



# Ashtree Primary School & Nursery



Chertsey Rise, Stevenage, Herts SG2 9JQ

Tel: 01438 351090 Fax: 01438 353464

Email: [admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk)

 Facebook: Ashtree Primary School Nursery

 Twitter: @AshtreeSchool

Headteacher: Mrs M. Janes

Deputy Headteacher: Ms P. Ruprai

## Newsletter 5

*Date: 9 February 2024*

This week class photos have been underway. There are some really creative photos of your children in their classes, and I can't wait to see the final results. Keep a look out for information about how to order the photos.

With Feeling Good Week taking place here at school I wanted to show you some of the ways that we help the children to feel good and feel calm. We use something called Zones of Regulation. In this you have four colours to help children to describe emotions Red, Yellow, Green, Blue. We are very careful not to talk about bad emotions but to focus on supporting children to recognise how they feel in different situations and how to regulate those emotions. In every class we have a Regulation Station, this is somewhere that children can reflect, think, or identify how they are feeling.



We have also been making good use of the sensory room with PTA funded resources. This is a lovely calm space for children to reflect or regulate their emotions.

I know that everyone enjoyed the yoga sessions, it was lovely to walk through the hall to see and hear the children taking part in breathing exercises and stretches, listening to calming sounds and making their own sounds. Thank you to Mrs McQueen for organising this.

Mrs M Janes - Headteacher

### **School Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers – Mr Yates**

All pupils who are eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals will be sent a £15.00 voucher on Monday 12 February. If you have not received a voucher and think you are entitled to one, please make sure you have registered at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx> and then contact the school office, by Tuesday 13 February.

In addition, this will be the last school holiday voucher available in its current format. Please read the information that the Hertfordshire County Council have shared with the school below:

Since December 2020 the Local Authority have issued vouchers to families, funded through various government funding streams. Since October 2021 this has been funded through the Household Support Fund, a Department of Work and Pensions (the 'DWP') cost of living support fund. During and following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement in November, no commitment to the extension of the Household Support Fund (HSF) beyond the end of March 2024 was announced.

Whilst it is recognised that the Government continues to keep all its existing programmes under review, in the absence of a clear commitment to extend the fund beyond the end of March 2024, we are mobilising plans to end the holiday food voucher scheme.

We acknowledge that as the scheme has been running for the last 3 years this will have a significant impact on Hertfordshire residents. As it stands the last official food voucher will be the February half term voucher which will be ordered by schools from Thursday 1 February of £15.00.

Any families who feel that they will require future support should refer to the, 'support with cost-of-living pages,' on the county council website: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/cost-of-living/help-to-manage-the-cost-of-living.aspx>



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This week has been Hertfordshire's Feeling Good week. This year's theme is Regrown. The Year 6 school counsellors and Mrs McQueen have worked extremely hard to win the bid of £500 from Hertfordshire. Mrs McQueen has spent the money on the yoga classes that were delivered by Happy Little Yoga and trees, plants, and seeds for the children to plant around the school grounds.



Tuesday 6 February marked Safer Internet Day, a time to reflect on the importance of keeping our children safe online. The theme this year was 'Inspiring change? making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. Over the last 2 weeks in singing assembly Miss Hembra has been teaching the children a song called 'Be Safe' a song about internet safety. In class the children have had class assemblies discussing Safer Internet Day. They discussed how online content can change people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviour both positively and negatively. Various activities were completed throughout the school including completing the following statement 'To inspire change this Safer Internet Day I will...' Answers included not to complete dangerous challenges and not to follow people who are unkind. Some children created influencer profiles and wrote some positive messages that their influencer might say for example 'everyone is amazing just believe!'.

In an age where technology is woven into the fabric of daily life, it's crucial to empower our kids with the knowledge and tools to navigate the digital world safely. Please take this opportunity to have conversations about online risks, privacy settings, and responsible digital behaviour. The following links from the NSPCC and saferinternet.org can support conversations in the home.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



**Pupil Premium Grant** is funding to improve educational outcomes in schools. We use a wealth of evidence of 'what works' when planning and reviewing our strategy (on school website). Our strategy has focused on high-quality teaching through staff professional development with a key focus on high quality texts and fidelity to our phonics program-Little Wandle. Little Wandle is supporting children to secure their foundations to reading. Our high-quality texts are reflected in our curriculum, particularly in English. Alongside this, we have put an emphasis on the key vocabulary introduced to children in all subjects from Nursery to Year Six. A recent visit from our District Schools Effectiveness Advisor who noted the emphasis placed on vocabulary using our recent purchase of Widgets. Our PTA have supported our vision through raising additional funds to support the purchase of high-quality texts and Widgets. Our strategy is reviewed annually and is improving outcomes for all our Ashtree children.

**Did you know that registering for Pupil Premium means that your child's school could get extra money? Use the link below to see if your child is able to get free school meals: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>**

- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



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Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
  - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  - income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
  - Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
  - Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- If you have any questions, please contact our school office.

