



Happy New Year!

I would like to start by taking the opportunity to extend to you my best wishes for the year ahead. The children have made a good start to the Spring term and we look forward to sharing their progress with you..

2026 is the National Year of Reading, with the strapline "Go all in." The aim of this year is to encourage children and adults to read more to both develop this essential skill and find enjoyment in books.



We will be setting the children new reading challenges and activities and more information will be coming out to parents soon.

As a starting point and as it is the time of year when we often think about making changes and resolutions, perhaps you could think of some ways to encourage your child to read more at home. Life can be busy but even finding 10 quiet minutes a day can help to improve children's reading. If you need any support with this, please see your child's class teacher.

In the coming weeks we will be sharing with you some opportunities to come to school for reading workshops and the chance to complete reading activities with your child at school – keep your eyes on the board at the gate and this newsletter for further information.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to support your children.

Mrs Bailey

Dates for the diary

- 12th January—Hand Hygiene with the School Nurse (Infants)
- 16th January—Swimming Lessons Begin for Year 3
- 4th February—Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court
- 10th February—Dental Hygiene with the School Nurse (Infants)
- 13th February—end of first half term. School closes at the normal time.
- 16th—20th February **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM**
- 23rd February—Children return to school
- 26th February—Parent/Teacher Consultations 2-7.30pm **SCHOOL CLOSING EARLY—NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK**
- 2nd March—Wellbeing Week. **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK**

Happy to be Back at School!



Donations Needed

AS part of our school's ongoing initiative to enhance the outdoor environment for our children at breaktimes, we are excited to share that we have developed a dedicated outdoor messy play area. This space is designed to encourage creative, sensory and developmental play using dirt and natural materials.

The area is now ready to use, and to ensure all children can access it comfortably and safely, we are kindly asking for donations of:



- ♦ Waterproof trousers
- ♦ Wellies
- ♦ Children's buckets and spades

All donations, new or gently used, would be very gratefully received and will help ensure that every child can fully enjoy this exciting new space.

Thank you for your continued support.

Penalty Notice for Unauthorised Absence

JUST to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive) in a 10 week period, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £160.00 per parent/carer per child if paid which reduces to £80 if paid within 21 days. If a further 5 days absence occurs parents will be liable for a second penalty notice of £160 per parent per child with no reduction. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices. Further absence could also result in prosecution.



Scan the QR code to see our term dates

Confirmation Classes

WHAT is Confirmation? Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized. If you were baptized at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you.

The local bishop will lay their hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life.

St.Hilda's Church will be running youth Confirmation Classes from 28th January for children of 11 years and over. If you are interested or know somebody who would be, please contact St. Hilda's Church.

What's for Lunch?

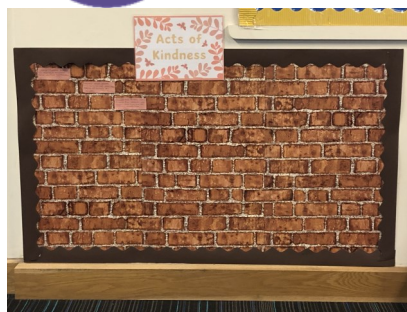
WE would like to remind everybody that ACE is a nut free school. We have both children and adults in our school with nut allergies and to keep them safe we ask that you do not put anything in your child's lunchbox that contains nuts. Please check ingredients if you are unsure. Packed lunches should contain food of nutritional value, such as a sandwich or wrap, some fruit or crudités. Crisps, biscuits and bars can form part of the packed lunch if they are nut free. School lunch menus change twice a year and can be ordered 1 week in advance via Tucasi. If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please speak to the school office.



Our value for this half term is compassion



DURING worship this week we reflected on what compassion means, with examples of how Jesus showed compassion for others and acts of compassion from everyday life.



