



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

Deputy Headteacher: Ms P. Ruprai

NEWSLETTER 9

DATE 11 November 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

This week Ms Ruprai, Mr Yates and I have been listening to children read. I really enjoyed listening to them talk about the books and using their phonics to work out new and more difficult words. We have been using Little Wandle for a while now and we are starting to see the progress. If your child comes home with a sticker on their arm or jumper with a sound or a tricky word then please ask them about it a few times that evening to reinforce their learning from that day. The children in Y3 have been working hard on their reading and now they are ready for some new books! If you have any ideas about how to raise money for projects like this and many others then please get in touch with the PTA. PTA@ashtree.herts.sch.uk I know they would love to get you involved in improving the resources and the school environment for the children.

Thank you to Rachael from Y6 for donating some books to school, Mrs Allen was very excited and keen to start using them.



Thank you to those of you that talked to Anne Peck yesterday during our safeguarding audit. Keeping our children, parents and staff safe and teaching the children about how they can keep themselves safe is one of the most important parts of school life. The children that were spoken to did us proud as always and were able to talk about internet safety, where to go for help if you feel upset or worried at school, explain why racist and homophobic comments are wrong and the way that the behaviour expectations and consequences help them to enjoy their lunchtimes. Mrs Wasley was particularly praised for her record keeping and safeguarding checks that she makes on all staff and visitors coming into school. There were many positives from the day and suggestions for ways to make safeguarding even better at Ashtree. If you are ever worried about a safeguarding issue you can talk to me as safeguarding lead or Ms Ruprai and Mrs Cox as deputy safeguarding leads.

We received a lovely letter from The Food Shed today thanking the children and families for their donations during the Harvest Festival. The food has been very important in supporting families that are struggling at the moment. I would like to echo that with a thank you from me for your continuing to support Ashtree in reaching out to the wider community.

This Sunday is Remembrance Sunday. Did you know that people have been wearing poppies since 1921 and they were inspired by the fields of poppies that grew where many of the battles were fought. More recently other colours have been worn, the purple poppy represents the animals that have been victims of war, The BlackPoppyRose commemorates the contributions of black, African and Caribbean communities to the war effort and the white poppy represents peace. The children have been making poppies and writing poems about Remembrance Day and we have started a beautiful display of their work near to the KS2 hall. Miss Kiernan will be in school if you would like to look at the finished display next Tuesday before school.

If your child is taking part in a Remembrance Day parade and you have any photos of your child in uniform, please send them to Mrs Wasley so that we can include them in the next newsletter

admin@ashtree.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Janes
Headteacher





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Fairlands v Ashtree Year 5 Girls League Match - 4 November 2022

Last Friday afternoon saw the Year 5 Girls squad play their first ever league netball match and I do not know who was more excited - me, the girls or the Ashtree parents!

With Niamh as our captain, all the squad were able to get that important first experience of match play during the game. The enthusiasm and the determination to get the ball, from every member of the Ashtree team, made it a wonderful game to watch.



We won the game 2 – 4 and Niamh was chosen as our player of the match, for her wonderful movement around the court and for her excellent shooting. Our coach, Marianne also gave special mention to Annabella, for her well-timed interceptions and brilliant defending during the game and named her the coach's player of the match.

Many thanks too, to the parents and family who came to support the Ashtree team. Your enthusiasm and support were amazing for the girls to have at their first match.

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

Could you please use this link [HPCI Annual SEND survey \(2022\)](#) - It is a survey for Herts Parent Carer Involvement. The survey has a deadline of the 13 November.



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Online Safety Newsletter Autumn 2022



Talking to younger children

According to the latest research from Ofcom, nearly half of all 3-4 year olds have their own tablet (Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022) so it is never too early to start chatting to our children about how to stay safe online. But how can we do this? Here are some suggestions:

Use books to spark conversations

Childnet have created a collection of five 'Digiduck' stories to help you educate your child (aimed at aged 3–7) about online safety. The stories are available here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/>. In addition, Childnet have created a learning-to-read book for children aged 4 and above titled 'On the internet.' The book also includes puzzles to encourage conversations. The book can be downloaded here:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/a-learning-to-read-book/>

Watch Jessie & Friends together

ThinkuKnow have created three different animations for three age groups between 4 – 7 years. ThinkuKnow also provide some useful guidance and advice on what else you can do to keep your child safer online, such as setting up appropriate parental controls. You can find out more here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessieand-friends/>

Is your child under 5?

This article is specifically aimed at those with children under the age of 5 and discusses the benefits of being online as well as how to create a safer online environment. You can read the article here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online/>

Is your child playing or watching others play games online?

Your child could be using Twitch, Steam, Roblox, YouTube etc to access games or watch others play. We need to make sure that what they are viewing is appropriate for them. It is important to talk to your child to see what they are interested in so you can have a look first to see if they are appropriate. For example, there are games that may appear to be appropriate but are actually horror/ survival games and characters can turn more sinister as the game progresses. It is important to remember that children may be playing the game, watching videos of it on sites such as YouTube or playing replicated versions on Roblox for example.

More information

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



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Ashtree Primary School and Nursery

We are holding a **Nursery and Reception (EYFS)**

Open Afternoon on

Wednesday 23rd November

3.30-4:30

Everyone is welcome to visit
our lovely classrooms and meet the staff!

What do parents say about Ashtree Early Years?

'The teachers create a happy, caring and nurturing environment.'

'It is so reassuring knowing your child is going to school every day confident and happy.'

'My child has settled into the school with so much ease, the enthusiasm and excitement is infectious.'



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Friends of Ashtree, HCL, Rising Stars
and Preschool will be here too.

Free pudding samples will be available
from HCL and an activity from the
Friends of Ashtree.

Mimic Stage School will be running classes
at Ashtree please contact them to find out
more.



PERFORMING ARTS TRAINING

INTRODUCING...

STEVENAGE STAGE SCHOOL SENIORS

12-18 YEAR OLDS

TUESDAYS
6:30PM - 8:30PM

ASHTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL
WWW.MIMICSTAGESCHOOL.CO.UK

FREE TRIALS: EMAIL INFO@MIMICSTAGESCHOOL.CO.UK | 07790153374



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Monday 14 November	Tuesday 15 November	Wednesday 16 November	Thursday 17 November	Friday 18 November
Menu 3 Anti-bullying week 14th – 18th			Friends of Ashtree Meeting 3.30pm	Netball Training Years 5&6 (3.25pm-4.15pm)
Monday 21 November	Tuesday 22 November	Wednesday 23 November	Thursday 24 November	Friday 25 November
Menu 1				INSET Day 3 school closed to children



Dinner Behaviour Awards



The winners for this week are **Magpies** (for good behaviour and being helpful at lunchtime collecting the toys at the end of lunch) & **Red Kites** (for using the right choices and asking the MSA's for help when needed).



Attendance Cup



The winner for this week is **Owls** with **99.5%**.

Kestrels	=	98.5%
Red Kites	=	97.8%
Harriers	=	97.6%
Falcons	=	94.8%
Buzzards	=	94.6%
Wrens	=	93.8%
Eagles	=	92.9%
Robins	=	91%
Hawks	=	89%
Magpies	=	88.8%
Parrots	=	88.4%
Swifts	=	81.3%



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	