

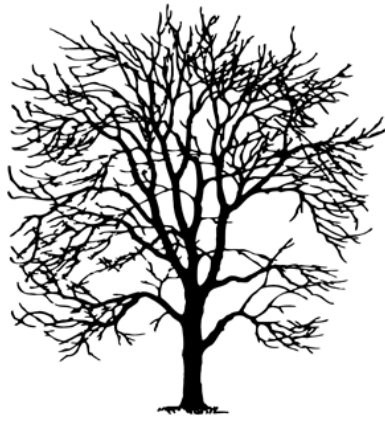


Ashdon Primary School



Prospectus

2021 - 2022



Address: Ashdon Community Primary School,
Bartlow Road,
Ashdon,
Essex
CB10 2HB

Telephone: 01799 584219

E-mail: admin@ashdon.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.ashdon.essex.sch.uk

Please note that our grounds and school are a smoke-free zone, so when you visit us we ask that you refrain from smoking, including e-cigarettes.

We also only allow guide dogs on our grounds and school, so other dogs should not be brought onto the premises.

The information contained in this prospectus relates to the school year indicated on the front cover and is correct at the time of publication. We will endeavour to make sure that any necessary changes that arise during the school year are communicated to parents as soon as possible.

Welcome

Welcome to Ashdon Primary School. The main building of the school which now houses the hall, a classroom and computer suite, dates from the Victorian era. Of course much has changed since then, including extensions for classrooms and our external classroom where Year 3 & 4 are currently taught.

I have also been part of the school's history, as I taught here in the early 2000's, before leaving to become a Headteacher in Suffolk. So when the Headteacher vacancy was advertised I jumped at the chance to re-join this fabulous school.

The school is set in beautiful grounds which are home to a play trail, wild area, raised gardening beds and a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). We are rightly proud of our grounds and try to use them as much as possible.

Ashdon Primary currently has an intake of up to 15 children in each year group, so we can take a maximum of 105 pupils.

I hope you find this prospectus useful and informative. However, do not hesitate to get in touch if you feel you still need any questions answered. You are also very welcome to arrange a visit to see the school.



Simon Rance
Headteacher

Vision

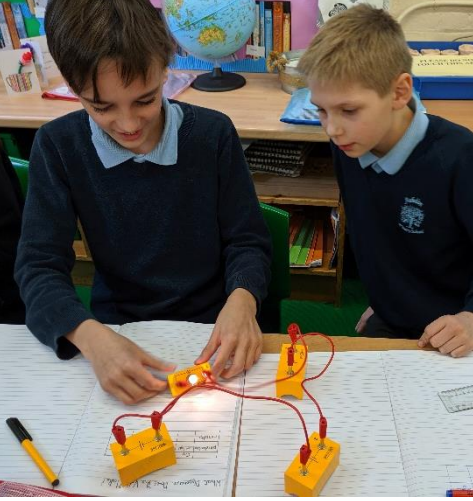
Ashdon School is a caring community. We recognise and celebrate that everyone is an individual and we value and respect them as such.

We aim to provide an enriched curriculum and environment that excites and stimulates our children in their learning and challenges them in their thinking. Through our teaching and the experiences that we offer, we provide our children with every opportunity to be who they want to be in their future.

As a community, we welcome the work and support of our families, other professionals and services so that we can nurture and educate our children in a rounded way, ensuring a combination of academic, social and emotional learning. We enable our pupils to be confident, independent, happy and successful young people, prepared and ready to embark upon the next stage of their learning journey.

Ashdon School **challenges** our children, **celebrates** our children and **cares** for our children.





Ofsted

Our most recent Ofsted inspection was in October 2017. We were delighted to be judged “Good” in all areas. In particular the Ofsted inspector praised:

- Community is at the heart of all of the work that goes on in Ashdon Primary School. Each child, pupil, adult and parent is a member of your small school ‘family’.
- Pupils love to learn at your school.
- Pupils receive a rich curriculum which is often personalised to their needs and interests.
- Parents who spoke to me during my visit, and almost all parents on Parent View, were glowing in their praise for you as headteacher, and your team. This is because your team listen to parents and care about their views.
- Inspection evidence confirms that the quality of pupils’ writing is securely good across the curriculum and exemplary in Years 5 and 6.

The full report can be downloaded from our website.

