



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 18

DATE: 28 January 2022

This half term our school value is **Resilience**

Dear Parents & Carers,

Last week I asked the children to think about and design what they think we should use the space for where the First Friends building is now. I have had a few designs brought to me and I have to say the children really are very imaginative. I particularly liked the grass-roofed hut that George and Oliver, from Y6, designed. I look forward to receiving more designs over the next few weeks.



We have had a number of classes this week with higher numbers of Covid-19 cases and some staff unwell. The children and staff have been incredibly flexible and we managed to cover all classes without any closures. I know that a number of other primary schools have not been so lucky. I hope that the worst of the outbreaks here is over and that we will be able to start reintroducing some of the elements of school life that we have had to put on hold.

This weekend is the Big Garden Birdwatch, an annual event that you can sign up to on the RSPB's website. It is something that I do every year and is not only an opportunity to learn a little bit more about the birds in your local area but also a rare chance to stop, be quiet and still and focus on something other than phones, computers and the television. I know that in my garden I have a large variety of birds that visit including a rather beautiful woodpecker. You do not have to have a garden to join in; you can look out for birds in the local park or from your balcony. The Red Kites that fly over the school cause a lot of interest amongst the children and during lockdown; we had a flock of Egyptian Geese that used to land in the field. Whilst you may not see anything quite that exotic in your gardens, I would love to hear from the children about what they do spot.

Mrs Gibbs will sadly be leaving us at the end of this half term. She has been a Teaching Assistant in KS2 at Ashtree since 2013 and in that time has supported children with their learning, been the person that children go to when they need to talk about their worries and been a good friend to many staff. I know that she will be missed and that we all wish her well in her next adventure. I want to thank her for everything that she has done at Ashtree.

The weather this week has been chilly again and Year 5 have been making themselves even colder by investigating the best material to make a lunch box. They spent the afternoon using ice cubes; they had 4 different materials and wrapped each material around an ice cube to see which cube melted the least in a set amount of time. I should have asked for their advice before I bought my new purple lunch bag!

Happy birdwatching, remember to add your results to the RSPB website.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Mrs M. Janes
Headteacher





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Outside Achievements:



Rosie from Y5 received her yellow belt in Karate. The yellow signifies the first beams of sunlight that give a seedling new growth and new life. The yellow belt is worn by a beginner, who has learned to practice the basic moves of Karate.

Rosie is now working towards her next grade of Orange belt – Well done Rosie!

Reminders:

- If your child is going to be picked up by someone else, **please inform the office**. Thank you.
- One of the measures to reduce Covid-19 transition is to increase ventilation in classrooms. Please make sure your child comes in with a jumper/cardigan and an extra t-shirt if needed.
- When on school property, please make sure that you and your children walk scooters and bikes through the grounds.
- It is important to us that we are able to address parent/carer concerns, please ensure that you bring these to the class teacher or the office and **do not** approach children directly.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 7-13 February 2022. This year's theme is Growing Together. We will be doing lots of different activities throughout the week. As a school, we will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow.

We have attached a link for parents and carers to support your child's and your own mental health.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers>





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Hertfordshire
Family Centre
Service

There is a School Nurse on duty every weekday that can support you with any concerns you may have about your child's/ children's health and wellbeing. They can be contacted on:

0300 123 7572

9am – 5pm Monday to Friday

www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing



Parent and Carer Support TALKING ASD & ADHD Workshops ADDED SPRING 2022 DATES DUE TO DEMAND

For parents and carers of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

ANXIETY and STRESS

We will help you to learn about:

- The difference between stress and anxiety.
- Understanding anxiety related conditions amongst young people with ASD and/or ADHD.
- How to spot the non-verbal signs of stress.
- Common triggers amongst neurodiverse children.
- What an anxious child needs to feel safe and how to provide this.
- Strategies to engage an anxious or stressed child.
- The early warning signs of mental health problems.
- Where to access further help and support, locally and nationally.

RESPONDING TO ANGER

We will help you to learn about:

- The difference between healthy & unhealthy anger.
- The pattern that anger takes and how to spot the non-verbal signs early.
- Our own and our children's triggers.
- Techniques that stop angry and aggressive behaviour escalating and when to use them.
- How to respond to our child in meltdown, keeping ourselves, our child and siblings safe.
- Where to access further help and support, both locally and nationally.

info@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk

Follow on:
[f](#) [in](#) [t](#)



Promoting Strong Family Relationships

Sessions will be run over Zoom so you will need access to a device such as a phone, tablet or computer with a speaker or headphones. We will help you get set up if you haven't used Zoom before. No special skills are needed.



Wednesday 16th March
12.30 – 2.30pm

Workshop 496 Pre-booking essential via Eventbrite Link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhd-anxiety-and-stress-for-parents-carers-in-herts-registration-224518449727>



Monday 7th March
7.30-9.30pm

Workshop 494 Pre-booking essential via Eventbrite Link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhdresponding-to-anger-for-parents-carers-in-herts-494-registration-223523293187>

Monday 28th March
12.30 – 2.20pm

Workshop 495 Pre-booking essential via Eventbrite Link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhdresponding-to-anger-for-parents-carers-in-herts-495-registration-224514828897>



Dinner Behaviour Awards



The winners for this week are **Sunshines** (For good listening and good behaviour) & **Class 11** (For listening to instructions and working well as a team).



Attendance Cup



The winner for this week is **Class 4** with **98.2%**.

Monday 31 January	Tuesday 1 February	Wednesday 2 February	Thursday 3 February	Friday 4 February
Menu 2				
Monday 7 February	Tuesday 8 February	Wednesday 9 February	Thursday 10 February	Friday 11 February
Menu 3				Class Group Photos
Monday 14 February	Tuesday 15 February	Wednesday 16 February	Thursday 17 February	Friday 18 February
Half - term				



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Term Dates Academic Year 2022 / 2023



Spring Term 2022



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
Monday 18 April	-	Bank Holiday



Summer Term 2022



Tuesday 19 April	-	Holiday - school closed to children
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 <i>(including the Spring Bank Holiday and additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.</i>
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.

Academic Year 2022 / 2023

24 October 2022 - 28 October 2022	-	Half term holiday
22 December 2022 - 4 January 2023	-	Christmas holiday
13 February 2023 - 17 February 2023	-	Half term holiday
3 April 2023 - 14 April 2023	-	Easter holiday
29 May 2023 – 2 June 2023	-	Half term holiday
24 July 2023 - 31 August 2023	-	Summer holiday
Thursday 1 September 2022	-	INSET Day 1 - school closed to children
Friday 2 September 2022	-	INSET Day 2 - school closed to children
Friday 25 November 2022	-	INSET Day 3 - school closed to children
Monday 28 November 2022	-	Occasional Day - school closed to children
Monday 20 February 2023	-	INSET Day 4 - school closed to children
Friday 26 May 2023	-	INSET Day 5 - school closed to children