



# ASHTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



WEBSITE: [www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk)

16 December 2016

## NEWSLETTER 14

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2016 (don't all cheer at once!). Well done to the choir who performed for the residents of Silkin Court on Monday 12 December. My thanks go to Mrs Clark for preparing the children. It went down a treat with everyone. I would also like to praise the Sports Ambassadors who are currently running a table tennis club every Thursday lunchtime. It is the "hottest ticket in town".



### Performance Collections



Our collections at the end of our Christmas performances raised £447.31 for Cancer Research. Ticket sales raised £467.72 which will support pupil tuition fees at Tafadzwa Primary School our link school in Zimbabwe. Thank you very much everyone.

### 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.

### Christmas Dinner

The pupils' Christmas dinner will take place on **Tuesday 20 December 2016**. Options are: Sliced Turkey Breast, Chipolata, Sage and Onion Stuffing Gravy with Roast Potatoes with choice of Vegetables or Roast Quorn Fillet, Sage and Onion Stuffing Gravy with Roast Potatoes with choice of Vegetables. Christmas Ice-cream, Seasonal Biscuit or Chocolate Krispie Pudding). **Please note next Wednesday's meal will be Friday's option next week (Menu 2 = Breaded Salmon, Pizza and Tuna Baguette).**



### School Website



Our web site design has been refreshed. Do take the opportunity to visit [www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk). Remember to refresh the screen when you visit. My thanks to Mrs Connolly for her work on this.



### School Christmas Parties – Wednesday 21 December



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

### 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.

### Kingswood 2017

We would just like to remind you that the second deposit of £50 is due by Monday 9 January 2017.



### Dinner Money



£2.35 per day                      £11.75 per week  
1<sup>st</sup> half term £63.45      2<sup>nd</sup> half term £68.15

Please can all outstanding dinner money be paid by Monday 19 December, Thank you

## 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 95.35%, unfortunately this is below this time last year (96.74%) and we must do better. Pupil's whose attendance is below 90%, become what is known as a persistent absentee. Our persistent absentee rate, although reducing, is still 0.1% above last year's national average. 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.

## Friends of Ashtree – Chocolate Sale

Friends of Ashtree will be selling chocolate on the infant/junior playgrounds at 3pm on Tuesday 20 December – if you would like to buy some Christmas chocolate please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

## Dates for Next Year

### Thursday 5 January

9 February

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

Class / Groups Photos

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

**Please note – preparation and completion of Y2 SATs work will take place during May (No holiday will be authorised during this time).**



### Governors' Attendance Cup



A very big well done to Class 10 for winning this cup in recognition of having the best attendance in the school for this half term (97.8%).

### Dinnertime Behaviour Awards



The winners for this week are Classes 3 & 13.

### Effort Cup



Congratulations to Demi G. from Year 5.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.* Staff would like me to pass on their thanks for the very generous cards and gifts that they have received. It is very much appreciated.

*E. Kirwan*