



Newsletter



Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World

Friday 11th September
Term 1 Week 2



(PC) = Parents & Carers are invited

SCHOOL DATES For your Calendar

TUESDAY 21ST JULY Last day of Term 6

TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER Staff development day – no school

WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER First school day of Term 1 for Years 1-6

MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER EYFS start school part-time

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER Kent Test

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER EYFS start full-time school

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER Big Clothes Day – non uniform day for Children with Cancer

MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER Year 6 Dover Castle trip – Thunberg & Wolff Classes

TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER Year 6 height and weight check

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER Year 6 Dover Castle trip – Obama & Parks Classes

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER Macmillan Coffee Morning (PC)

MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER After school clubs start

An events calendar for Terms 1 & 2 will be available soon on the school websites.

Message from Mr. Head!

It has been another fantastic week at The Willesborough Schools. As I have visited classrooms throughout the week, it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm, confidence and pride that children are showing in their learning. The positive start to the academic year has continued, and I have been incredibly impressed with how quickly pupils have settled back into school routines.

A particular mention must go to our youngest children in Reception, who have shown great courage and resilience as they continue to adapt to school life. They have approached their new environment with smiles, curiosity and excitement, and it has been lovely to see them growing in confidence each day. They are already becoming an important part of our school community.

As we move further into the autumn term, please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for the changing weather. A coat, waterproofs and wellies for outdoor learning and playtimes will help children continue to enjoy being outside, whatever the weather. We would also appreciate your support in ensuring that any essential medication, including asthma inhalers, is brought into school as soon as possible if this has not already been done.

Allergy and Medical Needs

This year, we are introducing a regular Allergy and Medical Needs section in our newsletter to help keep our school community informed and to raise awareness of how we support children with medical needs.

At The Willesborough Schools, we are an Allergy Aware School and are committed to supporting children with allergies and medical conditions so that they can participate safely in all aspects of school life. Some children in our schools have complex allergies and are at risk of anaphylaxis, a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. To help keep everyone safe, we ask that children do not bring nuts or products containing nuts, including peanut butter, into school as part of their packed lunch. We greatly appreciate your support in helping us reduce the risk to those children with severe allergies.

We would also like to remind families that children may only have a piece of fruit or vegetable at snack time. At the Infant School, this is provided for all pupils. At the Junior School, we ask parents and carers to provide a suitable fruit or vegetable snack for their child each day.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work together to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all children.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Have a lovely weekend,
Tom Head



LEADERSHIP

ASPIRATION

DETERMINATION

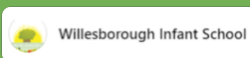
RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT



Juniors Website: willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk
Juniors Email: office@willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk

Juniors Telephone: 01233 620405



Infants Website: willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk
Infants Email: office@willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk

Infants Telephone: 01233 624165

Attendance Update

Attendance remains one of our key priorities, as every day in school really does matter. Establishing strong attendance habits at the beginning of the academic year helps children settle quickly, build positive relationships and make the most of every learning opportunity. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that children attend school regularly and arrive on time. By working together, we can give every child the very best opportunity to succeed, and I am delighted that we have made such a positive start to the year.



THIS WEEK:

JUNIORS: 97.8%

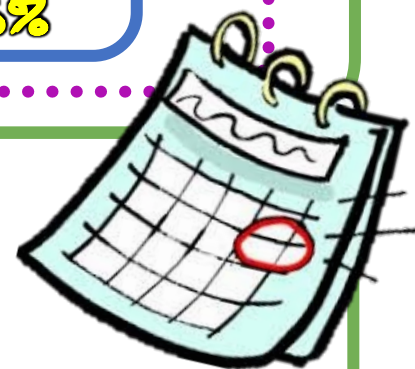
INFANTS: 96.8%



THIS YEAR:

JUNIORS: 97.1%

INFANTS: 95.6%



Term Dates for 2026 / 2027

Autumn Term 1 (T1):

Start: Wednesday 2nd September

End: Friday 23rd October

Half Term: 26th October – 30th October

Autumn Term 2 (T2):

