



Ashtree Primary School & Nursery



Chertsey Rise, Stevenage, Herts SG2 9JQ

Tel: 01438 351090 Fax: 01438 353464

Email: admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk

 Facebook: Ashtree Primary School Nursery

 Twitter: @AshtreeSchool

Headteacher: Mrs M. Janes

Deputy Headteacher: Ms P. Ruprai

NEWSLETTER: 1

DATE: Friday 8 September 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the children and the sun!

We have welcomed a number of new children into our school this week, everyone has been looking after them and showing them where to go and what to do. I have been into classes meeting children who all seem happy and keen to be back, they were all showing fantastic learning behaviours.

This year we are changing our values slightly, one of the values that the children asked for and that we think is very important is Pride. Pride in ourselves, pride in our work and behaviour and pride in our school. We will be keeping Community and Resilience. Community is very important to me, supporting everyone to be an active part in our school community, the wider Stevenage community, and many communities further afield such as Tafadzwa School in Zimbabwe, our link school. Some of you may remember that I was lucky enough to visit the school a few years ago. Resilience is again something that we promote in school, being strong, keeping going and finding the right people and support to help you to be resilient.

One of our first tasks in promoting a pride in our school has been the creation of a Music room, Miss Hembra worked hard last term and the children now have their Music and some French lessons in the room. They tell me it helps them learn, they like the fact that all the equipment is there in the room with them. Miss Hembra will also be holding choir sessions from next Monday at 1pm. All Year 5 & 6 children are welcome to attend.

As well as visiting classes I also enjoy having visitors come to see me in my office. I particularly enjoyed the Year 6 visitors this week who brought me some Greek food that they were tasting as a part of their DT topic. Pop over to our Facebook page where you can see some photographs of what they did <https://www.facebook.com/AshtreeSchool>

Mr Yates has been working hard to revamp the way that we use house points at school. We want to use these to help children celebrate and be proud of all kinds of achievement, from work to behaviour. I will be continuing to celebrate the winning houses in assembly, and we will be introducing new rewards for the winning houses.

Thank you for the feedback about the new times for the school day, I know that some of you have found it tricky to drop children off at either end of the school. We will be supporting you with this in the following ways.

- **KS1** doors will be open from 8:50am for an 8:55am registration, if you arrive at 8:50am your child will be able to enter the classroom. The doors will remain open until registration starts.
- **KS2** staff are on the playground and ready to supervise the children from 8:45am and the children can line up from then with staff available to supervise them whilst you walk around to the KS1 / EYFS end of the school. Doors will close when registration starts at 8:55am.

On Monday Mr Lee Saunders will be starting with us in the role of caretaker whilst we appoint a permanent site manager to start after half term. Please make sure that you have your car pass with you and be patient as he learns who you all are. The office will be sending out an application form for the new year car passes this week.

Finally, Mrs Judge is well and ok but has had to start her maternity leave a little earlier than we expected. Mr Dyes-Bolt has started in the class this week, the children will remember him from his time in Year 4 last year in Red Kites. I will update you all as soon as there is any news from Mrs Judge.

Maria Janes
Headteacher



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School Rewards:

This academic year will see us increase our use of pupil rewards as a means of celebrating excellent work and supporting positive behaviours. These rewards will apply to all pupils from Nursery to Year 6 and will combine individual achievement - in the form of merits - and house achievement - in the form of house points. All pupils have now been allocated into a house and this will be communicated to you by your child's class teacher. Below outlines the reward process:

- Pupils will receive an individual merit rocket, which enables them to earn 10 merits.
- Throughout the year pupils will earn different coloured merit rockets, progressing through the colours of the rainbow and finishing with a silver and gold rocket.
- Every merit rocket a child completes, is worth 2 house points.
- Therefore, 1 house point is equivalent to 5 merits.
- Exceptional effort or work may result in an immediate reward of 1 house point.
- All immediate rewards of house points will earn pupils a special mention in assembly and the Newsletter.
- Each week, House Captains will total up the number of house points earned in each class creating a winning house for the week.
- The winning house each week will earn the House Cup
- These house point totals will be collated across a half-term, therefore creating a winning house for that half term.
- All pupils in the winning house each half term will receive a special reward - these will be communicated to parents at the start of every term.