Results

Due to the COVID-19 virus, this data is from 2019, as all national assessments across the primary age range were cancelled in 2020 and 2021. More performance data can be found at:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/114964/ashdon-primary-school/primary>

Reception	School pupils meeting Good Level of Development	National pupils meeting Good Level of Development
2019	90%	71.8%

Year 1 Phonics	School pupils working at expectations	National pupils working at expectations
2019	100%	82%

Year 2	School Pupils meeting national expectations	National Pupils meeting national expectations	School Greater Depth	National Greater Depth
Reading	83%	75%	33%	25%
Writing	75%	69%	25%	15%
Maths	83%	76%	25%	22%

Year 6	School Pupils meeting national expectations	National Pupils meeting national expectations	School Greater Depth	National Greater Depth
Reading	66%	73%	33%	27%
Writing	77%	78%	33%	20%
Maths	66%	79%	55%	27%

Staff

The children are arranged in classes according to age, with the current class structure shown below (this may change if pupil numbers increase/decrease):

Class	Year Group/s	Teacher/s
1	Reception, Year 1 & 2	Miss Foote
2	Year 3 & 4	Mrs Jarmain
3	Year 5 & 6	Mrs Lunn & Mr Rance

Other members of our staff:

Mrs Allen – Teaching Assistant, Family Liaison & Midday Assistant

Mrs Alderman – Teaching Assistant & Midday Assistant

Mrs Davies – Teaching Assistant & Midday Assistant

Mrs Mack – Teaching Assistant, Midday Assistant & Cook's Assistant

Mrs Dewell – Office Administrator

Mrs McCormick – Office Administrator & Midday Assistant

Mrs Nathan – Midday Assistant

Miss Lester – Midday Assistant

Mrs Henry – Midday Assistant

Mrs Gibson – Midday Assistant

Mrs Osborne - Cook

Governors

Governors are drawn from the teaching staff, parents and the local community. Our governors work closely with the Headteacher and teaching staff and are fully involved in the life of the school. The Governing Body meets at twice per term and regularly visit the school, either to help with events or to monitor aspects of school life.

Maggie Hartley – Chair, Co-opted Governor

Lynn Nuttall - Vice Chair (Interim), Local Authority Governor

Simon Rance – Ex-Officio

Liz Lunn - Staff Governor

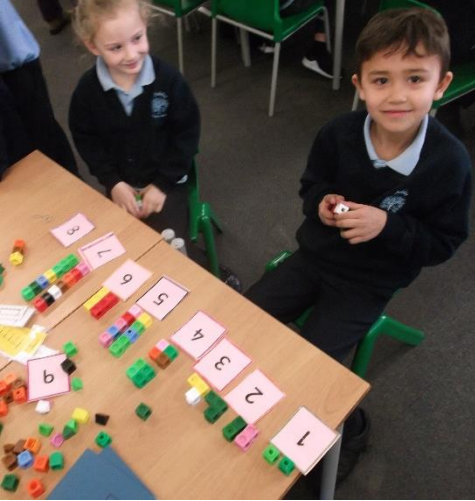
Tara Griffin - Parent Governor

Eve Krywonos - Parent Governor

Cara Moss – Co-opted Governor

Charles Saville - Co-opted Governor





PTA

Welcome from the PTA of Ashdon Primary School. We are small friendly group of parents, guardians and teachers who enjoy helping to raise funds for our wonderful village school. We like to arrange activities that not only the children and their families will enjoy taking part in but also the community within the village and surrounding villages.

Our fund raising activities include our very popular 10k and 3k Fun Run, Live Music events, Quiz Night, Sponsored Something, Wreath Making Night, Christmas Fair, Community Music Festival, Race Night amongst others.

The funds that we raise go towards subsidising school trips, equipment requested by the teachers and children, books and visits from various workshops.

We would love to welcome new members, however much time you can give. If you have any fresh or new ideas please get in touch, we would love to hear them. Donations of time, items for sale, raffle prizes or just helping on the day of an event would be fantastic as this ensures our events are successful.

If you would like to find out more about how you can help or the date of the next meeting please contact our chairperson.

Parental Involvement

We see education at the primary stage as an extension of life at home. The influence of parents on the children's whole attitude to life at school is very strong, therefore we need the support, understanding and interest of parents, so that they can encourage and help motivate their children in all school activities. We welcome help from parents in a variety of ways.

