



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

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mr R. Yates

NEWSLETTER 11

DATE: 26 November 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

This week we finally seem to be getting somewhere with reducing our Covid numbers, which I know will please Year 4 who will be able to have lunch at the normal time again. Thank you to everyone that has supported us in keeping the measures in place, this is what has made it work.

We will be continuing to encourage parents to wear masks on-site and saying that any visitors coming into the building are wearing a mask (unless you are exempt), we will continue to practice good hand hygiene and to have remote assemblies. Clubs will again be able to mix year groups, unless there is an individual case within that year group. I can hear the cheer from parents and children from here as you read this.

One of the areas that we are looking to develop at Ashtree is positive playground behaviours. You may have heard about 'Lego Club' or 'Colouring Club' from your child at home. I want to take the opportunity now to explain our plans and my vision over the next year. As a teacher it is important to understand that the noisy, hustle and bustle of the playground doesn't suit everyone. It can be overwhelming for some and for others they become overexcited. One fantastic idea that Mr Yates and I have picked up from talking to other schools, is to have a calming indoor activity as an alternative for those that find the playground environment difficult. To help to facilitate that in the first instance, class teachers have been identifying those children that we think will benefit from some time indoors completing mindfulness and problem-solving activities. They have then been invited to join in those activities for all or part of their lunchtime. The aim is not to keep them in all of the time, it is just as important to get outside into the fresh air, but to give them the moment of quiet that they need or the chance to mix and form friendships in smaller groups.

You may have noticed the adverts for an MSA role recently, we will be interviewing next week and employing some MSAs that will be trained to run these clubs and offer more variety in the activities. It is important to me that we offer opportunities for all of the children, not just those that like to run around and also to support those who find it difficult to control their behaviours in learning new strategies. If you would like to know more about this, please do talk to me or to Mr Yates.

Finally, one of our longer-term projects is to source funding for automatic gates at the front of the school. You may have noticed that between certain times of day the gates are closed, and the main gate locked. This is helping to increase the security of the site but at the same time makes it more difficult for deliveries and visitors to enter school without calling up to the office first. I apologise for the inconvenience in the shorter term. If anyone knows of a source of funding for projects like this, we would love to hear about it. We will keep you updated on our quest for automated gates and an intercom, thank you for your patience in the meantime.

Have a lovely weekend, I hope that the predicted snow and wind doesn't appear but if it does snow I hope we are able to share some pictures of your snow sculptures next week.



**Well done everyone – we
raised £354.80 for
Children in Need**



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Nursery completed their sponsored event last Wednesday.

The children had fun taking part in an obstacle course which involved them walking on logs, climbing the outdoor resources, going under a tunnel, walking in and out of cones and having to take turns. As a class we completed approximately ten laps of the obstacle course which was spread out across the outdoor area.

Thank you very much to the Nursery parents for their support and donations.

We will shortly be asking the children what they would like to spend the money on to enhance the Nursery setting.



To commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee there is an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June 2022



The DfE have amended the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations to reduce the 2021/22 school year for maintained schools by one day to account for this additional Bank Holiday. This reduces the number of pupil contact days from 190 to 189.

As 3 June 2022 falls during the Summer Half-term, we are required to amend our published term dates to identify another day of holiday elsewhere in the year. **We will be taking this Bank Holiday on Tuesday 19 April 2022, making the first day of term now Wednesday 20 April 2022.**



Outside of School Achievement:

Benjamin from **Year 4** was very proud of his swimming certificates/badges and the progress he has made so far. Well done Benjamin.

School Reminders:

- Please can water bottles in school only contain water and not juice thank you.
- We have had a request from a local resident from Sparrow Drive, who has asked that parents do not park blocking driveways. I am sure you can appreciate how frustrating this would be if it was your driveway and you were trying to get to work. Thank you for your understanding.
- **Can all children make sure they bring into school a pair of in-door shoes (plimsolls) as the weather is changing.**



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Dinner Behaviour Awards



The winners for this week are **Rainbows** (for lining up well at lunchtimes) & **Classes 9 & 10** (for coping with changes in a mature manner).



Attendance Cup



The winner for this week is **Rainbows** with **98.5%**.

Monday 29 November	Tuesday 30 November	Wednesday 1 December	Thursday 2 December	Friday 3 December
Menu 2		ART Club Years 4,5&6 (3.20pm-4.15pm) Cheerleading Years 5&6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)		Netball Training Years 5&6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)
Monday 6 December	Tuesday 7 December	Wednesday 8 December	Thursday 9 December	Friday 10 December
Menu 3		ART Club Years 4,5&6 (3.20pm-4.15pm) Cheerleading Years 5& 6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)		Flu Vaccination Netball Training Years 5&6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)
Monday 13 December	Tuesday 14 December	Wednesday 15 December	Thursday 16 December	Friday 17 December
Menu 1		ART Club Years 4,5&6 (3.20pm-4.15pm) Cheerleading Years 5&6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)		Netball Training Years 5&6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)
Monday 20 December	Tuesday 21 December			
	Last day of term – school finishes at 2.15pm			



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Term Dates Academic Year 2021



Autumn Term 2021



Tuesday 21 December - Last day of term – finish at 2.15pm



Spring Term 2022



Wednesday 5 January 2022 - First day of term for pupils
Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February - Half-term
Monday 21 February - INSET Day 4 - school closed to children
Tuesday 22 February - First day of term for pupils
Friday 1 April - End of term – finish at 2.15pm
Monday 4 April – Monday 18 April - Half-term - Easter Break



Summer Term 2022



Tuesday 19 April - **Bank Holiday**
Wednesday 20 April - First day of term for pupils
Friday 27 May - INSET Day 5 - school closed to children
Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June - Half Term (*including the Spring Bank Holiday and additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.*)
Monday 6 June - First day of term for pupils
Friday 22 July - Last day of term – finish at 2.15pm

Academic Year 2022

KS1 – Y2 Testing window is the whole month of May 2022.

KS1 – Y1 Phonics is 6 – 17 June 2022.

KS2 – Y4 Multiplication Test is 6 – 24 June 2022.

KS2 – Y6 9 – 12 May 2022.

Please ensure you do not book any family holidays during test times as they will be unauthorised.