Autumn Half-Termly Rewards:

- All and only pupils in the winning house for half-term 1 will receive a non-uniform day. This will be announced on Friday 13 October and take place on Friday 20 October.
- All and only pupils in the winning house for half-term 2 will receive an afternoon of film and snacks. This will be announced on Friday 15 December and take place on Monday 18 December.

House Point Special Mention:

JJ and Pride in Year 6 were awarded an immediate house point by Miss Staddon for their exemplary kindness on the playground. The two boys supported, played with, shared, and then gave their play equipment to a younger member of our school community. Miss Staddon was incredibly proud and appreciative of the boy's helpfulness.

Reminders:

- Can I please remind parents that during school hours all visitors and parents to the site should report to Reception in the first instance. This is for the safeguarding of the children and effective organisation of the day. Thank you
- One of the ways that we can show and instil pride in the school and show that we belong to the Ashtree School community is through our uniform. I do expect all children to follow the uniform policy however, on very hot days it would be ok to wear PE kit on a non-PE day if this is cooler for your child. This is a plain white t-shirt and plain green or black shorts.

The uniform policy can be found here <https://ashtree.herts.sch.uk/parents/uniform/>

You can buy items with a logo here <http://www.smartyschoolwear.co.uk/>

You can buy plain items with no logo in most supermarkets, and we have a stock of second-hand uniform. Local charity shops often have some second-hand uniform for sale.

FitKidz is back! Our Year 6 pupils were the first-year group to take part in the FitKidz circuit sessions this academic year, and they loved it! All pupils from Year 6 - Reception will get the chance to take part in these sessions over the course of the year.

Next Friday (15th) at 8.15am, FitKidz early morning club will begin. This club is completely FREE to pupils. Please check your emails for details of how to book your child a place.





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Outside Achievements:



Oscar in Robins completed the Summer Library Challenge. Well done, Oscar!



Attendance Cup: The winner for this week is **Penguins 99%**

CLOTHES BANK

- Clothes Available for children age 3-18
- **Dates:** Saturday
23rd September
28th October
25th November
16th December
- **Time:** 11am - 12:30pm
- **Venue:** Grace Community Church
Hydean way, Stevenage
SG2 9XJ
- To collect clothes, please contact
clothesbank@gccstevenage.church
for sorting out referrals

Looking forward to
partnering with you

Monday 11 September	Tuesday 12 September	Wednesday 13 September	Thursday 14 September	Friday 15 September
Menu 2 Premier Education Gymnastics Club Rec – Y6 After School Club Choir Years 5-6 1-1.25pm (Lunchtime)	GoShin Karate Club Y3-Y6 After School Club	Basketball Y1 – Y6 After School Club	SFC Football Y3 – Y6 Lunch Club Boys/Girls Football Training Y5 – Y6 (Mr Yates/Mr Allen) After School EYFS Cooking Club After School	FitKidz UK Fitness Club Rec – Y6 AM Club SFC Multi Sports Rec – Y2 Lunch Club Dance Club (Sophie) Rec – Y6 After School Boys/Girls Netball Training Y5 – Y6 (Mrs Cox) After School
Monday 18 September	Tuesday 19 September	Wednesday 20 September	Thursday 21 September	Friday 22 September
Menu 3 Premier Education Gymnastics Club Rec – Y6 After School Club Choir Years 5-6 1-1.25pm (Lunchtime)	GoShin Karate Club Y2-Y After School Club	Basketball Y1 – Y6 After School Club	SFC Football Y3 – Y6 Lunch Club Boys/Girls Football Training Y5 – Y6 (Mr Yates/Mr Allen) After School EYFS Cooking Club After School	FitKidz UK Fitness Club Rec – Y6 AM Club SFC Multi Sports Rec – Y2 Lunch Club Dance Club (Sophie) Rec – Y6 After School Boys/Girls Netball Training Y5 – Y6 (Mrs Cox) After School

Term Dates Academic Year 2023-2024

Thursday 19 October	-	Individual Photos
23 October – 27 October	-	Half-term Holiday
Friday 3 November	-	INSET Day 2