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12 July 2019

NEWSLETTER 38

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Well done to our Sports Ambassadors who were rated as 'Highly Commended' in the Stevenage Sporting Futures Team Awards.

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.

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 if they are interested.

We have the following spaces in these year groups: Y1 = 1, Y3 = 2 and Y5 = 6. Applications need to be made to County for spaces in these year groups. Please contact the County Admissions Team on 0300 123 4043.



Dinner Money

Please ensure all outstanding dinner money is paid by Wednesday 17 July 2019. Thank you.



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.

Friends of Ashtree Cake Sale

Thank you to you all for the lovely cakes/biscuits that were bake/donated for the cake sale on Thursday after school. The winners of the 'Ashtree Bake Off' are:

Nursery: Thomas, Lola

Sunshines: Scarlett

Rainbows: Nathan

Class 3: William

Class 4: Ciaran

Class 5: Ashton

Class 6: Kirsty

Class 7: Dinali

Class 8: Natalie

Class 9: Raef

Class 10: Noah

Class 11: Matis

Class 12: Daniel

Class 13: Yasemin

Class 14: Melissa

Moving Schools

If your child has been allocated a place at another school, please can you confirm this in writing to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Parking in Sparrow Drive

Please can we ask when collecting/picking up your children, please can you ensure you do not park over residents' drives. Thank you

Houses of Parliament Visit – Report by Yasemin & Frankie Y6

On Wednesday 10 July, as Ashtree's Stevenage Schools' Parliament representatives, we were invited to go to the Houses of Parliament in London. While we were there we had a tour round and got to see all kinds of amazing things like the Royal Gallery, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. We then had a workshop on how to make a Law. It goes from being a Bill (a suggestion) to getting Royal approval by the Queen and becoming law. It was a very interesting place and a great trip.



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.

Finally, due to promotion Mrs Dunlop will now be working in a Teaching Assistant role across the whole school and Mrs Foley will be Reception (Rainbows) Teaching Assistant for the year.

A reminder that school finishes at 2.15pm on Friday 19 July.

I would like to thank the Friends of Ashtree, who are buying an ice-cream for our Y6 leavers next Friday afternoon. NB: There will be an ice-cream van on the KS2 playground at 2.15pm should any parents/carers like to take advantage of this.



Attendance Cup



The winner for this week is Class 5 with 97.7%.



Effort Cup



There will be no award this week due to Sports Day.

E. Kirwan

Academic Year 2018/2019



Diary Dates for Summer Term



Summer Term 2019:

Friday 19 July

Monday 22 July

Tuesday 23 July

Wednesday 24 July

- 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.