



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 13

Date: 15 December 2023

This is the last newsletter of the year, and it has been a lovely week.

The sun came out for the choir on a blustery day in Stevenage where they had their first experience of singing on stage with lights and microphones. They were very excited, and I know that the family, friends and staff in the audience were very proud of them.

Then we have had our Christmas performances running all week. Following feedback last year, we looked at how we could accommodate more parents and family watching. To achieve this, we had the four age groups in the school putting on their own performance. This allowed us to all be warm and dry in the hall and for all of the audience to be able to see their children perform.

New traditions often need to be tried out and adapted at first, I know from talking to parents that this is one that will be here to stay. We also looked at the feedback from parents about the times of the day and as many of you arrange your work around collecting children at the end of the school day, you suggested a performance at this point in addition to the one in the day. These have been well attended and I know that the children love the feeling that comes with it being a little darker outside and performing after school without tiring everyone out. There were a few moments during the performances where parents were not the only ones with a tear in their eye as the children shone!

On Thursday we had our Christmas dinner and staff put on their Christmas jumpers and tinsel to serve the children. As always Hertfordshire Catering did a fantastic job, I know that I had my first of probably many Christmas dinners this year.

The Autumn term is always a long and tiring one, but I would like to thank the staff and the PTA for their endless energy and enthusiasm, for running events, for planning and delivering lessons, for wiping scraped knees, for encouraging friendships and teaching children to be kind, respectful and accepting. We even had our first parent awarded on the spot house point awarded for kindness and friendship.

I would also like to thank the children for their sense of community, for being and making me proud and for their resilience always as one child said, 'keeping going even if things are tricky'. I look forward to next term when Ashtree Primary School & Nursery continues to grow and develop and maybe even starts a few more new traditions.

I hope you all have a restful break, a chance to meet up with friends and family and a Happy Christmas for those that celebrate this festival.

Mrs M Janes – Headteacher

This week's trophy winner is:

KS2 Pride Trophy - Peighton (Red Kites)

KS2 Community Trophy - Princess (Buzzards)



Attendance Cup:

The winner for this week is **Hawks** with **92.5%**

Class	Authorised / Unauthorised Sessions Missed
Wrens	19.8
Buzzards	14.3
Falcons	18.2
Kestrels	8.8
Harriers	8.2
Red Kites	12.0
Penguins	14.1
Robins	11.4
Swifts	9.1
Eagles	11.7



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Christmas Performances:

This week our *EYFS (Miss Sinnott)* children starred in their Christmas performance 'Daisy Angel!' The Nursery and Reception were fantastic, and we couldn't be more proud of them.



KS1 (Nativity) – Mrs Mohiuddin

The KS1 children have worked hard to learn their lines and learn the words to the songs to perform the Nativity. We are very proud of the children for performing brilliantly. They made the audience laugh and cry with joy. We would like to thank all the children and the staff for putting the Nativity together and making it into an amazing performance!"

UKS2 (Christmas Carol Concert) – Miss Kiernan and UKS2 Staff

We are all extremely proud of our Y5&6 pupils for working so hard to produce such a great performance of songs, music and poetry for our UKS2 Christmas Performance this year. We want to thank all the families for supporting us with costumes, helping the children learn their lines and no doubt listening to many Christmas songs being sung over the past few weeks in the build up! Thank you also for purchasing your tickets (with the money raised going to 'People for People - Stevenage') and for donating to our D&T/Art resources fund in the retiring collection. As a team, we would also like to thank the office staff for their help organising letters and tickets, the staff who provided a safe space for siblings unable to attend the after-school performance, Miss Hembra for ensuring all the pupils were so well prepared to sing so beautifully and the FOA for providing after show goodies for you all to enjoy. I would personally like to thank the UKS2 staff for all their efforts ensuring the performances went smoothly and were such a success! Most importantly, well done again to the pupils who demonstrated our school values so brilliantly - welcoming the school COMMUNITY so well, taking great PRIDE in their performance and showing RESILIENCE in the preparation for the show! We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!

LKS2 (Ashtree Christmas Crackers!) The Lower Key Stage 2 Team

When the Lower Key Stage 2 team were deciding on what to do for our Christmas performance, we knew that we wanted to do a variety of things to really show the many different talents, pupils in Years 3 and 4 have. From singing, to telling jokes, to playing musical instruments, we knew that we wanted to include as many of these things as possible.

With a lot of hard work from the children and a LOT of practicing, I am sure that you can agree that the performances were something that all of the children can be very proud of, and I particularly want to thank Miss Hembra for her help and hard work on making Ashtree Christmas Crackers the success it was.

A big thank you too, to the many parents who came to watch our performances and we are so glad that you enjoyed it.

