



WEBSITE: www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk
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5 January 2018

NEWSLETTER 15

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back and Happy New Year everyone.

Applying for a school Nursery place for 2018-2019 (For children born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015)

Admissions for Nursery are now dealt with by the school. As a consortium of schools within Stevenage, Headteachers have agreed the following dates for Nursery applications:

Applications opening date: 1 January 2018
Application deadline: 16 March 2018
Offers sent out: 20 April 2018

Our Admissions Application Form for children starting Nursery in September 2018 can be downloaded from the Admission tab on our website along with our Nursery Admission Policy. Hard copies of the application form can also be requested from the school office, 01438 351090. We appreciate that Admissions can be confusing for parents using the system for the first time, please do not hesitate to call us to go through your queries.

Parents/Carers are welcome to view the school by making an appointment through the school office.

Applying for a Reception Place – September 2018

Please note that the deadline for applications to County is the 15 January 2018. Please could our current Nursery parents who would like a Reception place at Ashtree for September ensure County receive your applications by 15 January 2018.

Uniform

Thank you for ensuring that your children have the correct uniform. If you want our bottle green sweatshirts carrying the school crest, and white polo shirts with 'Ashtree School' embroidered on them, these may be purchased from the school, between **2.45pm and 3.00pm on Thursdays only**. This helps us ensure that we have a strong identity as a school and do look very smart. **As already mentioned in previous newsletters, jumpers /sweatshirts or cardigans are bottle green and not black or grey.** Trousers and skirts can be grey or black. Please ensure that children's uniform is labelled with their name. Jewellery, apart from watches or Medic Alerts should not be worn, **but in the case of earrings, studs are permitted (no bling please).** Children may wear only one pair of earrings, and these should be removed, or taped over by the child for PE sessions (we provide micropore tape). I would like your support in ensuring that children with shoulder length or longer hair, come to school with their hair up (ponytail, bunches, plaits) any pupil conscious about putting their hair up can put a bandana over the ponytail, bunch or plait. This would help to reduce the spread of head lice around the school, and would meet the Health and Safety requirements of lessons, such as PE, Technology etc. (A plain or school coloured 'scrunchie' would look very smart.)

A number of you are now purchasing our lovely Jackets and Fleeces. These need to be ordered as we are unable to keep a large stock due to lack of space! **May I remind you that these items are outdoor wear.**

Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes as this will help to keep our school cleaner for longer. Pupils should wear sensible footwear to school, high heels are not appropriate for playtimes. Please see our Dress Code which can be found under the Policy section on our Website www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk. The uniform order form and prices can also be found on our website.

I would like to encourage children across the whole school, to take care of the reading books that they bring home. Pupils need to have either a smart bottle green book bag that can be purchased from the office, or a zip type wallet that can be put within a schoolbag. Books should not just be put in with bags containing PE kit, shoes etc. as they will become damaged very quickly.

PE Kit

Thank you to everyone for making sure that your child has the correct kit of white t-shirt and green shorts. PE is equally as important in the curriculum as other subjects and we expect pupils to participate. At this time of the year when pupils do their games sessions outside, please ensure that an old pair of tracksuit bottoms and top, along with an old pair of trainers, are sent in to school with children. As our field gets wetter, pupils could get muddy during these sessions.



Late Arrivals

Please ensure your children are in school on time. I will continue to take a tough line on pupils who arrive late, unless there are mitigating circumstances. **If a child arrives after 8.55am they must report to the school office using the main entrance.** Mrs Swain will be monitoring late arrivals and absence and will be phoning home as necessary as part of her role.



Dinner Money

£2.40 per day £12.00 per week
1st half term £72.00 2nd half term £64.80

Holidays in Term Time

Due to Government changes, holidays in term time can no longer be authorised. "Leave of Absence" can be requested using a form from the office but I am only able to sanction up to 5 days in any school year for "Leave of Absence" in exceptional circumstances.



Sickness absence

Genuine absence due to sickness, for example vomiting, diarrhoea, chickenpox etc. is authorised. For extended periods of sickness we require you to provide a copy of your GP's certificate or appointment slip. **You must inform the school on the first day of absence using Option 1 on the answerphone or Schoolcomms.**



Dinner Behaviour Awards

The winners for this week are Classes 6 & 8.



Attendance Cup

The winner for this week is Class 6 with 99%.



Effort Cup

Congratulations to Joshua D. from Year 6.



Diary Dates for Spring Term

Spring Term 2018:

Half-term

Last day of term

- Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February
- Thursday 29 March at 2.15pm



Diary Dates for Summer Term

Summer Term 2018:

First day of term

Y5 School Trip

May Day

14 – 18 May

Y4 School Trip

Half-term

10 -15 June

11 - 15 June

Y2 School Trip

Monday 2 July

INSET Day 4

Friday 13 July

Last day of term

INSET Day 5

Occasional Days

- Monday 16 April
- Wednesday 25 April – British Schools Museum
- **Monday 7 May - school closed to children**
- KS2 SATS week (No holiday will be authorised during this week)
- Tuesday 22 May – Warner Bros Studio – Harry Potter
- **Monday 28 May - Friday 1 June**
- Y6 Kingswood Trip – Isle of Wight
- Y1 Phonics Test Week (No holiday will be authorised during this week)
- Thursday 14 June – Roald Dahl Museum
- Open Evening
- **Friday 6 July – school closed to children**
- Family Picnic and Lunchtime followed by afternoon Sports Day
- Friday 20 July at 2.15pm
- **Monday 23 July – school closed to children**
- **Tuesday 24 July – Friday 27 July - school closed to children.**

Please note: Key Stage 2 SATs week; 14 – 18 May 2018. The Y1 phonics test will be held during the week of 11 June. KS1 (Y2) SATs process will take place in May.
Please ensure pupils do not book any family holidays during these times as they will be unauthorised.

E. Kirwan