



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 37

DATE 8 July 2022

Next half term our school value is Celebrating Success

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a busy week this has been! On Monday we were visited by Martin Galway the HfL English advisor who supported subject leaders to plan our next steps in developing reading, writing and phonics across the school. Next year Mrs Garnham will be leading on writing, Mrs Cox on reading and Miss Sinnott on phonics. After school we held our Open Evening and it was lovely to see so many of you there, the staff told me that they enjoyed talking to you all and answering questions about the new classes next year. It was also a chance to talk to some of the support services and activity groups in and around Stevenage. It is very important to me that we make our Open Evening about the wider community as well as about our school. I know that many of you talked to Homestart for advice for younger children, BeeZee Bodies for healthy life styles, found out about Fit Fed and Read and Brighter Days. Stevenage Library was also there to highlight the Summer Reading Challenge which we will be taking part in, again this year. You can find out more here <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

On Wednesday we welcomed Anne Peck and our new Hertfordshire Improvement Partner Dominic Bedford, came to talk to us about the progress that we have made since the Ofsted inspection and to look in depth at Science. Ms Ruprai was able to talk about the impact that the new phonics program, Little Wandle, is having and about the new books that she has bought to support phonics, along with the books bought for KS2 from the sponsor money. Mrs Cox impressed everyone with the work that she has been doing on developing our Science curriculum. We were able to visit classrooms and see the staff teaching from the new curriculum and show how the focus on specific Science learning points and scientific vocabulary has supported teaching and in turn helped the children to make progress. As always, the stars of the day were your children. Both of our visitors spoke highly of the children's manners and ability to talk about their learning. We were able to visit the Nursery where they were looking at life cycles, in Y2 they were learning about habitats and finding out what animals can be found in woodlands and urban areas, in Year 3 they were using torches and discussing the terms opaque, translucent and transparent. When we asked the children in Y3 what they were doing they were all able to clearly explain not only the activity but also the definitions of the terms. In Year 6 they were using Mr Men and Little Miss characters to think about genetic inheritance of characteristics and they came up with some interesting new characters that they thought might be the children of particular Mr and Miss Characters.

On Thursday we were visited in order to review the way we use Pupil Premium funding. This was another very successful visit looking at the teaching and learning and talking to children about the support that they get in school. Pupil Premium funding is an amount of money that comes into school, worked out from the number of children that have applied for free school meals, that can be used to support children's learning and wellbeing. Our plan is published on our website each year and this year's plan can be found here <https://ashtree.herts.sch.uk/download/pupil-premium-strategy-statement-2021-2022/>. It really helps the school when parents apply for free school meals, no matter what year group your child is in. This year the money has provided extra phonics sessions, extra staff in class, books and resources, our School Family Worker and therapy sessions to mention just a few things. To find out if you are eligible click here <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Thursday also brought visits from the Herts for Learning Early Years advisor Rose Blair, who talked with Miss Sinnott about her plans for next year and the adaptations we are making for the mixed aged classes. Mr Yates our Maths lead was visited by Siobhan King the HfL Maths Lead.



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It has been very reassuring to hear all of the positive comments from our visitors about how much progress the school has made since December, I know that the staff are all working very hard to move our school forward and making the school experience for everyone a successful one.

Sports Day

Due to the extremely hot and cloudless weather on Tuesday afternoon we will be holding our sport day in the morning. I know that this may make it difficult for some of you to attend, however everyone's safety is the most important thing. Please drop your child off in PE Kit at the usual time and make your way to the field. Races will be from 9.30am – 12.00pm and the picnic lunch will be 12.00pm – 1.00pm. Children will then return back to class for the afternoon. Children must have hats and a water bottle, if you are applying sun tan cream it should be 'nut oil free'. <https://www.sunsafeschools.co.uk/>

Summer Holiday Food Vouchers

Herts County Council are once again providing supermarket vouchers for eligible pupils. These should arrive in your inbox this weekend (12th-13th July). Please check your inbox and junk mail to see if you have received yours. If you have not, please e-mail the office and we will look into it for you. If your child is in Nursery, they are eligible for to receive the Household Support Fund. This is separate from the supermarket voucher scheme. You will be contacted directly from Herts County Council regarding this. It is not something that the school manages.



This week in Nursery we explored the globe of the world. We looked at the land and sea. We discussed the different countries in the world and talked about the differences in weather.

We shared the story 'The Snail and the Whale' commenting on the different places that they travelled. Charlie said 'The penguins live in the cold and ice'.

A big thank you to Rogers Artificial Grass Maintenance Services for donating 2 huge pieces of grass for our EYFS classrooms. The children already love it!



Outside Achievements:



Erin and Cara from Y4 achieved their gold medal for level 3 gymnastics. They achieved this through their great work on the bars, beam and floor.

Reminder to all parents that when you are on school grounds we expect all adults to use appropriate language around children.



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Dinner Behaviour Awards



The winners for this week are Class 5 (for good behaviour at lining up) & Class 13 (for using time wisely on the playground and helping others).



Attendance Cup



The winner for this week is Class 6 with 97.3%.

Monday 11 July	Tuesday 12 July	Wednesday 13 July	Thursday 14 July	Friday 15 July
Menu 3	Sports Day 9.30am-12.00pm Picnic 12pm – 1.00pm	Nursery Sports Day 9.30am Cheerleading 3.15pm-4.15pm		Netball Training Years 5&6 (3.30pm-4.15pm) KS1 / KS2 Disco
Monday 18 July	Tuesday 19 July	Wednesday 20 July	Thursday 21 July	Friday 22 July
Menu 1				Last Day of Term 2.15pm Finish

Term Dates Academic Year 2022 / 2023



Summer Term 2022



Friday 22 July

- Last day of term – finish at 2.15pm



Autumn Term 2022/2023



Thursday 1 September 2022

- **INSET Day 1** - school closed to children

Friday 2 September 2022

- **INSET Day 2** - school closed to children

Monday 5 September 2022

- First day of term for pupils

24 October 2022 - 28 October 2022

- Half term holiday

Friday 25 November 2022

- **INSET Day 3** - school closed to children

Monday 28 November 2022

- Occasional Day - school closed to children

21 December 2022

- Last day of term

22 December 2022 - 4 January 2023

- Christmas holiday

Thursday 5 January 2023

- First day of term for pupils

13 February 2023 - 17 February 2023

- Half term holiday

Monday 20 February 2023

- **INSET Day 4** - school closed to children

3 April 2023 - 14 April 2023

- Easter holiday

Friday 26 May 2023

- **INSET Day 5** - school closed to children

29 May 2023 – 2 June 2023

- Half term holiday

Friday 21 July 2023

- Last day of term

24 July 2023 - 31 August 2023

- Summer holiday