



ASHTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



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20 September 2019

NEWSLETTER 3

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. I'll start this week with a further role call for all of the children who have come to see me as they have completed the **Summer Reading Challenge 2019 (Space Chase) / Ms Kirwan's Summer Writing Challenge**. I was very pleased to reward these children with their 'Headteacher Award' stickers so very well done to the following children:

Pupil Achievements

Nursery: Belle
Rainbows: Freya
Year 3: Max
Year 6: Matis

Final names next week.

Nursery Admissions

Applying for a school Nursery place for 2019-2020 (For children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016).

Admissions for Nursery are now dealt with by the school.

For all enquiries relating to children being admitted into our Nursery, please contact the school office 01438 351090.

Our Admissions Application Form for children starting Nursery in September 2019 can be downloaded from our website.

Our Nursery Admissions Policy is also on our website.

Applications for Nursery are now open – offers are made on a first come, first served basis. We offer 30 hours' provision in Nursery as well as 15 hours. **We only have 4 places (afternoons) remaining for September 2019.**

MSA – KS1 Vacancy

We have a full time vacancy in KS1 (7hrs 30mins per week 11.55-1.25pm) term time only. Please contact the School Office for a Job Description and Application Form. Closing date is Wednesday 2 October with interviews to be held on Tuesday 8 October in the afternoon.

Reception Places – September 2019

We have a few spaces available for Reception 2019 starters. Please let family or friends know and they can contact the school office on 01438 351090 or admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk if they are interested.

Curriculum Information

The new Autumn Term Curriculum Information has come out with this newsletter as a separate document.

Writing Competition – Mrs McQueen

We have been given a fantastic opportunity by the MP, Stephen McPartland to enter a writing competition. Your child will be bringing home, today, the details along with a new pencil. The closing date will be Friday 18 October. We will be very excited to read the wonderful stories.

Friends of Ashtree AGM

Our Parent/Teacher Association is called 'The Friends of Ashtree' and all parents of the school are automatically part of this group. The group is headed up by a committee of elected volunteers. The next AGM is on Tuesday 24 September at 7.30pm at Hooks Cross – The Three Horseshoes. It would be lovely to see as many parents attended this meeting as possible. Even if you can only give a few hours to support one of the events that the FOA put on, this would be very welcomed.

Gourmet Burger Day Menu

There will be a menu change on **Thursday 3 October 2019**. The options on the day are as follows:

Red = Beef Burger, **Blue** = Chicken Burger, **Green** = Quorn Burger all served with baked potato wedges, salad and sweetcorn and ice cream.

There will be no yellow option or blue option (jacket potato) on this day.

Harvest Festival Menu

There will be a menu change on **Thursday 17 October 2019**. The options on the day are as follows:

Red = Chicken and Gammon Pie, **Green** = Crispy Topped Vegetarian Bake, both served with roasted vegetables and sweetcorn and steamed Autumn fruit pudding.

There will be no yellow option or blue option (jacket potato) on this day.

Kingswood 2020

Just a reminder, please can you return your Kingswood slip if you would like your child to go to the Kingswood Activity Centre on the Isle of Wight.



Free School Meals for Children in Year 3 or older



Your child could get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than **£16,190** a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit** (with annual earned income of no more than **£7,400** after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Apply today if you receive any of these benefits. It takes **5 Minutes** and in most cases we can tell you straightaway if your child can get free meals at school.

Have your National Insurance number or Home Office number to hand when you apply.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until 2022, or until they finish their current phase of schooling (primary or secondary), if that's after 2022.

If you are already registered for free school meals you will not need to reapply.



Golden Time



Our work with Golden Time continues to be an invaluable part of school life and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of how this works at school. Golden Time now occurs across the school from 2.40pm every Friday. Children start each week with a full amount of Golden Time and hold on to this by keeping the Golden Rules throughout the school day. If their behaviour lets them down, then they lose minutes of Golden Time. If their behaviour improves then these minutes are given back. The aim is for children to be able to participate in the full session and give them the awareness that they are in control of this by choosing to behave well. Staff and pupils work together to select activities for the Golden Time session. These activities can include interests and hobbies. Please support us by taking an interest in Golden Time. I have listed the school's agreed Golden Rules for your reference:

Do take care of everything. Do try to smile. Do tell the truth. Do be helpful. Do try your best.

