



# ASHTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



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19 July 2019

## NEWSLETTER 39

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the school year. Life in school has been so busy and time, as always, has flown by as we have progressed through a lively, action packed year. I would like to thank the Nursery pupils for being excellent ambassadors for the school when they went to Shepreth Wildlife Park.

The children have enjoyed many wonderful activities and will have fond memories to take forward. We distributed harvest gifts to our local community and collected produce for the Stevenage Community Food Bank. Many parents came to support their children with our sporting teams and enjoyed their successes particularly our football, netball and athletic teams. A wide variety of clubs have been enjoyed by our children, ranging from gardening to cheerleading. The community also supported: The British Red Cross Poppy Appeal, Sport Relief, Cancer Research and Tafadzwa Primary School our link school in Zimbabwe.

Parental help in many aspects of school life has continued to flourish, for example with school trips and Friends of Ashtree events. The whole school has enjoyed Book Day, our Christmas Performances, Open Evening and visits from Reverend Vivienne and the Bishop of Hertford as well as parents of the school sharing their work experience.

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed another fantastic Kingswood Residential trip. Classes were successful ambassadors for the school when they visited Shepreth Wildlife Park, Whipsnade Zoo, St Albans Museum and the British Schools Museum. The Friends of Ashtree supported the school by running numerous events, including discos, summer and winter fayres and raffles. Special thanks go to the "Friends" for supporting the school and helping us to provide the extra treats and goodies that our pupils deserve which include a brand new KS1 climbing frame. I really hope that this vital group will continue to be supported by parents in the Autumn Term so that we can continue with successful fund raising.

Our Teaching Assistants have continued to successfully support pupils through intervention strategies. Pupils really enjoy working with them and we are really lucky to have such a fantastic Teaching Assistant team here at Ashtree School.

We will be welcoming Mr Steadman who is joining our teaching staff for the Autumn Term and Mrs des Forges who will be joining our Teaching Assistants. We will be saying goodbye to Miss Marriott, Mrs Butterworth and Mrs Larty. We would like to wish them all good luck in their new roles.

Our Year 6 pupils are moving on to secondary schools and we will miss them greatly. I would like to thank them for their wonderful Leavers' Assembly. We wish you all well for the future and would love to hear how you all get on in Year 7.

Sadly there are a number of families with whom our regular contact will now end. I would like to thank you all for your contribution and involvement in the life of Ashtree School. We will miss you all and hope that you will pop in to see us from time to time.



### Medication in School



Your child will be coming home with their inhalers but EpiPens and any other medication will need to be collected by a parent/carer. Please ensure that any medication brought in with them at the start of the next school year, is all in date and a new permission form is completed. These can be collected from the office. Thank you.



## Sports Day Results

It was lovely to see so many of our families picnicking on the field and I am pleased to announce that Sports Day was won by 1st - Cassiopeia – 486, 2nd - Epsilon – 478, 3rd - Andromeda – 421, 4th – Orion 405.

### 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](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 = 6. Applications need to be made to County for spaces in these year groups. Please contact the County Admissions Team on 0300 123 4043.



### 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 get 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.

### Primary Netball Tournament

On Tuesday 16 July, the Ashtree Netball squad played in the Stevenage Primary Netball tournament. Both the A league and B league teams played and demonstrated once again, the amazing skills and sportsmanship that we have come to expect from them.

In what turned out to be a very busy afternoon, the girls played 4 or 5 matches against other school sides. With 6 games being played simultaneously each time and a very quick turnaround before the next match, the time flew by!

The A league team won all but one of their tournament matches and came 2nd overall in the tournament. The League results for the season were also announced and Ashtree came 2nd in the league too! Well done Ashtree!

The B league team did not make the top 3 places in either the tournament or the league, but the potential these girls show is incredible. I am thoroughly looking forward to the 2019/2020 netball season and how the squad will play!

I would like to thank all of the parents of the squad for their support; in enabling their child to attend matches, to understanding when matches are cancelled at the last minute and for helping them to practise their skills at home. This has made such a difference!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank both Mrs Cook and Mrs Young, for their time and expertise! The Ashtree Netball Team would not be where it is without either of them!

Finally, may I wish you a very happy and restful summer break. Ashtree Primary School and Nursery is a very caring community and I thank you for your support, which helps to make it so special. In particular, may I thank our wonderful Office staff who work tirelessly for the benefit of the pupils and all that they do is greatly appreciated. I know you would also wish me to thank all our lovely teachers, support staff and Governors for their continued hard work and commitment. On behalf of us all, may I thank you for all the end of year gifts and donations that are coming into school. They are all gratefully received and will be put to good use.

If you are heading off to the sun, have a great summer. If you are staying at home, enjoy the stillness.

I look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 4 September, when no doubt we will launch into a busy, lively and exciting year.



### Governors' Cup



The winner for this week is Class 14 with 96.6%.

*E. Kirwan*

## Academic Year 2018/2019



### Diary Dates for Summer Term



#### Summer Term 2019:

- Monday 22 July - INSET Day 4 - school closed to children
- Tuesday 23 July - INSET Day 5 - school closed to children
- Wednesday 24 July - Occasional Day - school closed to children

## Academic Year 2019/2020 (next year)

#### Autumn Term 2019:

- Monday 2 September - INSET Day 1 - school closed to children
- Tuesday 3 September - INSET Day 2 - school closed to children
- Wednesday 4 September - First day of term
- 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.**