



ASHTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



WEBSITE: www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk

6 July 2017

NEWSLETTER 36

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Well done to our Y1 children who were excellent ambassadors on the school trip on Tuesday to Shepreth Wildlife Park, also to our Nursery families who enjoyed their sports day on Tuesday morning.

It was also lovely to see so many people attend our Open Evening on Monday and thank you very much for the positive feedback that you gave teachers when you attended the "New to Year Group" meetings. We were grateful for the excellent questions you asked during these sessions, however, approaching staff directly and asking them if they intend on being pregnant next year is intrusive and wholly unacceptable. My thanks to Mrs Janes for organising this evening.

School Reports

I have enjoyed reading all 458 pupil reports and these are going out in envelopes at the end of school today. These are confidential to you and I would ask that you resist the temptation to open them on the playground and discuss them with your friends. Thank you for your support.



Sports Day and Family Picnic – Friday 14 July – 12 - 3.00pm



Our biggest gathering of the year takes place on Friday 14 July, when we hold our Sports Day and Family Picnic. This year we will be starting our sport day with a family picnic at 12.00pm. **Please see the separate information about sports day, which will be coming out next week.** Don't forget the sun hat and sun cream if the weather behaves! If it is very hot, you may wish to bring some form of shade. **We ask that you do not sit and eat your picnic on the running tracks that have been marked out.** There will be no hot school dinners, children are expected to bring in their own packed lunches. For pupils entitled to Universal Free School Meals (Reception and KS1) or Free School Meals (KS2) or for pupils who would like a school packed lunch please order a packed lunch from the kitchen (which will be a selection of filled rolls), please still provide your child with a drink as the packed lunch only includes a small carton of juice. Children will be required to collect their packed lunch from the canteen before they come out onto the field.

The children will go back in to school at 12.45pm when they will be registered, and join up with their teams for the afternoon start of 1.00pm.

Please see the separate flyer that has gone out today. The side gates to the school will be open from 11.45am and a member of staff will be on duty by them from 12.00pm.

Please take your litter home with you.

Stevenage Sporting Futures Award – Thomas Alleyne

Our Y6 Sports Ambassadors attended the Inaugural Stevenage Sporting Futures Awards on Monday evening. They were nominated for Sports Ambassadors of the year and although they didn't win, they received a 'Highly Commended' award for their fantastic efforts and achievements this year. Well done to Oliver C, Alex W, Roman H, Jimmy J, Ted D, Heather M, Holly N, Kimberleigh E, Kayleigh G and Amy G.

Friends of Ashtree – Summer Fair

Huge thanks to Mrs Young and her team for organising our marvellous summer fair. The Ashtree community deserves a huge thanks for helping us to raise £1300. I was particularly grateful to the Y6 children for running some of the stalls. The decorated bag stall was a huge hit and I have given out Headteacher Stickers to every pupil who made one for us. I was very jealous of the people that passed me with their ice-creams, pizzas and candy-floss! The friends of Ashtree are a wonderful group of people who give up their time to support the pupils of the school. If you would like to find out more about what they do or would like to offer them your support then please pop into the office.

Kingswood 2018

Just a reminder, please can you return your Kingswood slip if you would like your child to go to the Kingswood Activity Centre on the Isle of Wight.

Free School Meals and Music

- Parents/carers do not need to re-apply for a school meal for Sep 17
- Any child receiving a free meal as well as 100% music remission will be renewed for both.
- Letters will only be sent to families whose children are no longer entitled to receive a meal.
- During August, schools will receive confirmation of who is entitled to receive a free meal and 100% music remission.
- Anyone currently receiving 50% music remission will still need to re-apply at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals from the 7th June 2017.
- We will work with our admissions team to identify children who will be starting a new school from September 17. No contact or renewal is required. Our customer service team will be dealing with any duplicated applications. No contact is required.
- We would ask schools to contact us at howcanwehelp@hertfordshire.gov.uk to advise of any changes we may not have identified, including in-year admissions.

