

ASHTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

WEBSITE: www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk

9 December 2016

NEWSLETTER 13

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to this week's newsletter. I am proud of Year 2 and Year 5 for being excellent ambassadors for the school during their visits this week. Year 2 visited St Mary's Church and Year 5 visited St Alban's Cathedral as part of their R.E. Curriculum. Both year groups were praised by members of the public for their excellent attitudes and behaviour. The class teachers were also very impressed with the questions the children asked and as I have been going around this morning, giving out decorated jar Head Teacher Stickers, the children have been writing about their visit experiences.



Christmas Performances



Well done to everybody for all the hard work that made sure our Christmas performances were a real treat again this year. The children were a credit to themselves and us all. The performances show just how strong a community can be when it all works together to allow pupils the chance to shine. I would like to thank you all for your support with costumes and the learning of lines etc. I also have to say I am very proud of the talented staff at Ashtree School and their tremendous level of commitment on behalf of your children.

Data Collection Forms

It is very important that we have your correct details and emergency contacts. If you have not yet returned the Data Collection Form (*adding the nationality and county of birth*), can you please do so as soon as possible, in order that we can update our system. Thank you.



School Website



Our web site design is being refreshed in the next couple days do take the opportunity to visit www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk. Remember to refresh the screen when you visit. My thanks to Mrs Connolly for her work on this.



Friends of Ashtree Winter Fayre – Saturday 10 December – 12 – 2.00pm



We will be running a Decorated Jar Stall during the Winter Fayre. This is a very popular annual stall and each year pupils have responded marvellously to our request for decorated jam jars of goodies. If children would like to provide a jar for the winter fayre, I am repeating instructions from last year's newsletter. Jars can be brought into school right up to Friday 9th December and each jar will be gratefully received. I am happy to give a Headteacher Sticker for every pupil who brings a jar in to school. For those of you who are not sure what decorated jars are, the following may help: take any used jar, clean it, decorate the outside using paint, materials, card etc. (possibly with a Christmas theme) and then put something lovely inside that another young person might enjoy having, eg. sweets, colouring pencils, tiny teddies, toy cars etc. These then go on to a Tombola style stall and are very popular with the children.



School Christmas Parties – Wednesday 21 December



Pupils can come to school wearing their party clothes. KS2 Classes (7-14) do not require any donations of party food. Reception and KS1 (3-6) will be sending out a separate letter with regards to party food. Many thanks.



Headlice



Please check your child as there have been a large number of 'sightings' recently!

Pupils taking School Meals with Allergies

In the New Year Hertfordshire Catering are introducing a new on-line system that pupils with allergies need to register for. The new system will require parents to provide medical evidence of any allergies at the time of registration. Our pupils currently with a special menu will be required to register in order for the special menu to continue.



Parent Reading Clubs

Reading clubs will start back the week of the 12 December.

Attendance

Our aim is for children to be here for 96%+ of the school year. As of today our average overall whole school attendance for the year is 96.31% which is up on last year's figure of 95.35%. Pupil's whose attendance is below 90%, become what is known as persistent absentees. Our persistent absentee rate, is still above the national average. I have requested a visit from the County Attendance Officer on 16 January as a result of this. Parents of pupils who are persistent absentees will be written to. At Ashtree School we expect parents to work with us to address attendance problems. If a pupil has at least 21 sessions (half a day = 1 session) unauthorised absence in the current or previous term (including unauthorised holidays) the Headteacher may ask the local authority to issue a Penalty Notice. The Penalty Notice requires you to pay a fine of £60 within 21 days. If this fine is not paid within the time limit the penalty rises to £120 which must be paid within 28 days. If the penalty is not paid the Local Authority may prosecute parents/carers for their child's irregular attendance.

Dates for Next Year

Thursday 5 January

13-17 February
Monday 20 February
27 and 28 March
Friday 31 March
Monday 3 – Monday 17 April
Tuesday 18 April
Monday 1 May
8 – 12 May
29 May – 2 June
11 – 16 June
12 - 16 June
Monday 3 July
Friday 14 July
Friday 21 July (2.15pm)

Term Starts

HALF TERM
INSET Day 4 (School closed to pupils)
Parent Consultations
End of Term
Easter Break
Term Starts
May Day Bank Holiday
KS2 SATS week (No holiday will be authorised during this week)
HALF TERM
Kingswood Residential Week (Y6)
Y1 Phonics Test Week (no holiday will be authorised during this week)
Open Evening
Family picnic at lunch time followed by an afternoon Sports Day
End of School Year

Attendance Cup



The winner for this week is Class 5 with 100%

Effort Cup



Congratulations to Kiera B from Year 6

Finally, I would like to remind you that **school finishes at 2.15pm on Wednesday 21 December.**

E. Kirwan