

Welcome to Ashley Hill Primary School



**Parent information
booklet
2023-24**



Welcome to Ashley Hill Primary School

Dear Parents / Carers,

On behalf of the staff, pupils and Governors I would like to welcome you and your family to Ashley Hill Primary School.

Our primary aim is to provide outstanding opportunities that inspire every pupil to be the best they can be in an enjoyable, secure and exciting environment.

In this brochure you will find information about our school and its organisation, which we hope you will find useful.

We believe that children learn best when the partnership between children, parents and school is strong, and that by working together we can ensure children are motivated and inspired to succeed in all areas of their development and learning.

We also understand that the first steps into a new school can be daunting and want to assure you that we will be doing everything we possibly can to make you and your child's first experiences of school life both happy and successful.

The staff and I look forward to meeting you all in September, if not before!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Lewis
Headteacher



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Our Vision

Our vision is to ensure that everyone:

TEAM
 TAKES PRIDE IN OUR SCHOOL
 AND
 ENGAGES IN OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES
 THAT MAKES MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Our Core Values



Yn raad hene ec Scoill Cronk Ashley The Ashley Hill Way

Learning is our thing

At Ashley Hill, learning is at our core. Our aim is to provide learning opportunities that are exciting, evoke curiosity and prepare young people for the challenges they will face in the future.



What's driving our curriculum?

We strongly believe in providing our children with a broad and balanced curriculum underpinned by our vision and values. Our curriculum drivers are used as a starting point for all learning which takes place. This ensures that the curriculum reflects the needs of our children.

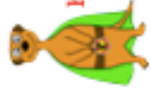
Community

Outdoor Learning

Attitudes to Learning

Our Learning Powers

We believe it's important for children to know 'how' they learn, and that it's 'ok' to make mistakes as part of the learning process. Our Learning Power characters help children link learning dispositions to what they do on a day-to-day basis.



Monty Meerkat helps us with our Relationships.



Talulah Tortoise makes us more Resilient.



Ozelda Owl helps us Reflect.



Mambo Monkey makes sure we're Ready to learn.

Our Skills based Curriculum

At Ashley Hill we strongly believe in providing our children with a broad and balanced curriculum which is underpinned by our school's aims and values. In order to do this our curriculum drivers are used as a starting point for all learning which takes place. This ensures that the curriculum reflects the needs of our children, the children's experiences are unique to Ashley Hill and it provides them with exciting appropriate and relevant learning opportunities.

Community	Outdoor Learning	Attitudes to Learning
<p>We believe that the local community plays a vital role in children's learning, after all these children will become the citizens of the future. Therefore we believe that we should make the most of our local community and the resources it has to offer. We aim to develop the relationships with community members, from the Police, High School, Library to the Commissioners and the Local Businesses and draw upon their knowledge and expertise to support the learning and understanding of pupils.</p>	<p>We know that outdoor learning is a vital part of a child's development. We have so many wonderful resources on our doorstep which will enhance our curriculum and ensure that pupils are engaged and excited. During each topic children will have a range of outdoor experience which will help them to develop their knowledge and skills providing them with hands on experience. These outdoor learning opportunities will include visits to the local glens, beaches, museums, shops and many more places.</p>	<p>We want to develop a culture where our pupils are willing to take risks, have positive attitudes and believe that anything is possible. We expect the children at Ashley Hill to be well mannered, caring and responsible members of the community. We will support them to become this by helping them to develop their learning powers and mindset. We will help them to develop a range of skills including their resilience, relationships, reflectiveness and readiness and help them to understand that failure/getting something wrong is just part of the learning process.</p>



Learning Powers and Mindset

Your child may come home talking about our Learning Powers and ‘stretching their brains’! The reasoning behind this is to help children understand ‘how’ they learn and for them to know that it is ok to make mistakes, it is a part of learning. By ‘stretching’ their brains they are challenging themselves and this is the only way that they will learn new things.



Hi, I'm Monty Meerkat. I will help you to be happy to work on your own and with others. I'll help you to listen and take turns, learn from others through talking and share my opinions and views.

Hi, I'm Talula Tortoise. I will help you to become more resilient in your learning. I'll help you to manage distractions, enjoy challenges, try different approaches and above all 'Stick with it!'



Hi, I'm Mambo Monkey. I will help you to be 'ready' to learn. I'll help you to use your imagination, think for yourself and use resources well.



Hi, I'm Ozelda Owl. I will help you to reflect on your learning. I'll help you to learn from experience, keep on course. use your remembering skills and make plans but be flexible.



Communication

The school operates an 'open-door' policy which encourages and welcomes conversations between home and school. Should you wish to talk to your child's class teacher, try to grab them for a chat at an appropriate time or email school to make an appointment on ashleyhillenquiries@sch.im.

