



# 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

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mr R. Yates

## NEWSLETTER 7

DATE: 22 October 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has definitely been a long half term for everyone and the children and the staff are ready for their half-term break.

I know that for many of you the Covid cases rising nationally and locally has been a concern. Although we have had to move to our contingency plan and bring in extra measures for some classes and some events, we are doing extremely well and managing to keep numbers low, keep everyone safe and still have a few events happening throughout the school. I would like to say thank you to you all for being patient when we send your children home for a test, letting us know promptly when children are showing symptoms or PCR results are back. It is important that we continue to work together to keep transmission rates low.

This week we have had a focus on early reading. This has involved Miss Ruprai, Mr Yates, Our Improvement Partner and I seeing phonics teaching, talking to children and hearing them read. This was another successful visit where we were able to show the hard work that goes on in Ashtree School. One of the things that we do very well in Early Years is to work with parents, this video explains to parents how we teach your child to read. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NdCPDwxcSAzLK-WKct4cYJZKkgfqsCfY/view?usp=sharing>

We also managed to have a face-to-face Parent Consultation evening this week. It has been a while since we have had parents into school on this scale and I wanted to say thank you for working with us to follow the slightly different rules for these meetings. We managed one-way systems and conversations distanced and masked and were still able to talk about your child and see some work.

We also had a very successful PTA AGM, even if it was sometimes hard to hear each other with masks and being spread out across the room! There are some fantastic ideas being discussed, some that will happen as restrictions ease and some that can happen straight away. The PTA is one way for you as parents to have a voice in the way that things develop in our school. Raising money is very important but I know that the team are also looking at ways that parents can be involved in our community in ways other than just for fundraising. Thank you everyone for your part in making this work.

This term the value that we have been focussing on is Community and we have certainly developed the sense of community with the development of the new PTA, the new style of the newsletter and in classes through our PSHE curriculum. Next half term the value will be **Respect** so keep an eye out on how we will be introducing this theme.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all of the staff for their hard work this half-term, sometimes with fewer staff in the room than they expected due to staff isolating. It has been a very busy half-term and I have not really had time to think about it being my first as Headteacher. Thank you to you all for the support and messages of congratulations, I know that the staff and I appreciate the emails or words of thanks and praise that we have had this half-term. Enjoy your break and we will see you all safe and well on Tuesday 2 November.

*Mrs Janes* – Headteacher

This week we have introduced Sensory Circuits for our pupils. These have really helped settle pupils first thing in the morning, after break or lunch, or as some afternoon physical activity.

The circuits are made up of three stages: alerting - organising - calming. The alerting section allows children to release some energy; the organising section requires motor-sensory input processing through activities such as balancing; and the calming section provides input to ensure the children are calm and centred ready to return to class.



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For the past two weeks the children in **Year 1** have been learning about orchestras in their music lesson. Mrs Dunlop brought in real instruments from the woodwind and string section for the children to hold and touch. We have listened to the sound each one makes and spoke about the different sounds they create. They have also learnt what job a conductor does.



Mrs Dunlop even had a go at playing the guitar, something she hasn't done since she was at school!



## Outside of School Achievements



Olivia from Year 5 and Charlie from Nursery both attended a basic first aid course and were taught how to do CPR and how to use a defibrillator. They both thoroughly enjoyed the course held by The Hearn Training Company.



We will be selling poppies when we return back from half-term. We also have a selection of poppy merchandise: Reflector 50p, Zip Pull 50p and Silicon Wristbands £1.00.



Mrs Swallow would like to say a big Thankyou to Justin from Premium Artificial Grass for his fantastic donation of grass for the Year 1 outside area and classrooms.

Ashtree Year 6's took a trip to Camps Hill in a cup match, some of the girls were playing their first ever match. The game finished 0-0 with Ashtree hitting the post multiple times. Unfortunately, the girls lost in a tightly contested penalty shootout. We can't wait for our next game!



**Player of the Match was Lexie from Year 6.**

## MSA Vacancy

We have a full time vacancy, hours to be discussed at interview. Please contact the School Office for a Job Description and Application Form. Closing date is Friday 5 November 2021. Interviews to be arranged.



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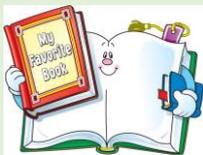
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## Favourite Books

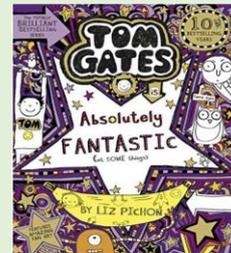


Mrs Janes has received a lot of book recommendations this week, here are some of them:



This is Mia from Reception favourite book. She knows all of the words off by heart. Mia told me that she likes it because the words rhyme. They read this book every night before bedtime.

