



**WEBSITE:** [www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ashtree.herts.sch.uk)  
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**27 September 2019**

## NEWSLETTER 4

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

**Rainbows:** Toby  
**Year 2:** Bianca  
**Year 5:** Isabelle

**Final names next week.**

### **Governor Vacancies**

We currently have opportunities for new parent governors to join our governance team. If any parent/carer would like to express an interest in this role please contact the school office 01438 351090 and your details will be passed to The Chair of Governors, Mr W Spicer. Mr W Spicer will be very happy to outline the duties of the role and elections to the posts will be held as appropriate.

### **Nursery Admissions**

Applying for a school Nursery place for 2020-2021 (For children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017).

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 2020 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.

### **Reception Places –**

We have a few spaces available for Reception. 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.

### **Kingswood 2020**

Just a reminder, please can we have the Kingswood deposit by 7 October 2019.



### **Photographs**

I would like to remind you that the family and individual photographs will be on **Thursday 17 October**. I am sure that the children will look as smart as they normally do on this occasion. A letter went out by pupil post on Tuesday 24 September.

### **Friends of Ashtree Committee**

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 elected volunteers are: Miss Canfield (Chair), Mrs Cuzner (Treasurer) and Mrs Jones (Secretary). If you would like to volunteer your help, the Friends of Ashtree would welcome any help that can be given.



## Parent Consultations – Monday 21 October and Tuesday 22 October



More information to follow and including how to use the online booking system.



## FOA Welly Walk & Cake Sale – Wednesday 25 October



Well done to everyone who came to support this event. Totals will be confirmed in the next newsletter. Please can we ask that all sponsor money be return to the school by 11 October the latest. Thank you.



## Harvest Festival



The Harvest Festival will take place on Friday 18 October at 2.15pm. This year we are again supporting the Stevenage Community Food Bank, therefore we are asking children to bring in items from the following list: **Breakfast Cereals, Baked Beans, Garden Peas, Tinned Meals, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Meat, Tins of Fruit, Tea, Coffee, Tinned Sweetcorn, UHT Milk, Custard, and Soup.**

By donating food in this way, it will be much easier for the staff at the food bank to cater for the needs of their clients. We would be happy to receive donations from Monday 14 October. These can be donated to your child's class. If you would like to find out more about this group please go to

<http://stevenagecommunityfoodbank.org.uk>

We would also be grateful for any beautifully presented boxes of produce; these will go with some of our Year 6 pupils to Silkin Court on the afternoon of Friday 18 October before the Harvest Assembly. I know that the residents there will be delighted to receive them and they often write lovely thank you letters as a result.

## World Mental Health Day – Thursday 10 October

This year we are raising awareness of 'World Mental Health Day' by supporting #helloyellow – [youngminds.org.uk](http://youngminds.org.uk). Pupils are invited to come to school wearing 'yellow'. This can be just a splash of yellow such as a hair band or head to toe in yellow! Any donation towards this important cause would be greatly appreciated. At some point during the day, pupils will be participating in some mindfulness activities.

## 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.

## 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.**



## 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.**



### **Parking**

I would like to remind you that parent vehicles are not allowed on site (including the 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.**



### **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 Classes 3 & 10.



### **Attendance Cup**

The winners for this week are Sunshines & Class 11 with 100%.



### **Effort Cup**

Congratulations to Lilly from Year 4.

*E. Kirwan*

## Academic Year 2019/2020

### Autumn Term 2019:

<b>Wednesday 17 October</b>	-	<b>Family &amp; Individual Photographs</b>
Monday 21 October	-	Parents Consultation Evening 5pm-7.30pm
Tuesday 22 October	-	Parents Consultation Evening 3.30pm-6.00pm
<b>Friday 25 October</b>	-	<b>INSET Day 3 - school closed to children</b>
<b>Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November</b>	-	<b>Half Term</b>
Friday 20 December	-	Last day of term - <b>finish at 2.15pm</b>

### Spring Term 2020

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

### Summer Term 2020

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

**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.**