Start: Monday 2nd November

End: Friday 18th December

Christmas Holiday: 21st December – 1st January

Spring Term 1 (T3):

Start: Monday 4th January

End: Friday 12th February

Half Term: 15th February – 19th February

Spring Term 2 (T4):

Start: Monday 22nd February

End: Thursday 25th March

Easter Holiday: 26th March – 9th April

Summer Term 1 (T5):

Start: Monday 12th April

End: Friday 28th May

Half Term: 31st May – 4th June

Summer Term 2 (T6):

Start: Monday 7th June

End: Wednesday 21st July

Staff Development Days for 2026/2027

Tuesday 1st September Friday 23rd October Friday 18th December Friday 28th May Wednesday 21st July

Staff Development Days for 2027/2028

We know some families like to plan well ahead, so we will add the staff development days for the next school year here when they are finalised at a later date.



Notices

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Junior School Library Books

Unfortunately, around 100 library books had not been returned by the end of the last school year, and over 90 are still outstanding. Please ensure that any library books that were borrowed last year are returned as soon as possible if you still have them.

Big Clothes Day – Friday 18th September

This year, we are delighted to take part in Big Clothes Day for the first time. This is a fundraising event organised by the charity Children with Cancer UK, where children are encouraged to come to school in oversized clothes to raise awareness and funds for child-specific cancer treatments. Only 2% of cancer research funding goes towards finding child-specific treatments, and we agree that every child fighting cancer deserves the best chance to beat it. That's why we're taking part.

So please, if you can, donate to Children with Cancer UK and give your child some enormous clothes to wear next Friday 18th September! We will take photographs of children who have consent on Arbor for them to be published online and post some of the best ones on Facebook - and in the newsletter, of course!

How it works:

Pupils come to school in the most oversized outfit they can find. Parents' old jumpers. Grandad's coat. A shirt that reaches their knees. The worse it fits, the better, because that's exactly the point.

You can donate online at childrenwithcancer.org.uk or bring in cash on the day, which we will collect and donate to them on behalf of the school. Every pound raised goes directly to Children with Cancer UK to fund research into kinder, child-appropriate cancer treatments.

We will try and include the final counts of funds raised in the newsletter as well if we finish counting in time! Which school do you think will raise the most? We'll find out...

New school gates

As you know, new electronic gates were installed at the Highfield Road entrance to the school around Easter, and the Church Road gates had this added over the summer holiday. We would like to remind families of the following important information:

- The Highfield Road gate will remain closed to all vehicular access/egress between the existing signposted times of 8.25am-9am and 2.45pm-3.30pm without exception aside from emergency services.
- The pedestrian access at both ends of the site will still be kept open as usual during the normal school drop off and pick up times – there will be no need to use the intercom to request access.
- Outside of these times, you will need to use the intercom to gain access to the school site, whether you are driving in or walking. Select the button for the school you are visiting to speak to their reception team and have the gate opened for you.
- We do not permit vehicular access for drop off or pick up times (including late or early) except where it has been agreed for children with mobility-related injuries or disabilities.
- To exit onto Church Road, simply press the green button on the pedestal near the gate to unlock it and pull the gate open.
- Please ensure that you shut the Church Road gate behind you to keep the site and children safe. An automatic closer is due to be fitted soon to help with this but could not be fitted during the summer holidays due to delays.
- To exit onto Highfield Road with a vehicle during normal hours, simply approach the gate and it will begin to open automatically, towards your vehicle. We plan to add a painted marking and/or sign to make the trigger area clear for drivers.
- The pedestrian gates do not open automatically – only the locking and unlocking is remotely-controlled. Please be careful when pulling and pushing these gates as they are heavy and the locking system protrudes from the gates.

LEADERSHIP



ASPIRATION

Juniors Website: willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk
Juniors Email: office@willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk

DETERMINATION

Juniors Telephone: 01233 620405

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT



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Infants Telephone: 01233 624165



OPEN SESSIONS

WILLESBOROUGH INFANT SCHOOL

Monday 9th November 9-10am

Tuesday 10th November 9-10am

Wednesday 11th November 9-10am

Thursday 12th November 9-10am

Thursday 19th November 6-7pm

Come and see what Willesborough can offer your child starting EYFS in 2027!