Do share with others. Do listen to everyone. Do walk in school. Do tidy up. Do be kind to everyone.



Late Arrivals



Please ensure your children are in school on time. I will continue to take a tough line on pupils who arrive late, unless there are mitigating circumstances. **If a child arrives after 8.55am they must report to the school office using the main entrance.** Mrs Swain will be monitoring late arrivals and absence and will be phoning home as necessary as part of her role.



Medication in School



Please ensure that any medication brought in for pupils at the start of this school year, is all in date and a new permission form is completed. These can be collected from the office. Thank you. Please remember to return in date Epi-pens to the school office for pupils who require them.

Holidays in Term Time

Due to Government changes, holidays in term time can no longer be authorised. Leave of Absence can be requested using a form from the office but I am only able to sanction up to 5 days in any school year for Leave of Absence in exceptional circumstances.



Sickness absence

Genuine absence due to sickness, for example vomiting, diarrhoea, chickenpox etc. is authorised. For extended periods of sickness we require you to provide a copy of your GP's certificate or appointment slip. **You must inform the school on the first day of absence using Option 1 on the answerphone or Schoolcomms.**



Parking

I would like to remind you that parent vehicles are not allowed on site (including driveway near the main gate) unless in cases of emergency or through prior arrangement with the office due to medical reasons. Green passes are issued on these occasions, and a log of vehicle registrations is kept. If you have a green pass, please inform the office if your vehicle registration has changed, as we do carry out spot checks. I am sure you understand that the safety of your children is our prime concern. **Please also be considerate to our neighbours and do not park across their driveways.**

Safety Reminders

A reminder that this school does not allow dogs on site. We are also a smoke and alcohol free zone. Please ensure that you observe these points. **Adults should not sit on the junior wall**, by the quiet area, or the Infant wall by the side of the Reception Classroom when collecting pupils. My office staff have also requested that children do not play on the disabled access ramp by the main entrance or throw stones at the windows! Please discourage your child from using the door buzzer as a game.

Please do not allow your children to play on the playground equipment before or after school, including the area outside Class 4.

Children and adults are not to ride their scooters or bicycles in the school grounds. Thank you for your support.



Breakfast Club (7.55 – 8.55am)

We have a wonderful, vibrant breakfast club open to Ashtree pupils based in the Junior Dining Room during term times. Please contact Mrs Marlor on 07583615465 to book your sessions as we will have to turn you away at the door, without a booking, if the session is full. Mrs Marlor has asked that children arrive by 8.15am when breakfast is served.



Dinner Behaviour Awards

The winners for this week are Sunshines & Class 14.



Attendance Cup

The winner for this week is Class 11 with 100%.



Effort Cup

Congratulations to Ellen from Year 6.

E. Kirwan

Academic Year 2019/2020

Autumn Term 2019:

- Friday 25 October - INSET Day 3 - school closed to children
- Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November - Half Term
- Friday 20 December - Last day of term - finish at 2.15pm

Spring Term 2020

- Monday 6 January - First day of term
- Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February - Half Term
- Monday 24 February - INSET Day 4 - school closed to children
- Friday 3 April - Last day of term - finish at 2.15pm
- Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April - Half Term

Summer Term 2020

- Monday 20 April - First day of term
- Friday 8 May - BANK HOLIDAY
- Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May - Half Term
- Friday 17 July - Last day of term - finish at 2.15pm
- Monday 20 July - INSET Day 5 - school closed to children
- Tuesday 21 July - Occasional Day - school closed to children

KS1 – Y2 Testing window is the whole month of May 2020.

KS1 – Y1 Phonics is 8 – 19 June 2020.

KS2 – Y4 Multiplication Test is 8 – 26 June 2020.

KS2 – Y6 11 – 15 May 2020.

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