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5 July 2019

## NEWSLETTER 37

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It was lovely to see so many people attend our Open Evening on Monday and thank you very much for the positive feedback that you gave teachers when you attended the "New to Year Group" meetings.

### End of Year Reports

Pupils' end of year reports have gone out today. Class teachers will have handed the envelopes to the adult named on them if that adult has been able to collect on the playground. Envelopes that have not been collected will be put into 1<sup>st</sup> class post this evening. This is to ensure that personal data is safely received in line with General Data Protection Regulations. If you are expecting a posted copy and it does not arrive please come to the school office where a copy of your child's report will be made available. If you are unable to come to the office, please make a request for a second copy to be posted out to you.

### 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.

### EYFS & KS1 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo

On Thursday 4 July the Ashtree School staff and governors had the pleasure to take 169 wonderful children to Whipsnade Zoo. The weather and the animals were impressive but not as much as our Ashtree children. Every single child was a role model for exceptional behaviour and we all had a truly memorable day.

### Friends of Ashtree - Summer Fayre

Huge thanks to Mrs Canfield, Mrs Cuzner and Mrs Jones and their team for organising our marvellous summer fayre. The Ashtree community deserves a huge thanks for helping us to raise £1365.13. The decorated bag stall was a huge hit and I have given out Headteacher stickers to every pupil who made one for us. It was amazing to see children getting the chance to walk with llamas! The Friends of Ashtree are a wonderful group of people who give up their time to support the pupils of the school. If you would like to find out more about what they do or would like to offer them your support, then please pop into the office.

### Nursery Admissions

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

### 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](mailto:admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk) if they are interested.

We have the following spaces in these year groups: Y1 = 1, Y3 = 2 and Y5 = 7. Applications need to be made to County for spaces in these year groups. Please contact the County Admissions Team on 0300 123 4043.



## Sports Day and Family Picnic – Friday 12 July – 12 - 3.00pm



Our biggest gathering of the year takes place on Friday 12 July, when we hold our Sports Day and Family Picnic. This year we will be starting our sport day with a family picnic at 12.00pm (gates open at 11.45am). Don't forget the sun hat and sun cream if the weather behaves! If it is very hot, you may wish to bring some form of shade. **We ask that you do not sit and eat your picnic on the running tracks that have been marked out.** There will be no hot school dinners, children are expected to bring in their own packed lunches. For pupils entitled to Universal Free School Meals (Reception and KS1) or Free School Meals (KS2) or for pupils who would like a school packed lunch please order a packed lunch from the kitchen (which will be a selection of filled rolls), please still provide your child with a drink as the packed lunch only includes a small carton of juice. Children will be required to collect their packed lunch from the canteen before they come out onto the field.

The children will go back in to school at 12.45pm when they will be registered, and join up with their teams for the afternoon start of 1.00pm. **Congratulations to Lauren from Y6 for designing this year's sports day leaflet.** Please see this information leaflet that went out on Wednesday.

### E-Safety

In school as part of our E-Safety curriculum we teach pupils how to use the internet safely. With the summer holidays coming up and more time for children to be on their devices please take this opportunity to check what your children are accessing online and who they are being contacted by. Please see the attached E-Safety News that we sent out in October 2017 and included MovieStarPlanet.



### 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.**

### Breakfast Club

An excellent asset to our school opening at 07.55am term time. Providing a nutritious, varied breakfast with table toys and supervised outside play. Pupils transferred to classrooms at 8.55am. **From September 2019 the cost per session will be £3.75 per child or £3.25 for siblings.**

There are several options with vouchers schemes for working parents or Child Tax Credits may be available to help with costs –please contact the School Office. Payment for Breakfast Club is in advance or pay on day.

Please inform Breakfast Club if your child is booked in to a session but will not be attending or you may still be charged for the session.



### Summer Reading Challenge 2019 – Space Chase



This challenge takes place in all Hertfordshire Public Libraries during the Summer Holidays. We really enjoyed our visit from the School Librarian, who explained this year's challenge to us. Children choose books to read with family and friends, then talk to Library staff about their reading. They collect incentives to mark their progress and a Certificate and Medal are presented to all children who complete the Challenge by reading six books. Books can also be read on Ipads or listened to as audio books. I will be delighted to award a Headteacher Sticker to every pupil who comes and shows me their Certificate in the Autumn Term. Children will get a special mention in the September Newsletters.



## Ms Kirwan's Summer Writing Challenge



Yet again I am going to have to order more Headteacher Stickers because I am hoping as many pupils as possible will have a go at this challenge. If your child would like to write either a 500 word story of their own subject choice or keep a diary of the exciting things they got up to this summer, then I would be delighted to receive these in September and have the children share them with me. This can be handwritten or typed. I would prefer, of course, for the work to be of the children's own doing, however, I am sure the odd bit of adult help may be required. **Please ensure any work has reached me by Friday 13 September.** Children will get a special mention in the September Newsletters. We have been extremely proud of the pupils' achievement in writing across the school this year, and this will be another way to celebrate their love of writing.



