



# 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 7*

*Date: Thursday 2 November 2023*

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back, I hope that you all had a lovely break over the half term.

Here at school, we have been very busy with a few building and site works taking place. If you walk around the side of the building between the car park and the KS2 playground you will have seen the new fire escape. This is now a much more hardwearing model that will be secure for years to come. We also had three sets of fire doors and the surrounding panels replaced, this now looks very smart, and I must admit that the noise they make when they open and close has me thinking of the Star Trek doors! Work is continuing on the fire alarm and smoke alarms around the school, ensuring that the building and our community remain safe.

Outside we have had some work on two very large trees, one that was beginning to look top heavy and one where the roots were causing problems with the drains.

We also welcomed Mr Martin Graham as our Site Manager in the last week of last half term. Many of you will have seen Mr Graham in the car park in the morning. He has been working hard and I personally couldn't have hoped for a more perfect appointment. He has been busy repairing things around the school, doing gardening work and locking and unlocking the school. With so many areas of the school already looking much tidier and helping us to feel proud of the school that we work and learn in, our Spruce Up day on the 20 January with the Friends of Ashtree should be able to make even more difference to the environment. If you can help in any way, then together we can make our Ashtree environment one that we can feel even more proud to be in.

This week I spoke to some children in Y3 and Y4 about our new values and rewards. You will have seen a lot about them in our newsletters and I wanted to see how much the children remembered and understood them. They all talked very positively about the values and rewards, they were able to talk to me about what it might look like to behave in a way that shows the values. They said that they felt very proud of the work that they do in school and enjoyed celebrating the successes of children who find their work harder. They felt proud to be a member of the Ashtree community where they said that everyone looks after each other and cares. When we talked about the rewards, they said that 'they inspire us to do even better and be kind and achieve' they said that the on the spot house points felt special and something to try and achieve, that they felt that staff at Ashtree notice when they do well and they liked to see their and their friends names in the newsletter and spoken about in assemblies.

I also asked them about you, their families, and if you have been able to come into school and see or join in with their work. They talked about how much they enjoy all the new opportunities to do this, and they enjoy sharing their learning with you. It was lovely to hear them not only talk about their own families coming into school but to mention how they had heard about the activities that other classes has been doing and that they looked forward to being able to do these as they move up the school.

It is always a pleasure to talk to the children around our school, they feel comfortable talking not only about what they enjoy but how we could do even better. They all said that they would like to see some clubs that were not sports, like computing club and cookery clubs in the future.

I would like to say thank you to the staff for the new parent open evening that they ran on Wednesday this week. Thank you to the staff from EYFS and KS1 for showcasing such inviting environments and giving new parents and children a taste of the learning that they do. Thank you to the staff from around the school that came along to help. Some of us were again left feeling quite old as we showed around parents that turned out to be children that we taught. This is one of the things that keeps us here at Ashtree, the feeling of community.



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I look forward to seeing how Ashtree further flourishes over the next half term, it is always a pleasure to drive into school each day, even when the days get darker and wetter.

**Mrs Janes – Headteacher**

## *Message from the Chair of Governors*

The Governing body was delighted to be invited into the school on Wednesday morning to focus on the Maths curriculum across the school. Governors meet with Senior Leaders and Subject Leaders to learn about how Maths is taught across Ashtree. We also had the opportunity to visit classes to observe lessons across the school and speak to teachers about what children learn in maths lessons. I even got to play in a sand pit!

It was great to speak to so many happy children that immediately said they loved learning maths! The governing body will be making more frequent visits to the school as we are keen to learn lots more about how children learn and engage. Could I just say how nice it was to be so welcomed by the school community.

Kind regards,

**Mr Lawson - Chair of Governors**

## *Archery – Mr Yates*

All pupils from Nursery to Year 6 enjoyed a day of Archery.

The pupils were shown the correct technique to use before having a practice. After this, they played fun games such as 'bake the cake,' where pupils had to hit a certain number of targets to make their cake 'cook properly.' All pupils tried their best to avoid hitting the number 7 as this meant that they had burnt their cake! The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their Archery sessions, and a big thank you to Premier Sports for putting on this event for us.