Communication plays a key role in developing strong relationships with parents. To help facilitate this, teachers are available for a short time at the beginning and end of the school day for informal discussions. Where longer discussions are required, parents can arrange appointments to meet with the appropriate members of staff.

Parents' evenings are held in the autumn and spring terms to discuss individual pupils' progress, targets and next steps. We also hold events during the school year that parents will be invited to.

We are also very fortunate to have parent volunteers, who support school trips or listen to readers. If you are able to offer any time to support the school we would love to hear from you.

Admissions

Our standard number to admit is 15 in each year group and we must comply with the Key Stage 1 maximum class size of 30.

In line with Local Authority regulations, there is no guarantee of a place for children living in the priority admissions area. In the event of oversubscription, places are allocated using the following criteria:

1. Looked After Children and previously looked after children (as defined in the Primary Education in Essex 2021/2022 booklet);
2. children with a sibling attending the school;
3. children living in the priority admission area;
4. remaining applications.

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criteria, priority will be determined by straight line distance from home to school, those living closest being given the highest priority.

As required by law, all Essex primary schools provide for the full-time admission of all children offered a place in the Reception year group from the September following their fourth birthday.

Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in the school year. The law does not require a child to start school until the start of the term following their fifth birthday. Compulsory school age is reached at that point.

Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. The parent would not however be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted.

Parents can request their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Parents interested in taking up a part-time place should contact the school for further details as to what this would entail.

If you plan to defer your child's start date until later in the school year, you must still apply at the usual time for primary or infant school places.

Once your child has been offered a school place by the Essex admissions team, then we will contact you to notify you of the transition mornings your child can attend in the summer term, together with the meeting we hold for parents to introduce you to the school.

If you have any queries regarding the admissions process, including if you wish to know more details about applying for a place in other year groups, then please speak to our office staff.





Secondary Schools

We are one of the catchment schools for Saffron Walden County High School and a partner primary school to Linton Village College, where we send a number of children each year.

Parents are sent information about, and application forms for, the available county secondary schools in the autumn term before their child leaves.

We maintain good relationships with the local secondary schools and are able to help create a smooth transition for our pupils.



Transport

For pupils from Hadstock, the School Bus leaves the village at 8:55am (approx.) and returns at 3:50pm (approx.). Annual information about School transport is issued by Essex County Council. Applications for home to school transport should be made via ECC website:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-transport/Apply-for-school-transport>



School Day

9:00 am – School gates open, members of teaching staff available on playground.

9:10 am – Whistle blown, pupils line up and are taken into the school and school day begins.

10:30 am – Break time for all pupils.

10:45 am – End of break / beginning of 2nd morning session.

12:15 pm – Early Years and Key Stage 1 lunch begins.

12:30 pm – Key Stage 2 lunch begins.

1:25 pm – End of lunch for all pupils. Afternoon session begins.

3:30 pm – End of the school day.



A daily assembly takes place for approximately 15 minutes (timing varies depending on day of the week) and we hold a weekly sharing assembly, which is open to parents and grandparents to attend, on most Fridays between 9:20 am and 9:45 am.

Breakfast and After-School Club

The Breakfast Club is run by the school and the After-School club at Ashdon is run by Neil O'Sullivan Sports.

Our Breakfast Club runs Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. We offer everyone something to eat: options include toast with butter, jam, honey, marmite and a selection of cereals. The cost for breakfast club is £5 per day.

The After-School Club is an after school provision with a twist; we love to have fun, make a mess and laugh our socks off!

The club runs from 3:30 to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday. You can choose to pay for 3:30pm to 4:30pm or 3:30pm to 5:30pm with a "snack" served around 5:00pm. Snacks include, fish fingers and chips, pizza, pasta, jacket potato - all perfect to keep the children topped up until they get home.

The club runs a themed activity everyday to 4:30 pm, so if you just need that extra hour to get that last minute job done, then this a perfect way to keep the kids entertained. The themes change every half term, so no two days are ever they same!