Call 01233 624165 to book your place.

Wonder - Inspire - Shine

Leadership, Aspiration, Determination, Responsibility, Respect.

Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World



Willesborough Schools - Food & Nutrition Guide

Healthy Meals & Snacks



4 Main Food Groups



Varied Menus



Water Accessible

Strictly NO NUTS or Sesame

STRICTLY NO NUTS OR SESAME



Healthy Packed Lunches

Include these:

- ✓ Starchy Carb
- ✓ Protein Source
- ✓ Dairy Item
- ✓ Portion of Fruit & Veg

NO these:

- ✗ Fizzy Drinks
- ✗ Sweets & Chocolate
- ✗ Crisps
- ✗ Nut Spreads (e.g., Peanut Butter, Nutella)

Allergies & Safety



14 Allergens Tracked

(e.g., egg, fish, soy)



Safety Lanyards



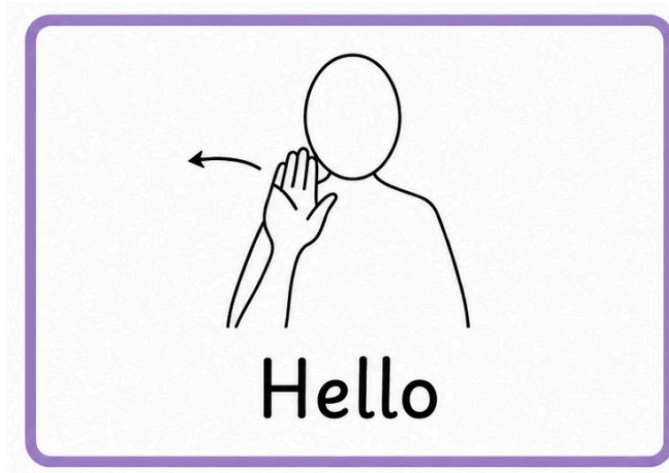
Individual Healthcare Plans

Sign of the Week

(Makaton)

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Starter for two: hello and goodbye!



Can you practice them together at home?

[Click here to watch a short video showing this week's signs.](#)

[You can also find interesting information about Makaton on our website by clicking here.](#)

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a way of supporting communication using signs and symbols alongside speech.

Using signs can help make spoken language clearer and give children another way to express themselves while they are developing their communication skills.

Using Makaton does not stop children from talking. In fact, using signs alongside speech can help support communication and speech development.

Makaton can be used by everyone, not just children who have communication difficulties.

Using Makaton can help us to:

- Communicate with one another
- Express feelings and emotions
 - Support spoken language
- Make communication easier to understand
 - Build connections with others
 - Help everyone feel included

PTFA AGM: Come Along and Have Your Say



The PTFA Annual General Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 29th September** at **6pm** in the **Infant School**, and we would love to see as many parents and carers there as possible.

The AGM is an important opportunity to look back on everything the PTFA has achieved over the past year, celebrate the support of our school community, and discuss plans for the year ahead. It is also where the new PTFA committee will be voted in, so it is a great chance to find out more about how the PTFA is run and how you can get involved.

This year, thanks to the generosity and hard work of families, staff and volunteers, the PTFA has raised an incredible **£18,451!!** At the AGM, you will be able to hear more about this fantastic total and see how the funds will be used to benefit children across the school.

Whether you are a regular volunteer, interested in helping occasionally, or simply want to understand more about the work of the PTFA, please do come along. Your support, ideas and attendance really do make a difference.

Could You Join the PTFA Committee?

The AGM is also when we vote in the PTFA committee for the year ahead. These roles are vital in helping the PTFA run smoothly, but you don't need any previous experience—just enthusiasm, a little time, and a willingness to support the school community.

- **Chair or Co-Chairs:** helps lead the PTFA, chairs meetings, supports the committee and works with the school to plan fundraising activities.
- **Vice Chair:** supports the Chair on all activities, helps lead activities where needed, steps in for Chair when unavailable
- **Treasurer:** looks after the PTFA finances, keeps records of money raised and spent, and helps report on how funds are being used.
- **Secretary:** helps organise meetings, takes notes, shares updates and keeps the committee's plans on track.
- **Committee members:** bring ideas, help plan events, support fundraising activities and volunteer where they can.