**Ms Ruprai Deputy Headteacher**

**SENCo**

**Pupil Premium Lead**

## *House Points - Special Mention:*

**Elsie (Red Kites)** for all your hard work and enthusiasm in colour coding and organising the thread for Textiles and future DT projects. **Awarded by: Ms Goode**

**Leia (Red Kites)** for all your hard work and enthusiasm in colour coding and organising the thread for Textiles and future DT projects. **Awarded by: Ms Goode**

**Inka (Red Kites)** for all your hard work and enthusiasm in colour coding and organising the thread for Textiles and future DT projects. **Awarded by: Ms Goode**

**Angelim (Red Kites)** for all your hard work and enthusiasm in colour coding and organising the thread for Textiles and future DT projects. **Awarded by: Ms Goode**

**Lola (Kestrels)** wrote and performed her own recorder composition using the notes B A G and C beautifully during recorder club. She also explained her inspiration behind the piece! **Awarded by: Ms Hembra**

**Rogan (Kestrels)** looked after his friends and his community, by bringing in coats that his friends had left outside at the end of lunch. **Awarded by: Mrs Cox**

**Archie (Red Kites)** was so kind and played so well with Tilly from the Wrens. Thank you, Archie. **Awarded by: Mrs Swallow**

**Rachel (Swifts)** has worked hard in her phonics sessions at school and has worked extremely hard at home too. She has now completed her Little Wandle journey. I am so proud of you Rachel. **Awarded by: Mrs Swallow**

**Lola & Louie (Hawks)** they asked if they could collect litter from the playground to make the school environment better and safer for everyone. **Awarded by: Mrs Mulqueen**



## *Attendance Cup:*

The winner for this week is Eagles with 96.9%

## *This week's trophy winner is:*

**Pride** - Lola (Kestrels)

**Community** – Archie (Red Kites)

**Resilience** - Rachel (Swifts)

Class	Authorised / Unauthorised Sessions Missed
Harriers	7
Hawks	8
Falcons	12
Robins	14
Swifts	24
Buzzards	27
Penguins	30
Red Kites	30
Kestrels	38
Wrens	41



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Monday 12 February	Tuesday 13 February	Wednesday 14 February	Thursday 15 February	Friday 16 February
<b>Menu 3</b> <b>12.30-1pm Warriorz Street Dance</b> Volleyball Y5/6 (lunchtime) Premier Education Gymnastics Club Rec – Y6 After School Club 3.15-4.15pm	Table Tennis Y3/4 (lunchtime) Premier Education Dodgeball Rec- Y6 3.15-4.15pm GoShin Karate Club Y3-Y6 After School Club 3.30-4.30pm	Stevenage Royals Basketball Y1 – Y6 After School Club	Stay Active (lunchtime) Rec – Y2 SFC Football Rec- Y2 After School SFC Football Y3- Y6 After School Premier Education Tennis Rec-Y6 After School Girls Football Training Mr Allen Y5/6 After School	FitKidz UK Fitness Club Rec – Y6 AM Club SFC Multi-Sports – Rec - Y2 Lunchtime 12.30-1pm) Boys/Girls Netball Training Y5 – Y6 (Mrs Cox) After School 3:30-4:30pm
Monday 19 February	Tuesday 20 February	Wednesday 21 February	Thursday 22 February	Friday 23 February
HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM

## School Dates 2023 / 2024

**Half-term Holiday:** Monday 19 February 2024–Friday 23 February 2024

**Easter Holiday:** Friday 29 March 2024 – Friday 12 April 2024

**Inset Day 4** – Friday 3 May 2024 (school closed to pupils)

**Half-term Holiday:** Monday 27 May 2024 – Friday 31 May 2024

**Inset Day 5** – Monday 22 July 2024 (school closed to pupils)

**Occasional Day** – Tuesday 23 July 2024 (school closed to pupils)

**Summer Holiday:** 24 July 2024 - 1 September 2024

## School Dates (2024/25)

**Start of term:** 2 September 2024

**Half term holiday:** 28 October 2024 - 1 November 2024

**Christmas holiday:** 23 December 2024 - 3 January 2025

**Half term holiday:** 17 February 2025 - 21 February 2025

**Easter holiday:** 7 April 2025 - 21 April 2025

**Half term holiday:** 26 May 2025 – 30 May 2025

**Summer holiday:** 24 July 2025 - 3 September 2025

**Inset Day 1** - 2 September (Monday)

**Inset Day 2** - 25 October (Friday)

**Occasional Day** 20 December

**Inset Day 3** - 6 January (Monday)

**Inset Day 4** - 22 April (Tuesday)

**Inset Day 5** - 23 May (Friday)



Herts Parent Carer Involvement  
www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk



## You're Invited!

Autism in Schools coffee morning in conjunction with

**ADD-vance**  
The ADHD and Autism Trust



Parent Carers of autistic children (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) are welcome.

No need to book!

Why not come along and find out more about:

- What Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI) does in the Autism in Schools project.
- What that means for you as a Parent Carer.
- How it will help your child.
- Meet other Parents of autistic children and young people.

If you would like further information, please email [info@hertsparentcarers.org.uk](mailto:info@hertsparentcarers.org.uk)