The autumn term 2021 themes are:-

Monday -Directors Club- We take on Hollywood's finest and make our own movie trailers;

Tuesday – Art Attack - We create our mini master pieces to be proudly hung on the fridge or maybe take pride of place on a shelf;

Wednesday – Taskmaster- A simple little game, or so it would appear - each week there will be a challenge for the children to do but with a twist;

Thursday – Spy Club – This one is very much top secret, the children attend "spy school" which covers all your spy basics from reading secret messages to avoiding the laser beams;

Friday – Let's Get Cooking- We have all made it to the end of the week and we think it is only right that we get a treat and what better way than to make our very own - this is where we learn how to weigh, measure, chop and dice.

If none of the above sounds like your child, this is not a problem, no one has to do anything they don't want to do. Children can freely play with the toys and games of their choice which include, a pool table, table football, air hockey and we also make use of the outside space daily.

The cost of each session is until 4:30 pm £5 and until 5:30 pm £10.





Term Dates

Autumn 2021

Term dates: Wednesday 1 September 2021 – Friday 17 December 2021

Half-term: Monday 25 October 2021 – Friday 29 October 2021

Spring 2022

Term dates: Tuesday 4 January 2022 – Friday 1 April 2022

Half-term: Monday 14 February 2022 – Friday 18 February 2022

Summer 2022

Term dates: Tuesday 19 April 2022 – Friday 22 July 2022

Half-term: Monday 30 May 2022 – Friday 3 June 2022

Bank Holiday in this term is on Monday 2 May 2022

There are 195 school days in a year.

Schools also have 5 days out of the academic year for staff training. For the academic year 2020/21 our PD Days are:

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 22nd October 2021

Tuesday January 4th 2022

Monday 19th April 2022



School Closure

In the event of severe weather conditions or an emergency, e.g. snow, then the Headteacher will endeavour to keep parents informed of any closure using announcements on either BBC Radio Essex (95.3 or 103.5 FM) or Heart (101.7 FM) or via the school website.

However, as a decision has to be submitted between 6:00am – 7:00am to the County Council to guarantee it being broadcast on the radio, this may not always be possible!

School closures are only considered if either pupils' or staff safety is put at risk. This decision will be determined by safety of the journey to and from school (in severe weather) and the risk of exposure to dangers present at the school site.



Uniform

School uniform (with Ashdon School Logo) can be purchased from Price & Buckland online. Sizing samples are available to try in the school office. We ask all children to adhere to the following dress code:

Trousers/skirts/tunics:	Grey or navy.
Polo shirts:	Pale blue.
Sweatshirts/jumpers/ cardigans:	Navy blue.
Socks/tights:	Plain navy / white.
Shoes:	Dark, plain sensible flat-soled shoes should be worn in school. Platform shoes, open-toed sandals and backless shoes are not suitable or practical for school use.
Summer dresses	Pale blue checked school dresses.
Hats:	A named sun hat should be kept at school during the summer months.
PE	Logo sport polo or pale blue polo; navy or black shorts/skirt; black plimsolls / black training shoes.
Swimming	Children in Years 3 & 4 attending swimming lessons will require a swimsuit (girls) or swimming trunks (boys) plus swimming hat. The pool will not allow boys wearing long swimming shorts to swim.



Lunch

We have our school meals freshly prepared and cooked in the school kitchen each day. The menu has been devised by Essex School Meals Service to give a nutritionally balanced diet over the whole week and meets current Government requirements. At the time of printing a school meal is £2.40 per day. A link to the current menu on offer is available on our website.

It is Government policy that every child is entitled to a free cooked meal until they finish Year 2. This is known as Universal Infant Free School Meals. Once your child is in Year 3 or above they have to pay for a cooked meal. Of course you can provide your child/children with a packed lunch and drink as an alternative. We would ask parents to consider the contents of any packed lunch carefully, so that their children receive a nutritionally balanced diet.

Depending on your family income your child/children may be entitled to Free School Meals throughout school. If you successfully apply for this, then your child will bring in additional funding to the school which can be spent on initiatives to raise their attainment. Parents sometimes worry that the children might be identified as different from the others if applying for Free School Meals. When taking the dinner register, a member of staff only asks if a child is having a school dinner or a packed lunch, so they don't identify which ones are having free school meals to the other paying children. Please speak to the our school office for further details on how to apply.





Behaviour

Ashdon Primary School has adopted a positive behaviour policy. Wherever possible we praise and reward good behaviour. We have a whole-school system of house points which can be awarded by any member of staff.