Being part of the PTFA is a rewarding way to meet other families, get involved in school life and help make a real difference for the children. Whether you can take on a named role or simply offer support when time allows, every contribution is valued. If you have ever thought about getting involved, this is the perfect opportunity to find out more and consider putting yourself forward.

For more information, please contact Liz Cornell at willesboroughschoolspta@outlook.com.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE WILLESBOROUGH SCHOOLS

PTFA AGM MEETING

SEPTEMBER, 29TH

6:00 PM in the INFANTS SCHOOL

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

OUR SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR - MONEY
RAISED - INDICATION OF FUTURE EVENTS -
COMMITTEE MEMBER ELECTIONS

Help us make your child's time in school AMAZING!!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Parents, teachers, staff, grandparents & community members
come join the fun and stay informed!

FREE WINE & SOFT DRINKS!

Questions? Contact us WillesboroughSchoolsPTA@outlook.com



Spectacular Skydiving!

Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World

What did you get up to this summer? Did you go to the beach? On holiday? Camping? Did you spend time with friends like Mrs Cribben from the Junior School? Well, we bet you didn't spend time with them quite the way she did with hers – by jumping out of a plane at 12,000ft!

On 14th August, Mrs Cribben and four others showed incredible bravery and jumped out of an aeroplane at 12,000ft high, to skydive for the charity Legends on the Bench.

Legends on the Bench is a great charity that provides suicide prevention benches for local communities in memory of lost loved ones. The five skydivers, including Mrs Cribben, managed to raise a staggering £2500 in honour of a friend, brother, uncle, or partner.

The jump itself couldn't have happened on a better day. It was a blistering 31C heat and perfect conditions. Mrs Cribben travelled at 130mph – almost as fast as the HS1 train – whilst free-falling for 45 seconds! She says "I could talk about it for days. I would highly recommend it!" A huge **well done** to you all!



LEADERSHIP

ASPIRATION

DETERMINATION

RESPONSIBILITY

RESPECT



Willesborough Junior School

Juniors Website: willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk
Juniors Email: office@willesborough-js.kent.sch.uk

Juniors Telephone: 01233 620405



Willesborough Infant School

Infants Website: willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk
Infants Email: office@willesborough-infant.kent.sch.uk

Infants Telephone: 01233 624165



WOW Badges

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Willesborough Outstanding Work (WOW) badges are awarded in recognition of an excellent piece of work in any area of learning. The work is framed and displayed in 'The Hub' at the Junior School and in the corridor at the Infant School.

Here is a list of this week's worthy winners!



WEEKLY

WOW

AWARDS

Year R Badgers	No infant awards this week	Year 3 Fletcher	Harlee
Year R Rabbits		Year 3 Potter	Jax
Year R Owls		Year 4 Monet	Daphne
Year R Robins		Year 4 Doodle	Ladipma
Year 1 Lions		Year 4 Kahlo	Sienna-Skye
Year 1 Giraffes		Year 4 Turner	Lillie-Rae
Year 1 Elephants		Year 5 Franklin	Blake
Year 1 Pandas		Year 5 Hepburn	Sophia
Year 2 Turtles		Year 5 Turing	Jack
Year 2 Penguins		Year 5 Earhart	Alice
Year 2 Leopards		Year 6 Thunberg	Cleo
Year 2 Tigers		Year 6 Wolff	Riley
Year 3 Morpurgo	Harry	Year 6 Obama	Albie
Year 3 Dahl	Heaven	Year 6 Parks	Nidhi

Great job everyone!
Keep up the AMAZING work!

Value Awards

Our core value awards are awarded in recognition of excellent behaviour, especially in relation to one of the school's core values. Well done to this week's students who have shown the following values...