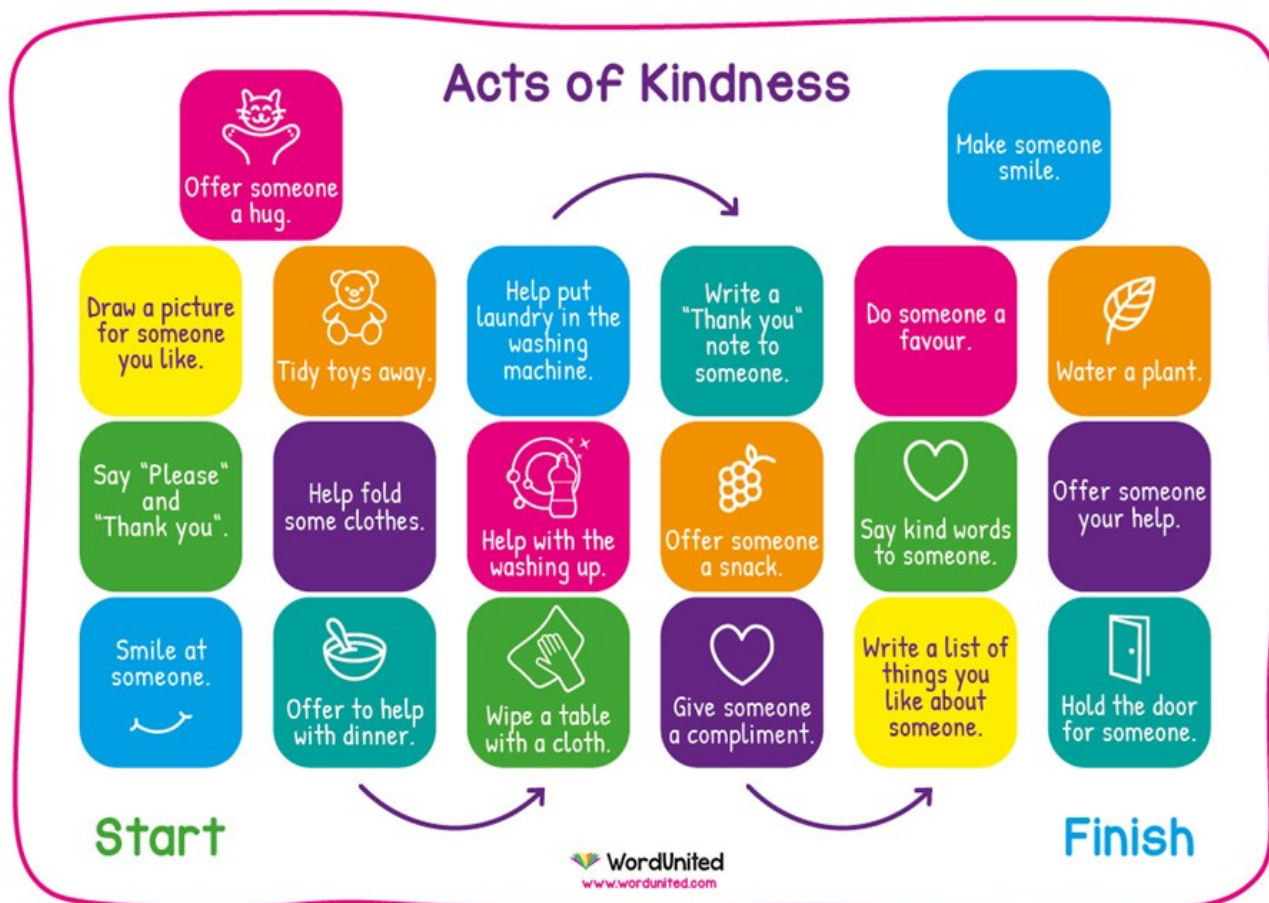
We looked at the following passage from Mark as an example of when Jesus put the needs of others before his own, he noticed when others needed help or healing and responded to this.



“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.”
Mark 6. 34

The children have been set a challenge to ‘notice a need’ and show compassion to others around school. This could be a simple act of kindness shown to another person such as listening to someone who needs to talk or helping someone when they are in need.

We are also looking to celebrate acts of kindness outside of school so if you have any examples please send these to us using the info@ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk address, the poster below shares some ideas that your child could try.