In most instances, a member of staff who has problems with a pupil will deal with it within the classroom. In instances where it is felt necessary, the pupil will be sent directly to the Headteacher and, if appropriate, the parents will be informed.

For more details our Behaviour & Discipline Policy is available from the school office or on our school website.



Celebration

Each week we hold an assembly where the children can share their work with the rest of the school and with their parents. In addition to sharing work, the assembly allows us to celebrate a 'Star of the Week' from each class, which has been decided on by the class teachers. Whenever possible, we also celebrate achievements from outside school, e.g. swimming certificates. The assembly starts on a Friday at 9:20 a.m. and all parents & grandparents are welcome.



Medication

You should personally administer any medication your child requires during the school day. Where this is not possible, then a member of the staff will administer it on your behalf. Please see the school office to obtain and complete a consent form where you will detail instructions regarding the administration of the medicine. ***It is our policy that school staff will only administer medicines obtained through a doctor's prescription, not administer 'over the counter' medicines, such as Calpol. No medicines, including over the counter products, should be kept by the pupil in their bag.***

If your child suffers from a chronic or long-term complaint, e.g. allergies or epilepsy, please contact the Headteacher prior to any medication being handed in, so we can write a care plan.

Our school nurse is available for consultation on any matter related to your child's health and will sometimes run drop-in clinics at the school. Please speak to the school office to obtain contact details.

In addition to the above support, the Government runs a programme to check the health of all Reception children. This includes a height and weight check. You should receive details about this in the term that your child turns 5. A further check takes place in Year 6.

Attendance

If your child is not well and will be unable to attend, please phone school by 9:15 a.m. to confirm their absence each day they are not able to attend school. This is important, as we then know the child is being looked after and cared for at home.

In cases of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, the recommended period for a child to be kept away from school is 48 hours after the diarrhoea and/or vomiting has ceased. This is to minimise the risk of transmission of infection to others.

If the absence is for more than three days a note of explanation should be sent to arrive at the school by the fourth day, otherwise the Education Welfare Officer may be involved in investigating the absence. The Education Welfare Officer may also investigate regular patterns of absence or if a child has had a significant amount of time off in total.

Parents should also be aware that if a child arrives at school later than when the registers have been completed at 9:30 a.m. by the class teacher, it is considered as an unauthorised absence.

If your child needs to attend a medical appointment during the day, then please make sure that school office staff signs them out and then signs them in on your return.

The Government has changed the law since September 2013 and Headteachers are no longer able to authorise absence during term time, other than illness, unless in 'exceptional circumstances'. Unauthorised absences will be marked as such in the register and may be followed up by the Educational Welfare Officer.

A proposed leave of absence will be only authorised if you have met one or more of the following criteria set out in our school attendance policy:

- service personnel who have returned from active duty;
- when a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis;
- cultural or religious observance;
- wedding of an immediate family member .

The maximum amount of absence time that a Headteacher may authorise a particular child within a given academic year is 5 days. All absences during public examinations and SATs tests will not be authorised.

Our Attendance Policy, which covers both holidays and absences, is available from the school office, or to download from the school website.

Year	Attendance	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence
2019/2020 (until COVID-19)	97.25%	2.5%	0.25%





Safeguarding

Safeguarding at Ashdon Primary School is considered everyone's responsibility and as such our school aims to create the safest environment within which every pupil has the opportunity to achieve. The Governing Body and staff recognise the contribution it can make in ensuring that all pupils registered with or who use our school, feel that they will be listened to and have appropriate action taken for any concerns they may raise. We will do this by endeavouring to work in partnership with other agencies and seek to establish effective working relationships with parents/carers to develop and provide activities and opportunities throughout our curriculum that will help to equip our pupils with the skills they need. This will include materials and learning experiences that will encourage our pupils to develop essential life skills and protective behaviours.



It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to ensure that all staff and volunteers are properly vetted to make sure they are safe to work with the pupils who attend our school and that the school has procedures for handling allegations of abuse made against members of staff (including the Headteacher and volunteer helpers). The Governing Body will ensure that there is a Named Governor and a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who has lead responsibility for dealing with all safeguarding issues in our school.



The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Mr Simon Rance**. If they are not available then the alternate DSL is: **Mrs Sarah Allen**.