Year 3 Morpurgo	Roman	ASPIRATION
Year 3 Dahl	Macy	RESPONSIBILITY
Year 3 Fletcher	Jaxon	RESPECT
Year 3 Potter	Ollie	DETERMINATION
Year 4 Monet	Chloe	DETERMINATION
Year 4 Doodle	Henry	RESPECT
Year 4 Kahlo	Lexa	RESPECT
Year 4 Turner	Elsie	RESPONSIBILITY
Year 5 Franklin	Zara	LEADERSHIP
Year 5 Hepburn	Hazel	RESPONSIBILITY
Year 5 Turing	Jess	LEADERSHIP
Year 5 Earhart	Perry	RESPECT
Year 6 Thunberg	Hudson	RESPECT
Year 6 Wolff	Samuel C	RESPONSIBILITY
Year 6 Obama	Wesley	ASPIRATION
Year 6 Parks	Tommy	LEADERSHIP



Shine Awards

The 'Shine' award is presented to children who have shown an exceptional commitment to behaviour throughout the week. They may have been excellent listeners who have supported their peers; they may have shown empathy towards their peers or may have shown a great commitment to behaviour for learning. It could be a multitude of reasons! The children receive a special 'You Shine' badge which they wear with pride.



Year R Badgers	No infant awards this week
Year R Rabbits	
Year R Owls	
Year R Robins	
Year 1 Lions	
Year 1 Giraffes	
Year 1 Elephants	
Year 1 Pandas	
Year 2 Turtles	
Year 2 Penguins	
Year 2 Leopards	
Year 2 Tigers	



Book Battles

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Reading Challenge!



At Willesborough Junior School, we have the exciting reading challenge! Children are required to read their library books **4 x 20 mins each week**. Each 'read' needs to be signed into their reading record book. This 'four or more' challenge allows the children to compete weekly in the 'Book Battle' against the other classes in their year group, and this is celebrated each week in our celebration assembly.



Find out below which class have had the most children read four or more times this week!

YR 3 BATTLE

No battle this week

MORPURGO



VS

DAHL



VS

FLETCHER



VS

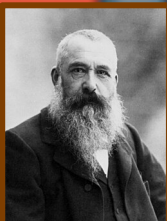
POTTER



YR 4 BATTLE

No battle this week

MONET



VS

DOODLE



VS

KAHLO



VS

TURNER



YR 5 BATTLE

This week's winners are **HEPBURN**

FRANKLIN



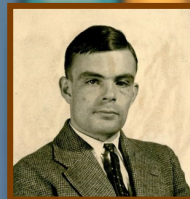
VS

HEPBURN



VS

TURING



VS

EARHART



YR 6 BATTLE

This week's winners are **OBAMA**

THUNBERG



VS

WOLFF



VS

OBAMA



VS

PARKS





Support Us

Wonder - Inspire - Shine
Shaping Minds, Shaping Our World



[Click here to buy tickets for our school lottery!](#)

For every ticket you play, 40% goes directly to our schools.

There are smaller cash prizes, or you could win the £25,000 cash jackpot!

Congratulations to Mr L from Folkestone who won £13.25 in the last draw!

The more people enter, the higher the guaranteed win is!



octopus energy

If you're thinking of changing energy suppliers to Octopus Energy, you can get £50 for yourself and £50 for the schools if you use our referral link:

<https://thewillesboroughschools.octopus.energy>

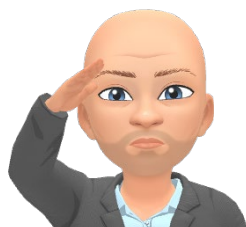
Please note that this is not a recommendation or endorsement, it is just a way to support the schools.



Don't forget, you can donate unwanted clothes, shoes, textiles, bed linen, soft toys, scarves and more at our clothing banks!

This helps to raise money for the schools, too!

THANK YOU



LEADERSHIP



ASPIRATION

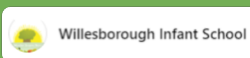
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BOOK DONATIONS WELCOME

Our school has signed up with national charity the Children's Book Project to receive donations of good quality, gently used books from local families. These will be used across the school. Books can be dropped at reception.