## Girls' Netball - Reported by Mrs Cox



Ashtree v St Nicholas B League Netball Match – Tuesday 2 July

The Ashtree B League team played the final match of the season on Tuesday 2 July. Our opponents were St Nicholas, a side that we had never played before, so it was going to be an interesting game!

Unfortunately, the St Nicholas squad were a lot more experienced in their play and played with a confidence and fluidity that only years of match experience and coaching can bring. But despite this, the Ashtree team made me so proud, as they demonstrated the true qualities of gamesmanship and team work, throughout the match. They never gave up, they always did their very best, they positively supported each other and they learned from their mistakes and listened to advice. These are hugely important skills, which they will be taking with them into Year 6 (or Year 7) netball.

So despite losing the game, I want to congratulate them all for their outstanding play and attitude, when many other people would have given up.

Our captain for the game was Erin, who led the team well and demonstrated all of the attributes listed above. Our Player of the Match, chosen by the St Nicholas team, was Maisie, who constantly worked to find space on the court by driving forward to receive the ball and had the presence of mind to look at her options before passing. **Next stop – The Primary Netball Tournament on Tuesday 16 July.**

## Summer Holiday Children's Bikeability Courses at Stevenage Cycle Hub

The Stevenage Cycle Hub is running both Level 1&2 Bikeability and Level 3 Bikeability courses during the Summer holiday. They are being run in conjunction with the Herts CC Cycling Team and are the same as they run in schools. The courses are delivered by their instructors.

Bikeability is today's cycle training programme. It's like cycling proficiency, but better! It's about gaining practical skills and understanding how to cycle on today's roads.

### Bikeability Level 1&2

The Bikeability Level 1&2 course runs over 4 days from Tuesday 30th July to Friday 2nd August 2019. It takes place at the Stevenage Cycle Hub and consists of 1 two-hour session per day (09:30 – 11:30). The first session will be Level 1 and will be in a traffic free situation, where we ensure participants have the skills needed to go on the road. The other sessions take place on local quiet roads, looking at how to move in traffic and negotiate parked cars, side roads and junctions. The course costs £28 per child (payable in advance). All participants must be in Year 5 or above (aged 9 years or older). We are offering the course as a catch-up for those that didn't achieve at Level 2 last time, and for any that don't have the chance to do the course through their school.

A place on the course can be booked using the following link:

<https://stevenagecyclehub.org.uk/events/bikeability-level-2-stevenage-july-2019/>

### Bikeability Level 3

The Bikeability Level 3 course runs over 3 days from Tuesday 20th to Thursday 22nd August 2019. It takes place at the Stevenage Cycle Hub and consists of 1 two-hour session per day (14:00 – 16:00). This course equips the trainees with skills for more challenging roads and traffic situations – busier streets, queuing traffic, complex junctions and roundabouts. It also includes planning routes for safe cycling. The course costs £29 per child (payable in advance). All participants must be in Year 5 or above (aged 9 years or older) and must already have achieved Bikeability Level 2.

A place on the course can be booked using the following link:

<https://stevenagecyclehub.org.uk/events/bikeability-level-3-stevenage-august-2019/>



### Dinner Behaviour Awards

The winners for this week are Classes 5 & 7.



### Attendance Cup

The winner for this week is Class 9 with 97.9%.



### Effort Cup



Congratulations to Evangeline from Y2 & Gwen from Y4.

*E. Kirwan*

## Academic Year 2018/2019



### Diary Dates for Summer Term



#### Summer Term 2019:

Thursday 11 July

Friday 12 July

Friday 19 July

**Monday 22 July**

**Tuesday 23 July**

**Wednesday 24 July**

- Y6 Transition Day
- Family/Picnic & Lunchtime followed by afternoon Sports Day
- Last day of term - finish at 2.15pm
- **INSET Day 4 - school closed to children**
- **INSET Day 5 - school closed to children**
- **Occasional Day - school closed to children**

## Academic Year 2019/2020 (next year)

#### Autumn Term 2019:

**Monday 2 September**

**Tuesday 3 September**

Wednesday 4 September

**Friday 25 October**

**Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November**

Friday 20 December

- **INSET Day 1 - school closed to children**
- **INSET Day 2 - school closed to children**
- First day of term
- **INSET Day 3 - school closed to children**
- **Half Term**
- Last day of term - finish at 2.15pm

#### Spring Term 2020:

Monday 6 January

**Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February**

**Monday 24 February**

Friday 3 April

**Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April**

- First day of term
- **Half Term**
- **INSET Day 4 - school closed to children**
- Last day of term - finish at 2.15pm
- **Half Term**

#### Summer Term 2020:

Monday 20 April

**Friday 8 May**

**Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May**

Friday 17 July

**Monday 20 July**

**Tuesday 21 July**

- First day of term
- **BANK HOLIDAY**
- **Half Term**
- Last day of term - finish at 2.15pm
- **INSET Day 5 - school closed to children**
- **Occasional Day - school closed to children**

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