The Named Safeguarding Governor is: **Mrs Lynn Nuttall**.

Complaints

We are committed to providing the best education for our young people and want our pupils to be healthy, happy and safe and to do well. We recognise the importance of establishing and maintaining good relationships with parents, carers and the wider community.



We are aware that there may be occasions where people have concerns or complaints. A full copy of our complaints procedure can be requested from the school office or downloaded from our school website.

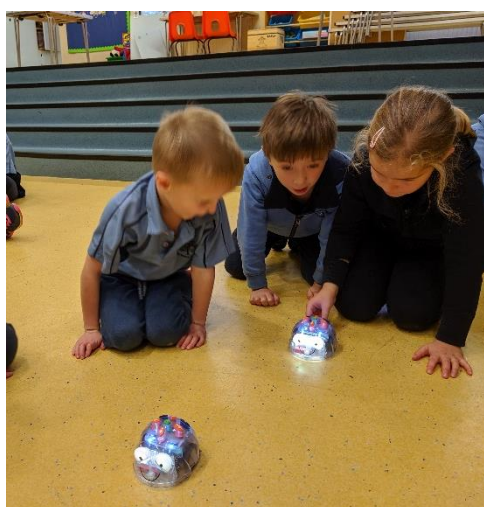
SEND

When a teacher plans their lessons they will take into account the different abilities of the children in the class and where appropriate adjust the task to meet the different needs of the children. However, some pupils will need further support than the normal class teaching will provide. These needs might be addressed by small group 'catch-up' programmes or through working closely with the parents to develop strategies to meet the child's specific needs, which may require additional support from one of our teaching assistants and/or an outside specialist.



Parents who have concerns over their child's progress should initially speak to the class teacher. Where appropriate, any child who needs to be considered for Special Needs will be referred to the Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). Currently, Mrs Jarman is the SENCO for Ashdon Primary School.

The SENCO will then liaise with the parents, class teacher and the child to devise strategies to assist the child's learning. Regular meetings throughout the year are then put in place to review the progress of these strategies.



For more details, our SEND Policy is available from the school office or on our school website.

Visits & Visitors

During the school year there will be opportunities for the children to attend educational visits. These might be visits to local features within the village, e.g. All Saints Church, or further away, e.g. Colchester Castle. The teachers carefully plan these visits to enhance the curriculum. In Year 5 & 6, the children also have the opportunity to experience a 5-day residential (once every 2 years).



In addition to school organised visits, we are also involved with liaising with the other local primary schools and our local high schools. The opportunities provided are an excellent chance for the children to prepare themselves for the transfer to a new school at the end of Year 6.

For most educational visits we will ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of running the trip, otherwise the visits would be unviable without them.

From time to time, we also invite visitors to work with the children in school, for example, the community police officer or a theatre company or an author.





Clubs

During term time the school has members of staff, or other specialist teachers who work with the school, put on before and after-school clubs. Some of these clubs will be for specific age ranges and some will incur a cost to take part.

In addition to any clubs that are running, we have some musical tutors who offer lessons in guitar, violin and piano. If you would like further details about the tuition and the associated cost, then please speak to the school office.



Homework

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress to the child. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

The following are Government recommended time allocations for homework activities:

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 - 1.5 hours per week

There is no recommendation for children in Reception.

The homework activities may include:

- Reading;
- Spellings;
- English activities;
- Mathematics activities incl. real-life related problems e.g. shopping, learning times tables;
- A project or piece of work related to their curriculum topic.



At Ashdon Primary we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents take a collaborative approach, just as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.



RE

Arrangements for the act of collective worship and for religious education are made by the school in accordance of the 1988 Education Act.

In this school, religious education is in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus approved by Essex County Council.

We have collective worship on a daily basis, in which the stories (either from the Bible, from other faiths, or with a strong moral basis), songs and prayers reflect the values and qualities that many religions promote. Members of staff regularly include moral stories from different cultures. We are also very fortunate to have strong links with 3 local churches who will take turns to lead an assembly once a month.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from both collective worship and religious education. We ask that any requests are made to the Headteacher in writing.



PE

We ask that your child has a full PE kit in school during each school week. The details of the required kit are listed in the uniform section of this prospectus.

We will always endeavour to use the outside area, so in the months of winter and early spring you may wish to give them a pair of blue or black jogging trousers or a warmer PE top. However, the trousers should not be too long in the leg, as they then become a trip hazard!