Spread the word and look for us on their map!
childrensbookproject.co.uk/donate-books/

Registered charity 1183092

Children's
Book
Project



Stepping Up

5-11 Years

Join us for a fun, confidence-building course for children aged 5-11. Over six sessions, they will explore emotions, build friendships, and learn practical skills through creative activities, games, and discussions in a safe, friendly environment.

The Willow Family Hub



DAY: Thursday



Time: 3.45pm - 5.15pm



Address: Halstow Way, Ashford, Kent TN23 4EY

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk/ 03000 418800

Booking required – contact your Family Hub.



Visit your local Family Hub today



[Kent.gov.uk/familyhub](https://kent.gov.uk/familyhub)



KentFamilyHub





Time to shine Junior's

A group for SEND children and young people aged 7-11 years to socialise and learn new skills in a safe, relaxed environment. This group is for children and young People who may find it difficult to access mainstream groups and would like some support to build their confidence.

The group numbers are lower to meet the needs of everyone attending and to create a calmer environment.

Waterside Family Hub



DAY: Monday



Time: 4.00pm - 5.15pm



Address: Turner Close, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0PQ

Contact Information: ashfordfamilyhubs@kent.gov.uk

Booking required – link in the description.

You do not need to have a diagnosis to attend this session



Visit your local Family Hub today



[Kent.gov.uk/familyhub](https://kent.gov.uk/familyhub)



[KentFamilyHub](https://www.facebook.com/KentFamilyHub)





The 1st Ashford Boys' Brigade and girls' association are inviting you to try something new and meet other children and young people.

The group provides opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun, and caring environment. There are opportunities to develop skills, build confidence, make friends, work towards awards, make a difference in the local community and of course have fun.

The Brigades **meet at Ashford Baptist Church, St Johns Lane, Ashford TN23 1PS**, the groups meet every Thursday, the ages and times are:

Anchors 4 – 8 yrs old: 6:15 – 7:30pm

Juniors 8 – 11 yrs old: 6:15 – 7:30pm

Company 11- 14 yrs old: 7:30 – 9:15pm

Seniors 14 – 18 yrs old: 7:30 – 9:15pm

We are back for the new academic year this Thursday 19th September. Any Thursday is open to new members. So, we hope to see you this Thursday or sometime soon. Please spread the word

Find out more about The Boy's Brigade at www.boys-brigade.org.uk



FREE Wilder Wellbeing for adults at RSPB Dungeness, TN29 9PN.

Enjoy gentle walks, tap into your senses and learn relaxation techniques to experience the benefits of nature in a small group setting.

WILDER WELLBEING: For Parents and Carers of SEND children and young people

Every Thursday 24th September to 29th October, 11 am–1pm

WILDER WELLBEING: For adults healing from grief.

Every Thursday 24th September to 29th October, 2–4pm

**To find out more visit kwtg.uk/wellbeing or email
wilderwellbeing@kentwildlife.org.uk**

We ask that you commit to attending as many of the six sessions as possible. Speak to us if you need support with funding transport, we may be able to assist



**Football
Fun
Factory**

FOOTBALL, **FUN** & DEVELOPMENT IN ASHFORD



**BUILD SKILLS
MAKE FRIENDS
BE ACTIVE**



**IMPROVE
FOOTBALL SKILLS**



**BOOST
CONFIDENCE**



**MAKE
FRIENDS**



**STAY
ACTIVE**

📍 **LOCATIONS & TIMES** 📍



MONDAY EVENINGS



**ASHFORD
HOCKEY CLUB**



17:00 - 18:00



TUESDAY EVENINGS



**HIGHWORTH
SCHOOL**



17:30 - 18:30



FRIDAY EVENINGS



**WYE VILLAGE
MUGA**



17:00 - 18:00



**AGES
5 - 12 YEARS**
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:
HEAD COACH RICHARD MILLS
07919 274090



SCAN
TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE



richardmills@thefootballfunfactory.co.uk





PLAY
LEARN
GROW
♥

Tots Football Fun

Football Fun with Inflatables

SMALL
PLAYERS
BIG
DREAMS
♥



📍 Norton Knatchbull Grammar School

📅 Every Sunday Morning • 9am



Ages 18 Months - 5 Years



All Abilities Welcome

3 FREE TRIAL SESSIONS