



Ashtree Primary School & Nursery



Chertsey Rise, Stevenage, Herts SG2 9JQ

Tel: 01438 351090 Fax: 01438 353464

Email: admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk

 Facebook: Ashtree Primary School Nursery

 Twitter: @AshtreeSchool

Headteacher: Mrs M. Janes

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mr R. Yates

NEWSLETTER 8

DATE: 5 November 2021



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back, I hope that everyone had a lovely half-term and managed to see family and get out and about. I spent my half-term sorting out my new office with the help of my Mum, which was very exciting as the office now feels much more like my own.

This week I have been meeting with members of FOA and we have been talking about some exciting plans for events over the next year. The firework themed non-uniform day has gone really well and there have certainly been some very sparkly clothes that I have seen. I am sure that we all look forward to seeing the rainbow hamper raffle. Thank you everyone for your donations, over the years the Friends of Ashtree has been a vital part of Ashtree, paying for learning resources, trips and helping to make our school one to be proud of.

As a staff we have thought long and hard about Christmas and how we might celebrate this in school without putting our community at risk from Covid. We have been thinking about how we can plan this so that it has a good chance of going ahead and not being cancelled, even if our numbers are rising. We have therefore decided that this year we will not host an indoor play but instead, we will be having a Community Carol Concert in the playground. More detail will be coming out but there will be carols, hot chocolate, mince pies and hopefully an enjoyable time had by all. We now all need to keep our fingers crossed that singing is not put on hold again by the government.

I know from talking to everyone that parents and carers are hoping that we will be able to have photos taken in time for Christmas presents. Speaking with Public Health again this week they have said that we are not able to have sibling photos or to have parents into school. However, the company have agreed to come in and to take individual photos of each child in a Covid secure way, I hope that this will enable you to give out the photos that I know grandparents and family love receiving at Christmas time. This will be on Tuesday 23 November.

You will have received a letter from Hertfordshire County Council telling you about the measures that they are bringing in for schools. With numbers rising in schools, it is important that we all play our part in not only keeping everyone safe but also to allow events like the carol concert, the recent parent consultations, the photographs and family events outside of school to take place. We again encourage all parents, who are not medically exempt, to wear a mask on site, to stand back from the lines of children on the KS2 playground and to follow government and school guidance if your child has symptoms. We all want to get to the Christmas break safe and well and able to meet up with family.

Finally, I have been really enjoying reading some new books this week. I have been buying the books recommended to me by the children. Once I have read the books, they are going on display for children to borrow. This is Teddy adding his book to the display. If you would like to recommend or purchase a book to help fill up the bookshelf and share your child's favourite books that would be lovely.

Mrs Janes – Headteacher





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Outside of School Achievements



Belle from **Year 1** had 11 inches cut off her hair and donated it to the Princess Trust Foundation who make wigs for children experiencing hair loss. She was inspired to do this by her friend in her class who has leukaemia. She has also been raising money to support the Bluebell Cancer ward in Lister and has so far raised £700! We are very proud of Belle.

Thomas from **Year 2** has earned his first four activity badges at Beavers for hiking, gardening, exploring and craft. Well done Thomas.



Aoife from **Year 4** has worked hard to improve her singing, dancing and acting skills. She has performed recently at the Gordon Craig theatre playing Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz. Well done Aoife.



Children In Need Fundraising Day is next Friday 19 November and we will be supporting this excellent charity as usual. We have decided to ask children to come to school dressed in their PJ's! The Children In Need suggestion is for a donation of £1.00 or £2.00 to take part in this activity which your child can hand in to their Class Teacher. Our Ashtree community is always very generous for this special day and we thank you in advance for your support.

https://youtu.be/ewQOGvms_gQ



Diwali Celebrations 1 November 2021 - Nursery

We have been learning about Diwali celebrations. We looked at traditional clothes, made diva lamps rangoli and henna patterns. We listened to the story about Rama and Sita. Mrs Manak talked about how she celebrated Diwali with her family. We listened to Bhangra music and danced.



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The theme of this year's anti bullying Campaigns is *One Kind Word*. We will be raising awareness on **Monday 15 November** with odd socks days. We will be doing an activity every day to promote kindness, friendship and collaboration.

This link outlines some of the support that is available to parents and families of children from birth to 19 years old. <https://youtu.be/ov5uuaBTfXE>



School Reminder:

Public Health have asked us not to run any clubs with mixed year groups next week. If a club is able to go ahead, you will hear directly from the class teacher.

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
12 November 2021.
Interviews to be arranged.



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Dinner Behaviour Awards



The winners for this week are **Sunshines** (*Setting in nicely after half-term*) & **Class10** (*For good teamwork*).



Attendance Cup



The winner for this week is **Class 7** with **99%**.

Monday 8 November	Tuesday 9 November	Wednesday 10 November	Thursday 11 November	Friday 12 November
Menu 2				
School Reminder: Public Health have asked us not to run any clubs with mixed year groups this week. If a club is able to go ahead, you will hear directly from the class teacher.				
Monday 15 November	Tuesday 16 November	Wednesday 17 November	Thursday 18 November	Friday 19 November
Menu 3		ART Club Years 4,5&6 (3.20pm-4.15pm) Cheerleading Years 6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)	Cheerleading Years 5 (3.30pm-4.15pm)	Children In Need Netball Training Years 5&6 (3.30pm-4.15pm)
Monday 15 November	Tuesday 16 November	Wednesday 17 November	Thursday 18 November	Friday 19 November
Odd socks Day (Anti-bullying Campaigns) Menu 1		ART Club 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 22 November	Tuesday 23 November	Wednesday 24 November	Thursday 25 November	Friday 26 November
Menu 2	Individual Photo's	ART Club 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 29 November	Tuesday 23 November	Wednesday 24 November	Thursday 25 November	Friday 26 November
Menu 3		ART Club 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)



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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.