As the children's feet continually grow, we often find that they struggle to fit into their plimsolls or trainers. It would be helpful if all parents could check termly to see if a new pair needs to be purchased.

Children with hair at approximately shoulder length or longer need to have it tied back during PE. They can use hair bands but not an Alice band.

Parents need to be aware of the health and safety rules we are asked to follow regarding the wearing of earrings for **any** physical education, including swimming.

Firstly consider carefully the timing of when the child has their ears pierced. Due to the 6-week initial period earrings should be left in after piercing, we would advise that children have their ears pierced at the beginning of the summer holiday. Failing this then parents are asked to provide medical tape to place over the earrings during PE lessons for the 6-week duration.

Assuming that your child has worn their earrings for more than 6-weeks, then they must remove the earrings for **all** physical education activities including swimming. Please note that members of staff, or other children, are not allowed to remove or replace earrings. Hence, if your child can not do this independently we ask that they do not wear earrings to school on days they have PE or swimming.



Curriculum

English

Up to one hour each day is devoted to English activities throughout the school. The children are taught to use speech to express their thoughts clearly and accurately and are encouraged to learn to value the ability to listen carefully and attentively.

Reading is given high priority with direct teaching and guided groups in class. To support individual reading there is a graded scheme at the early stages which broadens into a variety of progressive bands of suitable reading material and a wide selection of more advanced books. Children are encouraged to take books home to practise and consolidate their reading skills. Children write in a variety of forms and genres, including creative and factual writing, reports, instructional texts, poetry and persuasive accounts.

Spelling is taught using a variety of strategies. The Cambridge 'Pen Pals' scheme is used to teach both the mechanics of handwriting and appropriate speed and style for different purposes.

Mathematics

Mathematics is also taught throughout the school. A daily mathematics lesson, of between 45 minutes and 1 hour, is held in all classes. Children are encouraged to talk about their maths using appropriate vocabulary and explain their methods. The development of mental mathematic strategies is an important part of this. We aim to teach children the importance of maths in all aspects of their work and its practical applications in everyday life. We supplement mathematical work with games and other resources to help children find pleasure in the subject and to reinforce the important concepts and skills.

Science

The children are taught a variety of scientific facts and methods of enquiry through topic work. They are encouraged to read, investigate, experiment and record their findings in order to develop the skills of predicting, setting up fair tests and obtaining evidence from their own observations.

Computing

We aim to prepare children for the challenges of a rapidly developing and changing technological world. Computing is used to enhance the children's learning, develop their understanding of how programs work and to communicate and present information in a variety of ways.

Design Technology

Design technology is taught through the three elements of design, making and evaluating. We present the idea that there are many solutions to a design problem with aesthetic, economic and safety issues taken into consideration.



Art and Design

We encourage appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts and children are given opportunities to explore all aspects of art and design. They are taught to use different materials and encouraged to develop their creativity and imagination in communicating through visual media. We explore the work of artists, craftspeople and designers to learn about the diverse roles and functions of art and design in society.



History and Geography

History and geography are taught through topic work. Children begin by studying the familiar and extending their learning to develop a wider appreciation of the world in which they live. To broaden their experiences, the children often have the opportunity to visit events and places of interest. Years 5 and 6 are offered an extended residential trip to study a contrasting location.

Music

Ashdon is fortunate to have a specialist teacher to work with each class every week. All children are taught to read music and are encouraged to explore rhythm and melody. There are class and whole school singing lessons and we have an active and enthusiastic choir. All children have the opportunity to participate in a musical production during the year.



French

Children have specific lessons in French and are also exposed to French vocabulary during the course of the day.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education

We teach RSHE through different aspects of the curriculum. Whilst children will learn mostly in specific RSHE lessons, we also teach some RSHE through other subject areas (for example, science and PE).

In Key Stage 1, we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other.



In Key Stage 2, we focus on life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth. We ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

The Relationship, Sex and Health Education programme is outlined in our school policy, a copy of which may be obtained from the school office and is available on our website.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from specific parts of the RSHE programme that we teach in our school, which are clearly indicated within our school policy. All other areas are not optional, as we have a legal duty to cover them. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from lessons, they should complete the form in the policy appendix.