The school will communicate with parents and the community in a variety of ways, detailed below:

- * Newsletters - regular newsletters are sent home as paper copies and via email. They'll include any up-to-date news and provide a list of dates for events coming up.
- * Twitter - @IOMAshleyHill
Our Twitter account regularly publishes exciting information about school events, including successes experienced.
- * Website - For the most up-to-date information, please refer to <https://ashleyhill.sch.im/>
- * School Contact details:
Ashley Hill Primary School
Onchan
Isle of Man
IM3 3LA

ashleyhillenquiries@sch.im
01624686633

Essential information

Uniform

As mentioned, coming to Ashley Hill School means being part of a team. We expect all children to look smart and feel part of the school by wearing their uniform with pride. School uniform is designed to enable children to feel part of the school community and to be practical for a wide range of school activities.

At school, we expect all children to wear:

- * Grey trousers or skirt.
- * Red jumper or cardigan.
- * White polo shirt.
- * White or grey socks / tights (tights can be red!).
- * Black shoes.
- * In summer a red/white gingham dress or tailored plain grey shorts may be worn.

For PE and other sporting activities, children should wear shorts, pumps or trainers (indoor & non-marking soles) and a T-shirt (in their House colour - no football kits allowed). During the colder months, children will need a tracksuit top or jumper for outdoor activities.

At Ashley Hill we are blessed to have extensive grounds and we want to use the space available to us as much as possible. In most weather conditions, children will be invited to play on the grassed areas at the rear of the school. Our Reception and Year 1 children will be given all-in-one rain suits to wear, if required, but all other children are expected to bring in suitable clothing if they are planning on going on the grass. Wellies are essential and can be stored in school.

A coat is also essential during the colder months. A sun hat/cap is useful in the summer and we recommend that you teach your child to apply suitable sun-block.

Swimming is an important part of the Manx curriculum - Key Stage 2 children will have weekly sessions between September and April. We expect the children to wear fitted swimming shorts (it is DEC policy to prohibit children wearing baggy shorts from taking part in swimming sessions). Girls must wear a one-piece swimming costume and all children with longer hair (which covers eyes when wet) must wear a swim cap.

It would help us enormously if all items mentioned were labelled with your child's name.

Items including jumpers, cardigans, fleeces, T-shirts in House colours, swimming hats, PE bags and reading folders can be ordered from local retailers, although reading folders are also available from the school office.

Our school day

8.50am - First school bell - all children are able to enter the building.

8.55am - Second school bell - all children must enter the building, ready to start the school day .

9.00am - 10.10am Teaching session KS1 9.00am - 10.30pm Teaching session
KS2

10.15am - 10.30am Morning break KS1

10.30am - 10.45am Whole School Assembly

10.45am - 12.00pm Teaching session KS1

10.45am-11.00pm - Morning break KS2

11.00-12.15pm- Teaching session KS2

12.00-1.15pm - Lunch time KS1

12.15pm - 1.25pm Lunch time KS2

1.15 pm - 3.25pm Teaching session KS1 (3.15pm Rec, 3.20pm Y1, 3.25pm Y2)

1.25pm - 3.30pm Teaching session KS2

3.30pm End of school day (KS2)

Pupil absence / illness

If your child is poorly, please telephone the school on 686633 on the first day of absence. If your child is absent from school for five days or more, please provide a note on their return to school. We follow the advice of the Public Health Directorate with regard to absences for specific communicable illnesses (see <https://www.gov.im/categories/health-and-wellbeing/disease-control/>). If you have a planned absence, please write a letter to the Headteacher who will consider authorising this absence.

School meals / Milk

Children are encouraged to eat a variety of foods and the School Meals team provide a menu for children and parents which ensures a range of options are available. If you would prefer your child to have a packed lunch, please ensure that children do not have fizzy drinks or sweets. We will ask children to take home any unfinished food in their lunch boxes so you can monitor how much they are eating. Milk can be ordered on a whole-term basis. Payment is made in advance.

Snacks / Water

We are very aware that children struggle to learn if they are hungry or dehydrated. Cooled water is available but children must use their own named clear plastic bottle. A healthy snack will be provided by school for £1 a week.

Clubs and activities

A vast range of clubs and activities are on offer for children outside of the classroom. Throughout the year, your children will be able to sign up for clubs run by staff, older pupils and coaches from Manx Sport and Recreation. Clubs are seasonal and will be available during lunch time or after school. Parents will be notified via letter if a club is available to their child.

From football and chess to badminton and guitar, every child should find something that interests them.

