

ASHTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

WEBSITE: www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk

15 September 2017

NEWSLETTER 2

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This week seems to have flown past and children are really settling in to their learning in their new classes. I'll start this week with the first role call for all of the children who have come to see me as they have completed the **Summer Reading Challenge 2017 (Animal Agents) / Ms Kirwan Summer Writing Challenge**. I was very pleased to reward these children with their 'Headteacher Award' stickers so very well done to the following children:

Pupil Achievements

Sunshines: Pixie S, Emmanuell Y, Niamh C

Rainbows: Molly B

Class 3: Max T, Sophie C, Rachael P

Class 4: Josiah S, Robert B, Harry G, James T, Evangeline H, Kirsty D, Elena S, Oliver A, Louie G, Sanusi B, Rosie C, Freddie H

Class 5: Elva N, Othniel B, Alice p, Natalie J, Harrison S, Eliyana M

Class 6 Oliver C, Callie O, Zoe S, Lola P, Leo A, Lacey R, Florence W-S, Emmy C

Class 7: Evie C, George P, Holly F, Alexander O-V, Freya D

Class 8: Harry C, Demi P, George T, Nicaya W, Jessica D, Isabelle W, Noah M

Class 9: Enoch Y, Nicoleta R, Daniel W, Thomas B, Lily H, Nonye O

Class 10: Charlie P, Callum D, Cooper F

Class 11: Megan C, Melissa G, Bella O, Daniel K, Lauren M, Jessica Y

Class 12: Rihanna A, Lilianna O-V, Katie G, Thomas W

Class 13: Eloise F, Kian P, William C

Class 14: Jade B, Millie R, Eleanor B, Joshua D

More names next week.

Kingswood Payment

Just a reminder that the 1st payment of £50.00 for Kingwood is due on 27 September. This will secure your child's place on the trip. Payments can be made through Schoolcomms.

KS2 MSA Vacancy

We have a full time vacancy in KS2 (6hrs 15mins per week 11.55-1.10 daily) term time only. Please contact the School Office for a Job Description and Application Form. Closing date is Monday 18 September with interviews to be held on Monday 25 September from 9.00am.

Playground Equipment

A reminder that pupils may not use the play equipment on either playground before or after school. Please support us by monitoring your children and keeping them away from the equipment at these times.



Headlice

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

School Clubs

With school clubs starting up next week, I would like to remind everyone that we do have a 'Code of Conduct' for clubs. Staff will be sending these home with club participants. Copies are also available from the school office and it is posted on our school website.



Medicines in School

A reminder that pupils should not have medicines in their bags at any time. If your child requires prescription medication there are forms to be filled out and procedures to follow. Please see the school office and refer to the policy on our school website.

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 starting from next week or the order form can be left in the office anytime.** 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 clean 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. With Autumn approaching and pupils doing 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.



Dinner money for this term will be:

£2.40 per day - £12.00 per week - 1st half term = £81.60 - 2nd half term = £86.40 - Term = £168.00

This should be paid in advance and can be sent in weekly, monthly or half-termly. Reception, Year 1 and 2 will receive the universal free school meal offer.

Dinner money is only banked on a Monday (or the first day back), therefore it should only be sent in to school the first day of the week in an envelope marked with the name of your child and their class. We are no longer able to build up any dinner money debt due to Government changes. Any debt is taken out of the school budget, which has a detrimental effect on the education of our pupils. Please do not put us in the position of not paying for a meal but still expecting us to provide one. Thank you for your understanding.

Free School Meals

Parents or carers who receive the benefits listed in the table below, please contact www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or call 03001234048 to register your entitlement. Please register even if your child does not want a school meal or is in Reception and KS1 as it is important to the school, statistically, to have the correct percentage of free school meals recorded.

- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Universal Credit
- Online at: www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals
- Smartphone: Using the LookingLocal app available from app stores.
- Digital TV: The Community Channel – Press the red button.
- Wii/Xbox/PS3: www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect
- Phone: 0300 123 4084 between 8.00am and 8.00pm Monday to Friday, or between 9.00am and 4.00pm Saturday.