Rebecca from Year 6.



## Just a couple of reminders:

- If your child has a positive PCR result over the half-term please email [admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk).

## Non School Uniform Day on Friday 5 November

### Dress as a colourful or sparkly firework!

Over the past 18 months the rainbow has become a symbol of hope! So we would like to incorporate that in our Christmas raffle by creating a selection of rainbow hampers. Friends of Ashtree are asking for each child to bring in a small gift or treat, in the specific colour for their year group.

- Nursery - **Gold** donations
- Reception - **Red** donations
- Year 1 - **Orange** donations
- Year 2 - **Yellow** donations
- Year 3 - **Green** donations
- Year 4 - **Blue** donations
- Year 5 - **Purple** donations
- Year 6 - **Pink** donations.

Here are a few ideas for some inspiration... you could bring: biscuits, candles, bubble bath, sweets, teddies, toiletries, books. Any donations will be appreciated.

**Please reminder all donations should be nut free donations.**

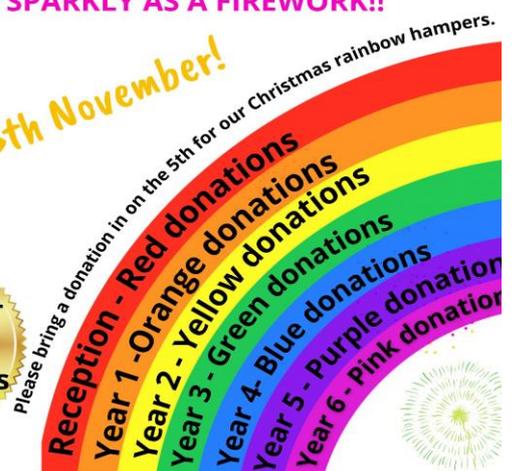
Please bring donations in on the Friday 5 November and give them to your class teacher.



## Non Uniform Day

**DRESS AS COLOURFUL OR AS SPARKLY AS A FIREWORK!!**

**Friday 5th November!**



Please bring a donation in on the 5th for our Christmas rainbow hampers.



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## Dinner Behaviour Awards



The winners for this week are **Class 3** (for good behaviour) & **Class 9** (for being respectful to Mrs Young).



## Attendance Cup



The winners for this week are **Class 12** with **96.4%**.

Monday 25 October	Tuesday 26 October	Wednesday 27 October	Thursday 28 October	Friday 29 October
HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM	HALF-TERM

Monday 1 November	Tuesday 2 November	Wednesday 3 November	Thursday 4 November	Friday 5 November
INSET Day 3 – School closed to children	<b>First day of term for pupils</b>  Reception Height/Weight/Hearing Vision Screening  Menu 1 (New Menu)	<b>Please note: There will be no clubs the first week back after half-term due to Government Guidance</b>		<b>Non Uniform Day - Dress as a colourful or sparkly firework!</b>
Monday 8 November	Tuesday 9 November	Wednesday 10 November	Thursday 11 November	Friday 12 November
Menu 2		<b>ART Club</b> Years 4,5&6 (3.20pm-4.15pm) Cheerleading Years 6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)	Cheerleading Years 5 (3.30pm-4.15pm)	Netball Training Years 5&6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)
Monday 15 November	Tuesday 16 November	Wednesday 17 November	Thursday 18 November	Friday 19 November
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## Term Dates Academic Year 2021



### Autumn Term 2021



Tuesday 21 December - Last day of term – finish at 2.15pm



### Spring Term 2022



Wednesday 5 January 2022 - First day of term for pupils  
Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February - Half-term  
Monday 21 February - INSET Day 4 - school closed to children  
Tuesday 22 February - First day of term for pupils  
Friday 1 April - End of term – finish at 2.15pm  
Monday 4 April – Monday 18 April - Half-term - Easter Break



### Summer Term 2022



Tuesday 19 April - First day of term for pupils  
Friday 27 May - INSET Day 5 - school closed to children  
Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June - Half Term *(including the Spring Bank Holiday and additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.*  
Monday 6 June - First day of term for pupils  
Friday 22 July - Last day of term – finish at 2.15pm

## Academic Year 2022

**KS1 – Y2 Testing window is the whole month of May 2022.**

**KS1 – Y1 Phonics is 6 – 17 June 2022.**

**KS2 – Y4 Multiplication Test is 6 – 24 June 2022.**

**KS2 – Y6 9 – 12 May 2022.**

**Please ensure you do not book any family holidays during test times as they will be unauthorised.**