SPLAT – Message from Ms Porterfield

SPLAT out of school club runs from Ashtree School term time for all of our pupils aged 3 to 11 years. The club is open daily until 6.15pm. The club offers a wide variety of activities such as Arts & Crafts, Sports, Den Building, Movie Time and much more, to keep all children engaged. A healthy snack is available for the children each session.

The club offers a very reasonable rate of childcare with highly trained and experienced staff who know the children in the school well.

The club is now offering one FREE session for each family who is considering to use the club in September. Book online now quoting 'Free Session'.

SPLAT also delivers a holiday club for all children aged 5 to 12 years from Featherstone Wood Primary School and has some great plans to keep the children busy this summer.

For more information visit their website at www.splatstevenage.co.uk

MSA Vacancy

We have a full time vacancy in KS1 (7hrs 30mins per week 11.55-1.25pm) and 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 17 July with interviews to be held on Thursday 20 July from 9.00am.



Dinners

We are having to chase an increasing number of parents/carers for KS2 dinner money. Dinners **must** be paid for in **advance**. Dinners cost £2.40 per day, £12.00 per week payable on a **Monday**. Dinner will not be provided unless paid for. If you would like to check your free school meal entitlement please call 0300 123 4048.

SchoolComms

If you haven't already done so please can you let the office know, your up-to-date email address. Thank you.

Summer Reading Challenge 2017 – Animal Agents

This Challenge takes place in all Hertfordshire Public Libraries during the Summer Holidays. We really enjoyed our visit from the School Librarian, who explained this year's challenge to us. Children choose books to read with family and friends, then talk to Library staff about their reading. They collect incentives to mark their progress and a Certificate and Medal are presented to all children who complete the Challenge by reading six books. I will be delighted to award a Headteacher Sticker to every pupil who comes and shows me their Certificate in the Autumn Term. Children will get a special mention in the September Newsletters.

Ms Kirwan's Summer Writing Challenge

I am definitely going to have to order more Headteacher Stickers because I am hoping as many pupils as possible will have a go at this challenge. If your child would like to write either a 500 word story of their own subject choice or keep a diary of the exciting things they got up to this summer, then I would be delighted to receive these in September and have the children share them with me. This can be handwritten or typed. I would prefer, of course, for the work to be of the children's own doing, however, I am sure the odd bit of adult help may be required. **Please ensure any work has reached me by Friday 15 September.** Children will get a special mention in the September Newsletters. We have been extremely proud of the pupils' achievement in writing across the school this year, and this will be another way to celebrate their love of writing.

Class Homework for the summer

In addition to the reading challenge and my writing challenge, pupils will be set homework by their teachers, to be returned in September, (with the exception of Y6 children). Please ensure that the homework is completed and returned to their new class teacher in September. It is important the children keep active, academically, over the summer break in order to make sure that they haven't lost ground for September.



Dates for this Year



Friday 7 July
 Tuesday 11 July
 Thursday 13 July
 Friday 14 July
 Thursday 20 July
Friday 21 July (2.15pm)

INSET Day 5 (School closed to pupils)
 Nursery School Trip (Shepreth Wildlife Park)
 Secondary School Transfer Day
 Family picnic at lunch time followed by an afternoon Sports Day
 Y6 Leavers Assembly (pupils only)
End of School Year

Term Dates for academic year 2017 - 2018

Dates for 2017/18

Autumn Term 2017:

Occasional Days	-	Wednesday 30 August – 31 August - school closed to children
INSET Day 1	-	Friday 1 September - school closed to children
INSET Day 2	-	Monday 4 September - school closed to children
First day of term	-	Tuesday 5 September
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
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.

Finally, Just a reminder that the school is closed to pupils on Friday 7 July (Inset day) and we closing at 2.15pm on Friday 21 July.

Attendance Cup 🏆

The winner for this week is Class 9 with 100%

Dinnertime Behaviour Awards 🌟

The winners for this week are Sunshines & Class 13

E. Kirwan

SPORTS DAY 14 JULY 2017
PACKED LUNCH REQUEST

Please return back to school by Monday 10 July

I would like to order a packed lunch for:

..... Class

..... Class

Ham Cheese Tuna

Signed:.....