What can you apply for if you are receiving the following benefit(s)?	Free school meals	Free SaverCard	Free TrainCard	Help with music fees	Help with cycle training
Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (100%)	Yes (50%)
Income-related Employment Support Allowance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (100%)	Yes (50%)
Child Tax Credit, with a taxable income no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (100%)	Yes (50%)
Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (100%)	Yes (50%)
Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (100%)	Yes (50%)
Child Tax Credit, payable at a rate higher than the family element, i.e. more than £547.50	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (50%)	Yes (50%)
Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support (not including second adult rebate)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (50%)	Yes (50%)
Working Tax Credit during the four-week 'run-on' period	Yes	No	No	No	No



Packed Lunches

We have pupils in school who suffer from nut allergies, please ensure that you do not provide nut products for your child's packed lunch.



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.

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.**



Parking

I would like to remind you that parent vehicles are not allowed on site unless in cases of emergency or through prior arrangement with the office due to medical reasons. Green passes are issued on these occasions, and a log of vehicle registrations is kept. If you have a green pass, please inform the office if your vehicle registration has changed, as we do carry out spot checks. I am sure you understand that the safety of your children is our prime concern. Please also be considerate to our neighbours and do not park across their driveways.

Safety Reminders

A reminder that this school does not allow dogs on site. We are also a smoke and alcohol free zone. Please ensure that you observe these points. **Adults should not sit on the junior wall**, by the quiet area, or the Infant wall by the side of the Reception Classroom when collecting pupils. My office staff have also requested that children do not play on the disabled access ramp by the main entrance or throw stones at the windows! Please discourage your child from using the door buzzer as a game. Please do not allow your children to play on the playground equipment before or after school, including the area outside Class 4.

Children and adults are not to ride their scooters or bicycles in the school grounds. Thank you for your support.



Breakfast Club (7.55 – 8.55am)



We have a wonderful, vibrant breakfast club open to Ashtree pupils based in the Junior Dining Room during term times. Please contact Mrs Marlor on 07583615465 to book your sessions as we will have to turn you away at the door, without a booking, if the session is full. Mrs Marlor has asked that children arrive by 8.15am when breakfast is served.



After School Club (SPLAT)



To book a place for your child or for more information, please contact Natalie Wilson on 07514188258 between 2.30pm-6.30pm or contact via email oosc@splat.ltd. All registrations and bookings must be placed online at www.splat.ltd. This club is also based in the Junior Dining Room.

Booster Clubs

Year 5 and Year 6 Booster Clubs will be starting next week, please make sure your child has returned their permission slip.

Finally, Well done to our Y6 children who attended Cruical Crew. The children were praised for their excellent behaviour and they all learnt a lot about personal safety and being good citizens also to Y4 who are being good ambassadors for the school during their Friday swimming lesson.

Dinner Behaviour Awards



The winners for this week are Classes 6 & 9.

Attendance Cup



The winners for this week are Classes 6, 7 & 12 with 99.3%.

Effort Cup



Congratulations to William R. from Year 1.



Diary Dates for Autumn Term



Individual Photos	-	Thursday 19 October
Half-term	-	Monday 23 October - Friday 27 October
INSET Day 3	-	Monday 30 October - school closed to children
Last day of term	-	Tuesday 19 December at 2.15pm

Spring Term 2018:

First day of term	-	Wednesday 3 January
Half-term	-	Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February
Last day of term	-	Thursday 29 March at 2.15pm

Summer Term 2018:

First day of term	-	Monday 16 April
May Day	-	Monday 7 May - school closed to children
14 – 18 May	-	KS2 SATS week (No holiday will be authorised during this week)
Half-term	-	Monday 28 May - Friday 1 June
10 -15 June	-	Y6 Kingswood Trip – Isle of Wight
11 - 15 June	-	Y1 Phonics Test Week (No holiday will be authorised during this week)
INSET Day 4	-	Friday 6 July – school closed to children
Last day of term	-	Friday 20 July at 2.15pm
INSET Day 5	-	Monday 23 July – school closed to children
Occasional Days	-	Tuesday 24 July – Friday 27 July - school closed to children.

E. Kirwan