



Ashtree Primary School & Nursery



Chertsey Rise, Stevenage, Herts SG2 9JQ

Tel: 01438 351090 Fax: 01438 353464

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 Facebook: Ashtree Primary School Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs M. Janes

Deputy Headteacher: Ms P. Ruprai

NEWSLETTER 8

DATE 4 November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a chance to make the most of the lovely weather over the half-term break.

This week Ms Ruprai and I have been able to visit classrooms and talk to the children about their learning. In Reception the children are very confidently using QR codes to access recordings of their favourite books made by the staff in class. They were able to talk about the books that they were listening to. Audio books are a great way to enjoy stories, even better when they are read by your teacher, TA or even a parent. If you are a member of the library you can download the BorrowBox app and borrow any audio books that they have. <https://www.borrowbox.com/>

Next Thursday Herts for Learning Education will be coming into school to do a routine safeguarding check, this is something that is done regularly in schools and looks at our statutory paperwork, what we teach in our curriculum around staying safe and our procedures for the safeguarding of children. One of the activities is to find out what parents think and Anne Peck will be on the KS2 playground from 8:30. Anne was our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner, please don't worry if she comes up and asks you a few questions, we know that she is doing this.

This week Y3 had their first violin lesson and they really enjoyed it. When I spoke to the children they were very excited about the session. Daisy said that she liked it when the teacher played that 'Harry Potter' theme, Clarke said that he was looking forward to holding the Violin next week, Tommy said I learnt that the bow makes a sound when you move it on the springs and violin has four springs and Thomas helped the teacher by holding the sheet on music. The children are looking forward to their next session.

I have also been getting some very positive feedback about Sian our School Family Worker. She works in school once a week and works with children and parents to support Mental Health and Wellbeing. Sian works with children that are anxious, reluctant to come into school or have experienced a difficult or sometimes traumatic time. She also works with parents to highlight the places that they can get support and the strategies that they can try at home. One group that provides a lot of courses to learn new skills is Step2Skills you can find them here <https://www.facebook.com/Step2Skills> another group that offers workshops on the different strategies that you can try as a parent. <https://www.facebook.com/supportinglinks>

Thank you to everyone that filled in the parent questionnaire. One of the things that was mentioned was that you would like to know more about what is happening in class each week. We have taken that on board and from next week you should be getting a regular weekly email from the class teacher with an overview of what the class have been doing and what might be coming up. I welcome any feedback that you have about this and how much the communication helps you to know a little more about what is happening in your child's classroom.



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Finally, this week we will be sending home a whole school homework about Remembrance Day. The Year 6 children have been busy selling poppies and in classes we are talking about why we have a Remembrance Day and what the poppy represents. Our value this half term is respect, there are a lot of meanings to the word and the value. At school we learn about respect to ourselves, listening to others and their ideas, treating others with respect, treating your environment and surroundings with respect and respecting and understanding rules.

Mrs M Janes
Headteacher

Outside Achievements:

Elena and Nella achieved their 3rd Kyu brown belt in karate, this will be the last belt they will wear before they achieve their black belt. They still have 2 more grading's before they can gain their black belt and this will be marked with a black stripe for each grade.



Admission Numbers

The County Council is responsible for setting a published admission number (PAN) for all community and voluntary-controlled schools and must consult on any proposals to reduce PANs. After a period of demographic growth, the demand for primary places across the county has fallen and, in some areas, fewer school places are needed. This is in line with a decrease in primary demand across most other local authorities. Changes in demand are not evenly distributed and some areas and schools are impacted more than others. As part of the PAN setting process for academic year 2024/25, the County Council has engaged with Headteachers and governing bodies at a number of schools, including Ashtree Primary School, to discuss and agree a proposed PAN reduction.

A reduction of the PAN at Ashtree Primary School from 60 to 45 places from 2024/25 is proposed following a drop in the number of applications and allocations for September 2022. The pupil forecast also indicates lower demand for Reception places in this part of Stevenage and surrounding area for 2024/5 and beyond. A reduction in PAN would create a better match of places to expected demand, protecting the financial viability of the school moving forward. The Governing Body and Headteacher are both in agreement with the proposal which will assist the school both organisationally and financially.

Please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2024

Christmas Art - Help for Heroes Competition!

Next week during school, the children from KS2 will be asked to complete an entry for an art competition. Their final artwork will be used to share with people serving in the Armed Forces and their families to spread "Christmas Cheer"!



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Monday 7 November	Tuesday 8 November	Wednesday 9 November	Thursday 10 November	Friday 11 November
Menu 2		PTA Meeting 3.30pm	Nasal Flu	Netball Match
Monday 14 November	Tuesday 15 November	Wednesday 16 November	Thursday 17 November	Friday 18 November
Menu 3				Netball Training Years 5&6 (3.25pm-4.15pm)



Dinner Behaviour Awards



The winners for this week are **Wrens** (for good behaviour, helpful and kind to others when we had indoor play) & **Owls** (for good behaviour on the playground).



Attendance Cup



The winner for this week is **Buzzards** with **98.9%**.

Robins	=	98.1%
Owls	=	98.1%
Eagles	=	96.4%
Red Kites	=	93.9%
Falcons	=	93.5%
Wrens	=	91.4%
Hawks	=	91.7%
Magpies	=	90.8%
Kestrels	=	90%
Swifts	=	89.1%
Harriers	=	86.4%
Parrots	=	76.2%



**Christmas Dinner
14 December**

Term Dates Academic Year 2022 / 2023

Friday 25 November 2022	-	INSET Day 3	- school closed to children
Monday 28 November 2022	-	Occasional Day	- school closed to children
21 December 2022	-	Last day of term	
22 December 2022 - 4 January 2023	-	Christmas holiday	
Thursday 5 January 2023	-	First day of term for pupils	
13 February 2023 - 17 February 2023	-	Half term holiday	
Monday 20 February 2023	-	INSET Day 4	- school closed to children
3 April 2023 - 14 April 2023	-	Easter holiday	
Friday 26 May 2023	-	INSET Day 5	- school closed to children
29 May 2023 - 2 June 2023	-	Half term holiday	
Friday 21 July 2023	-	Last day of term	
24 July 2023 - 31 August 2023	-	Summer holiday	