success in terms of community spirit, a fantastic occasion and a wonderful money raiser. The children have received books within their classes bought from money kindly donated by the PTA – obviously wrapped by the magical elves! Father Christmas proved a huge success Friday morning, alongside the disco in the afternoon. What a fantastic ending to a truly fabulous term of learning. Our theatre trips in January and March have also been heavily subsidised by the PTA.



Reading



Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.

Make sure you read as much as possible over the holidays with your child or children because the benefits are boundless.

Mock Trial 2024

On Tuesday 12th November, Year 6 attended the "Mock Trial" competition. The children were given a "mock" case to defend. Year 6 prepared their case, after a visit from a serving magistrate who gave them an insight into the workings of the justice system. They worked hard using the witness statements, as a basis for their case, whilst preparing a set of questions designed to probe the witnesses and provide evidence for the defence. Our defence solicitors were excellent in their questioning and listening in the courtroom. Our defendant was great on the stand as were our witnesses. Our usher to the court was very stern and our magistrates, provided wise counsel in deciding the verdict.

Ash children presented themselves with confidence, however missed the first-place position we achieved last year. Overall, we were placed 2nd in the competition, with one child receiving an award for his outstanding role as a defence solicitor and another was awarded joint 1st for her artist impression of the court room. The children were all brilliant and yet again proving fantastic ambassadors for our school.



Worship and Open the Book



These assemblies are always a reflective wonder on a Wednesday, after lunch. We are lucky to be surrounded by such a wonderful array of individuals, who deliver informative and engaging assemblies revolving around stories from the bible. This term our main themes have been Trust and Thankfulness. Not featured in these photos are Nigel and Helen, who are part of the Martock Christian Fellowship. The children are equally as mesmerised and enthralled, when they come into school.

Nursery

All children within are provision are super inquisitive and curious learners, who love to ask lots of questions and converse freely with others. They are supported, encouraged and nurtured by our wonderful team, who consistently ensure the environment is vibrant, inviting and stimulating. Unfortunately, we endured a degree of storm damage to the outside provision roof and timber structure, however that has not prevented or deterred any of our children from playing outside. We are so fortunate to have a wonderfully green and beautifully scenic outdoor environment.



Cross-Country

A huge thank you goes out to Miss Cockram not only for her efforts in leading running across the school but also her organisation of the children at the Cross-Country events. So far this year we have competed at Yeovil rugby club, Yeovil Football club and Bucklers Mead. On average each event involves 30 schools and on average 400 children. We even achieved first place in the Yr4 girls category, alongside 2nd in both the Yr2/3 boys and Yr5/6 girls.

Enrichment afternoons

Year 3 and 4 have been fortunate to receive cookery and Science on a Friday afternoon, alongside Forest School. Cookery has explored different tastes, food hygiene, an understanding of nutrition... unleashing some budding future chefs into the Ash Community. Science investigations, explosive experiments and chemical reactions stimulated curiosity and intrigue as the children explored the how, the why and the what of science. Next term we embark upon a similar project with Years 1 and 2. A huge thank you to both Mrs Fullerton and Mrs Trenchard for their fantastic enthusiasm and dedication.



Early Birds and Late Birds



Every morning from 7.30am and every afternoon until 5.00pm, we have a superb team, who organise and lead activities for the children before and after school. Make sure you contact the school office for further information or to book a place for your child.



Forest School



Christmas Service preparation



Christmas Nativities

Simply stunning and spectacularly memorable performances from all children within the nativity plays. Every single child demonstrated super levels of clarity and harmony, whilst singing, alongside great confidence and presence upon the stage, whilst acting. It truly was a joy to watch and even bought a tear to the eye of some.





Christmas Lunch

Festive spirit was enjoyed by all, as we shared a wonderful Christmas hot dinner or Christmas packed lunch. Jokes were a plenty, hats were a slipping and stickers were a sticking. All children loved the crackers and the entertaining music that was played.



School Prayer



Ideas for over Christmas

Mrs Gibbons would love to see more children's work upon our centralised reading board in the library.

So...how about, over the Christmas period, you take a photograph of you reading one of your favourite books? Maybe it's a special present you receive from Santa Claus or a family member. You could even... write a review of your favourite story or draw a selection of characters who appear throughout your book. For those budding authors out there (and there are a few of you, we know!) can you write a Christmas based adventure, mystery, science fiction or detective story. Can't wait to see what you bring to school in January.

Hope you all have a fantastically Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dates to remember

Monday 6th January – INSET DAY

Tuesday 7th January – All children return to school

Wednesday 8th January – Year Five and Six London Theatre Visit.

Thursday 9th January – Year Three and Four Sutton Bingham Trip

Friday 10th January – Year One and Two Swimming begins

Monday 27th January – Year Six visit in from Stanchester children

Tuesday 28th January – Year One and Two Haynes Motor Museum Trip

HALF TERM – Monday 17th until Friday 21st February 2025

Monday 24th February – All children return to school