

ASHTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

WEBSITE: www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk

4 December 2015

NEWSLETTER 13

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to this week's newsletter. I would like to remind you that cycles and scooters should not be ridden in the school grounds. Please push them until you are outside the school gates.

Well done to Y2 who visited St. Mary's Church on Tuesday. My thanks to Miss Long and Reverend Vivienne for organising the event. The children very much enjoyed their visit and were good ambassadors for the school.

Friends of Ashtree Winter Fayre

Well done everyone – we had a very successful Winter Fayre which raised £2500. On behalf of us all I would like to thank Mrs Faulkner and her Friends of Ashtree team, our school staff, children and school community for all of their support, without which there would not have been a Fayre. Many thanks to Elizabeth Baker from Barclays Bank for arranging fund matching. The non-uniform day was a real success for the tombola and I enjoyed giving out Headteacher stickers for the decorated jars.

KS2 Christmas Pantomime

Staff have asked me to request that all children in KS2 arrive in school between 6.30 and 6.40pm on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 December. The evening performances start at 7.00pm and we anticipate that children will need to be collected by 8.15pm on both evenings.

Changes to arriving and collecting for the KS2 evening performances

The Sparrow Drive gate will be open but you use this route at your own risk as the Junior playground is going to be used for parking. For all pupils and parents watching the performance, entrance will be via the **Junior playground door**. Pupils in Y4/5/6 will go to their normal classrooms. Pupils in Y3 will go down the corridor and will be met by their teachers in the Infant Hall.

At the end of the performance, parents of Y4 pupils will remain seated in the Junior Hall, the children will be brought to you. Y5/6 pupils can be collected by parents directly from their classes. Y3 pupils can be collected by parents from the Y1 classroom doors that open into the Infant Hall. Once pupils are collected by parents, you may then exit via the Junior Playground Door, Junior Dining Room door or the Infant Hall Door. For parents not watching the performance, but collecting at 8.15pm, entrance will be via the Junior Dining Room door for Y4/5/6 and by the Infant Hall door for Y3. Staff will, of course, only hand pupils over once the collecting adult is present.

Please do not put us in a difficult position by sending an older sibling to collect your child or by telling your child that they can walk home alone.

ADMITTANCE IS BY TICKET ONLY

Christmas Performances

KS2

Monday 7 December: 1.30pm and 7:00pm

Tuesday 8 December: 7.00pm

Reception/KS1

Monday 7 December: 10.00am

Tuesday 8 December: 2.00pm

Wednesday 9 December: 2.00pm

Nursery

Friday 11 December: 10.00am and 2.00pm

Foundation Stage and KS1 are performing

“Time Travellers”

KS2 are performing “Jack and the Beanstalk”.

Nursery are performing “The Nursery Rhyme Nativity”

Christmas Cards

I would like to remind you that if young people would like to give Christmas cards, we ask them to pass them to each other before or after school in the playgrounds. In this way pupils will know who have sent them cards, should there unfortunately be any less than seasonal greetings, as this has caused problems in past years. Nursery have their own Postbox within their setting.

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.

Sporting Events

Our girls played a netball match against Woolenwick on Tuesday, which they won. Miss Jackson has the following report: "I am proud of the teams' attitude and continued dedication. Thank you to all who supported the team and myself. Player of the Match goes to Kyla S. for her excellent attacking play and goal scoring. We look forward to our next match which will be in January. Ten Y5/6 girls and boys represented the school at a Tag Rugby Tournament on Wednesday. Mr Allen reported that "they played superbly with great Ashtree spirit over a long day, without tiring. As always, I am very proud of their efforts and achievements. Well done!"

Reminders from the Office

Our dinner money debt is currently £175 (£167 this time last year). 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 expecting us to provide one. Thank you for your understanding. A reminder that school dinners for all pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are currently free.

Please clear your balances by the end of this term.

School Christmas Parties – Wednesday 16 December

Pupils can come to school wearing their party clothes rather than wearing school uniform and getting changed at lunchtime. We do ask for a small donation of party food, and would suggest that odd number classes bring in savoury and even numbers bring in sweet food. Many thanks.

Finally, a reminder that school will finish at **2.15pm** on Friday 18 December.

E. Kirwan