House Points - Special Mention:

Belle (Harriers) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**

Hanna (Falcons) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**

Chloe (Falcons) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**

Oliver (Eagles) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**

Hope (Falcons) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**

Eloise (Harriers) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**



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Kaliyah (Eagles) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**

Maci (Harriers) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**

Gracie (Falcons) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**

Edie (Eagles) was a fantastic narrator for our EYFS Christmas performances. She displayed a professional attitude throughout and showed a caring attitude towards our youngest children. Thank you, Edie! **Awarded by Miss Sinnott**

Benjamin (Falcons) was a fantastic narrator for our EYFS Christmas performances. He supported the youngest children to learn the words to their songs and encouraged them to shine! Thank you, Ben! **Awarded by Miss Sinnott**

Inka (Red Kites) was so inspired by our narrative poem unit that she continued her learning at home! Awesome work! **Awarded by Ms Goode**

Miriam (Red Kites) during our Lower Key Stage 2 performance, Miriam looked after a friend who was upset and continued to look after her throughout the show. This show of community spirit was noticed by the mother of the child, who wanted Miriam's kindness to be recognised. Well done, Miriam. **Awarded by Mrs Cox**

Finley (Kestrels) has earned an instant house point for taking the initiative in tidying up Kestrel's book corner after it had been used by another class and looking after our classroom community. **Awarded by Mrs Cox**

Kunaishe (Kestrels) has earned an instant house point for taking the initiative in tidying up Kestrel's book corner after it had been used by another class and looking after our classroom community. **Awarded by Mrs Cox**

Freya (Buzzards) for showing some excellent understanding in fluency, especially counting in 4s. **Awarded by Mr Allen**

Mariah (Harriers) for being brave and resilient in the front row of our Christmas performance. When people were away and the groups kept changing, she remained calm and carried on with no fuss. **Awarded by Mrs Somiah**

Amelia-Jane (Harriers) for being brave and resilient in the front row of our Christmas performance. When people were away and the groups kept changing, she remained calm and carried on with no fuss. **Awarded by Mrs Somiah**

Isla (Harriers) for their fantastic choir performance at the Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday. You are all a credit to the school! **Awarded by Miss Hembra**

Princess (Buzzards) was so considerate when asked if she could help set up the chairs and stage for the EYFS Christmas performance. She made sure there were enough chairs and that everything was in the correct place ready for the children to perform. Thank you, Princess! **Awarded by Miss Sinnott**

Peighton (Red Kites) took pride and time in her whole school homework this week and produced a beautiful winter scene. Well done, Peighton. **Awarded by Mrs Khattran**



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Monday 18 December	Tuesday 19 December	Wednesday 20 December		
Menu 3 Premier Education Gymnastics Club Rec – Y6 After School Club 3.15-4.15pm Choir Years 5-6 1-1.25pm (Lunchtime) 12.30-1pm Warriorz Street Dance	GoShin Karate Club Y2-Y After School Club 3.30-4.30pm 12.30-12.50pm Recorder Club, Miss Hembra	LAST DAY OF TERM SCHOOL FINISHES EARLY 1.30pm		
				Friday 5 January
				First Day of Term Menu 3
Monday 8 January	Tuesday 9 January	Wednesday 10 January	Thursday 11 January	Friday 12 January
Menu 1 Premier Education Gymnastics Club Rec – Y6 After School Club 3.15-4.15pm 12.30-1pm Warriorz Street Dance	GoShin Karate Club Y3-Y6 After School Club 3.30-4.30pm	Basketball Y1 – Y6 After School Club	SFC Football Rec- Y6 After School	FitKidz UK Fitness Club Rec – Y6 AM Club SFC Multi-Sports - Rec, Y1, Y2 Lunchtime 12.30-1pm) Boys/Girls Netball Training Y5 – Y6 (Mrs Cox) After School 3:30-4:30pm Chess Club 12.30

Clubs – Mr Yates

Many of our clubs are opening bookings for their January extra-curricular clubs. These clubs are all run by external providers and not Ashtree School.

Please see details of the clubs available below, and the contact details for booking:

Monday - Gymnastics - After School Club - Reception to Year 6 - <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/>

Monday - Street Dance - Lunch Club - Years 3 -6 - No booking required (This is a FREE club)

Tuesday - Karate - After School Club - Years 3 -6 - admin@goshinkarateuk.com

Wednesday - Basketball - After School Club - Years 1-6 - <https://www.stevenageroyals.com/ashtree> (This is a FREE club)

Thursday - Football - After School Club - Reception to Year 6 - https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/stevenagefc/stevenage-fc-courses/after_school-in_school.html

Friday - FitKidz - Before School Club - Reception to Year 6 - fit-kidz@outlook.com (This is a FREE club)

Friday - Multisport - Lunch Club - Reception to Year 2 - https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/stevenagefc/stevenage-fc-courses/after_school-in_school.html

For these clubs, please provide the following information:

- Child full name
- Year group
- Parent/carer full name
- Contact mobile number
- Any medical or other information

As a school, we are always looking at developing our extra-curricular offer. Please keep checking the newsletter carefully for: club updates, school team training, new clubs and enrichment days.

School Dates 2023 / 2024

Last day of term – Wednesday 20 December 2023

Christmas Holiday: 21 December 2023 - 3 January 2024

INSET Day 3 – Thursday 4 January 2024 (school closed to pupils)

Friday 5 January 2024 – First day of term (pupils return)

Half-term Holiday: Monday 19 February 2024 – Friday 23 February 2024

Easter Holiday: Friday 29 March 2024 – Friday 12 April 2024

INSET Day 4 – Friday 3 May 2024 (school closed to pupils)

Half-term Holiday: Monday 27 May 2024 – Friday 31 May 2024

INSET Day 5 – Monday 22 July 2024 (school closed to pupils)

Occasional Day – Tuesday 23 July 2024 (school closed to pupils)

Summer Holiday: 24 July 2024 - 1 September 2024