## *Nursery:*

The children were able to explain how the oven worked and what might happen. We measured the ingredients and mixed them together. The children were encouraged to talk about the changes when ingredients are mixed, cooked, heated, and cooled.

The children said: - "We have to wait till it cools down." "The eggs came from the farm." "We got all of it in a big bowl and mix it." " We eat it, it was yummy."



## *Open Evening:*

How amazing to see so many new families at our EYFS/KS1 Open Evening. It was lovely to meet you all. If you weren't able to come and would like to visit, then please phone 01438 351090 to make an appointment.





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**Remembrance Day** To help us to commemorate Remembrance Day as a community this year, we would like to invite parents/carers to accompany your child either before school from 8:35am-8:50am or after school from 3:30pm-3:50pm on Wednesday 8 November in the KS2 hall, where you will be able to work together to help produce some art work to add to our whole school display of, 'Poppies'. We look forward to seeing you there.

## House Points - Special Mention:

Maci (Harriers) Reads at home every day and she is really proud of this. She contributes to the Oak House community as she earns a house token a week for her reading. **Awarded by Sarojini Somiah**



**Attendance Cup:** The winner for this week is **Swifts** with **99.1%**

Monday 6 November	Tuesday 7 November	Wednesday 8 November	Thursday 9 November	Friday 10 November
<b>Menu 3</b> Premier Education Gymnastics Club Rec – Y6 After School Club <b>Choir</b> <b>Years 5-6</b> <b>1-1.25pm (Lunchtime)</b> <b>12.30-1pm Warriorz Street</b> <b>Dance</b> Boys Football Training Y5 – Y6 (Mr Yates) Lunchtime 12.55pm-1.25pm	GoShin Karate Club Y2-Y After School Club 1-1.25pm Recorder Club, Miss Hembra	Basketball Y1 – Y6 After School Club	Girls Football Training Y5 – Y6 (Mr Allen) Afterschool SFC Football Rec- Y6 After School <b>EYFS Cooking Club</b> After School	FitKidz UK Fitness Club Rec – Y6 AM Club Dance Club (Sophie) Rec – Y6 After School Boys/Girls Netball Training Y5 – Y6 (Mrs Cox) After School 3:30 to 4:30pm SFC Multi-Sports - Rec, Y1, Y2 Lunchtime 12.30-1pm)
Monday 13 November	Tuesday 14 November	Wednesday 15 November	Thursday 16 November	Friday 17 November
<b>Menu 1</b> Premier Education Gymnastics Club Rec – Y6 After School Club <b>Choir</b> <b>Years 5-6</b> <b>1-1.25pm (Lunchtime)</b> <b>12.30-1pm Warriorz Street</b> <b>Dance</b> Boys Football Training Y5 – Y6 (Mr Yates) Lunchtime 12.55pm-1.25pm	GoShin Karate Club Y2-Y After School Club 1-1.25pm Recorder Club, Miss Hembra	Basketball Y1 – Y6 After School Club	Girls Football Training Y5 – Y6 (Mr Allen) Afterschool SFC Football Rec- Y6 After School <b>EYFS Cooking Club</b> After School	FitKidz UK Fitness Club Rec – Y6 AM Club Dance Club (Sophie) Rec – Y6 After School Boys/Girls Netball Training Y5 – Y6 (Mrs Cox) After School 3:30 to 4:30pm SFC Multi-Sports - Rec, Y1, Y2 Lunchtime 12.30-1pm)



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## **School Dates 2023 / 2024**

**INSET Day 2** – Friday 3 November 2023 (school closed to pupils)

**Christmas Holiday:** 21 December 2023 - 3 January 2024

**INSET Day 3** – Thursday 4 January 2024 (school closed to pupils)

**Friday 5 January 2024 – First day of term (pupils return)**

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

**Easter Holiday:** Monday 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