Ashford CE Primary School

Tree Planting Event

Saturday 17th January 2026
9:30am – midday

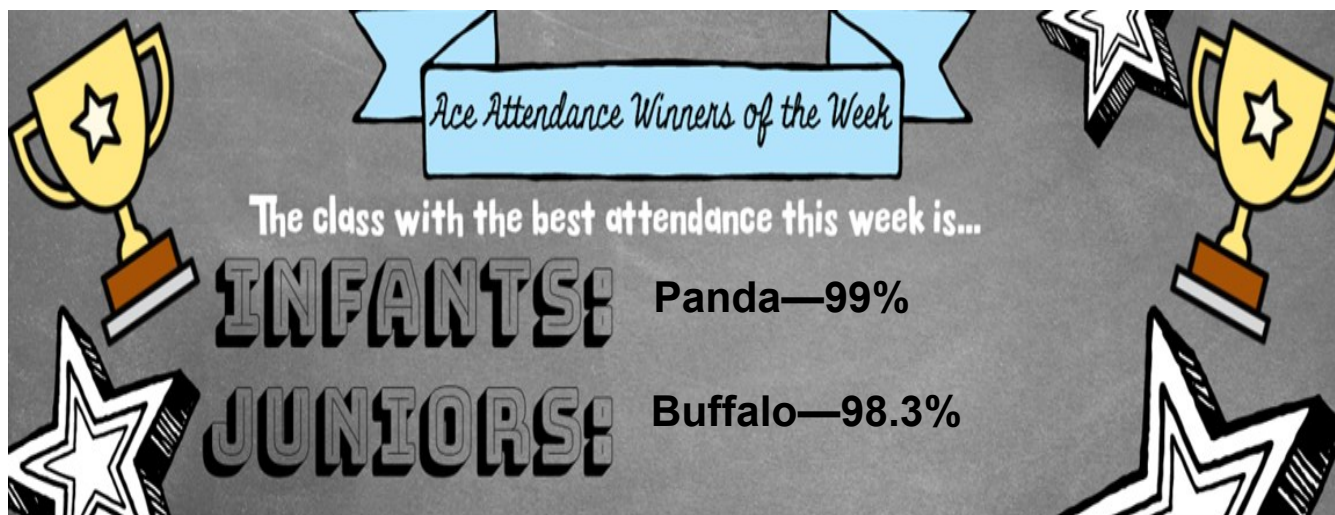
We are having a
Tree Planting Event
and we need volunteers
to help bring it to life.
Whether you can plant one
tree or stay the whole time,
your help really matters to us!

So grab a spade, put on your wellies and
gloves, enjoy the outdoors and be part
of something positive for our school,
the community and the planet

We hope to see you there!
Please let the office know if you can help

House Points:

COMING SOON!



Ace Attendance Winners of the Week

The class with the best attendance this week is...

INFANTS: Panda—99%

JUNIORS: Buffalo—98.3%

Our attendance target is 96%

Whole school this week 93.4%

ACE Celebration Stars of the Week

	Name	Reason
Koala	Johnny A	For great progress with his reading
	Ada SW	For showing compassion towards our new pupil
Kangaroo	Isaac P	For great improvement when writing his name
	Mason	For starting a new term making improved learning choices
Tiger	Summer DS	For settling really well into Tiger Class
	Harry BR	For his hard work in maths this week working with numbers to 20
Panda	Zenaida	For fantastic counting with Mrs Baker
	Elijah S	For excellent sounding out and blending during guided reading
Zebra	Robin B	For making positive learning choices this week
	Rosie B	For contributing on the carpet and answering lots of questions
Giraffe	Carter P	For returning to school with a great 'I can' attitude
	Hosna W	For great pictorial representation of adding equal groups
Lemur	Rosie D	For her consistent hard work and resilience in her writing
	Thivaan B	For embracing his first week at ACE with courage and resilience
Meerkat	Luca S	For is fantastic problem solving when multiplying and dividing by 8
	Matei M	For putting excellent effort into his presentation
Rhino	Ahmed M	For fantastic effort when learning his 6 times tables
	Freddy R	For a great improvement in his attitude and behaviour for learning
Elephant	Hunter C	For making a great start to our science unit about teeth
	Summer B	For her contributions to our maths sessions this week
Llama	Joshua O	For outstanding improvement in the presentation of his learning, showing great pride and care in his books
	Alysia H	For writing a fantastic proposal for a Mars rover
Buffalo	Frankie B	For a positive start to his time at ACE. Keep it up!
	Connor M	For his excellent writing in English this week
Panther	Wania T	For her enthusiasm and understanding in our science lesson comparing the characteristics of living things
	George C	For his fantastic understanding and hardworking attitude in maths
Leopard	Kilby B	For his excellent understanding of observational characteristics to identify similarities in living things
	Jack S	For making a great start in our new maths unit about decimals