Examples of the clubs on offer throughout the year:

Football	Badminton	Cricket	Choir
Chess	Story	Film	Athletics
Cross Country	Drama	ICT	French
Basketball	Hockey	Gardening	Writing
Guitar	Netball	Sewing	Drawing

Additional Needs

Children are closely monitored and supported throughout their school life and may require additional support, above that given to the rest of their class. This can be for a wide variety of reasons: cognition and learning, speech, language and communication, medical and physical, social, emotional, behavioural and well being.

The teacher, in consultation with the Additional Needs Coordinator and parents, will provide a programme of support and add the child to our additional needs list. This support is reviewed regularly and parents are asked to sign their child's intervention sheet and help with support at home.

If the child's needs, once reviewed, are showing limited progress, their support may need to be increased or we may need to refer and consult with outside agencies, who have greater experience.

At all stages the school works closely together with parents, ensuring the most appropriate support for your child.

Helping us help your children

Positive parental involvement is central to the learning process. This can be achieved in many ways: by taking an interest in children's learning, talking about the school day, sharing books, helping with homework and encouraging your children in every aspect of their school life.

Our aim is to make parents welcome at any time. Involvement can happen through working with children on their activities or volunteering to transport children to sporting competitions. If you have a talent or skill you'd like to share with the children we're always open to suggestions.

Reading

Research shows that reading to a young child is the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. Helping your child with their reading throughout their time at Ashley Hill is imperative. Whether it's helping them with letter sounds during the early stages of their learning or reading longer texts with them in Key Stage 2, motivating your child to read will enable them to access all areas of the curriculum with ease.

Home learning

From an early age, it is vitally important that children see learning as something that happens both at school and at home. All parents are encouraged to read with and listen to their children reading throughout the week. Workshops will be available for parents to understand how phonics is taught in school so you can develop good habits at home. Learning at home will vary, but will include number work, key words and spellings where required.

As the children progress through the school, they are often asked to undertake projects at home. Please feel free to get involved in these activities as much as you can - your input will be a real motivating factor for your children.

Friends of Ashley Hill School

All parents are welcome, at any point, to join the FOAHS who organise social and fundraising activities. The generosity of parents has provided extra resources for all children, including play equipment, the school garden and regularly subsidises the school trips children attend.

Volunteers

Whether it's listening to children read or helping dig up our garden area, any help would be gratefully received. We regularly need support to ensure school trips can go ahead and give lifts to sporting competitions. If you are able to support us by volunteering any time, please contact our school administrator who will provide you with the relevant paperwork to complete.

Behaviour - A whole school approach

At Ashley Hill School, we believe that setting high standards for behaviour is an integral part of having a positive attitude to learning and raising achievement. Our behaviour policy is based on the principle that individuals are in control of their actions and can choose to act and respond in certain ways.

How do we reinforce good behaviour?

- * Positive verbal feedback is the most common way of giving children feedback for good effort or behaviour. Team points and reward stickers are used within classes.
- * Each class has a behaviour chart in the classroom which has 3 sections, green, orange and red. This should be used to reinforce good behaviour allowing children to move to the green when behaviour is good.
- * Monday assembly is celebration assembly where 'Stars of the week' certificates are given out to celebrate excellent learning.
- * Staff are also encouraged to send children who have done well with their learning to the Headteacher where their achievements can be shared and the children can receive a special Headteacher sticker.

How do we deal with unacceptable behaviour?

Children will always be spoken to about their actions, and given the opportunity to reflect upon these and change their behaviour. For the vast majority of children in school, this quiet reminder is enough to resolve the issue. Few children's behaviour is perfect 100% of the time, and these incidents can be addressed quickly and without any form of punishment.

The Behaviour Ladder on the next page is used in every class at Ashley Hill, thus ensuring a consistent approach from all staff.



Behaviour Ladder



TREASURE CHEST



If you end the day on green you can get a stamp on your sticker chart, once you have 20 stamps (10 for reception) you can get a prize from Mr Lewis' treasure chest.

TICK/
STICKER



If you do something else good your teacher can give you a tick (sticker KS1/KS2)

GREEN
SIDE



If you do something good your teacher can move you onto green

START ON
YELLOW



Everyone starts the day on yellow

VERBAL
WARNING



If you misbehave then your teacher will give you a verbal warning.

RED SIDE



If you misbehave again you will have to move your name on to the red side

FIVE
MINUTES
TIME OUT



If you continue to misbehave you will be sent to another Year Group for five minutes reflection time. A letter will be sent home to your parents informing them.

TIME
OUT FOR THE
REST OF THE



When you come back into the classroom, if you continue to misbehave you will be sent to a senior teacher for the remainder of the lesson. A letter will be sent home to your parents informing them and they must come into school to speak to your class teacher.

HEADTEACHER

If you continue to misbehave you will be sent to the Headteacher who will organise a meeting with your class teacher and your parents.

