



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



6th January 2023

Christmas seems like a long time ago now that we are back in the swing of things. It was great to see everyone at the gate on Wednesday morning smiling and wrapped up warm. The children have returned to some great learning journeys and I look forward to updating you with more information throughout this term of what we are up to in school.

Values of Week

Our value of the week is creativity. The children have learned about Dolly Parton this week and the Paralympic athlete Tanni Grey-Thompson. Our assemblies will be based around Love and friendships for this half term and we are looking forward to awarding our first golden sparkle badges of the year next week.

End of Last Term

A huge thank you to all of the parents and families involved in the nativity, parties, decorating and general Christmas celebrations at the end of last term. I am sure that you agree, it was a very special time of the year and it was wonderful to see our community pull together and create such a special experience for all of the children. Of course, congratulations to all of the children (and horse) for their performance. Just wonderful! Thank you for all of your lovely emails regarding the performance; they were much appreciated by the team.

Topic Showcase – Tuesday 28th March 2023 – 2.45pm

Our end of term topic showcase will take place from 2.45pm for all classes. Willow class parents are also invited to spend some time with their children in class.

PE Kit Days for Key Stage 2

We have started our trial for PE kit and already it seems to be a hit with the children and the team. The children looked extremely smart and ready for action in their kit. I understand that there are some problems with the size of the head hole in the hoodies. Due to this problem, we have added a new style hoddie and zip-up-hoodie to the PE selection with our supplier. These are available in sizes from year R to adult so there should be something for everyone.

To check out our PE uniform please follow this link: [Ashford Hill Primary School - Uniform](#)

PTA

Our PTA are such a wonderful group who work relentlessly to support the school in many ways. Last term they shone like the brightest stars as they came and decorated the hall for the parties and also provided the teas, coffees and mince pies for our extravaganza. Thank you for everything that you do!

There will be further updates regarding PTA events for this term next week.

Music Lessons

We have now collaborated with Hampshire Music Services to provide music lessons for children. This will begin with Guitar and lessons will resume this term. If you would like to book lessons for your child please follow the following link. Once the form has been completed, you will receive further information. Lesson times will be rotated weekly to ensure that children are not missing the same part of lessons.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXqRI6qISATf4lWQdqcmUq0J3wWkzNB6rdLxYmEncTyfguyw/viewform?usp=sf_link

We will also be having a visit from a Singing Teacher next week who will do an assembly with us. He is a former West End musical performer and he currently teaches musical theatre at some of the biggest theatre schools in London. Once he has visited, we will gauge interest from parents to see if children would like to have small group singing lessons in the same way as they do with Hampshire music.

SATS Booster Club

This is a big year for our Year 6s and a SATS booster club has been a huge success in the past. We would love for all year 6 students to attend the SATS booster club on a Thursday after school with Mr Dixon. This is a great time for children to work on lots of different areas of maths, reading and SPAG and become even more confident in their learning. We ensure that these sessions are fun, engaging and laid back and promote wellbeing during this period for all of our year 6s. If you have any further questions, please speak with Mr Dixon.

Young Voices O2 Arena Trip – Monday 16th January

The children are so excited for their performance at the O2. They have been working so hard on their choir repertoire over the past few months. They will be joining an 8000 strong choir to perform at the most incredible event to parents and families. Thank you to Mrs Dixon for prepping the choir so well for the event! I look forward to sharing some photographs of the event after the 16th.

'Gift a Book to Your Class for Christmas'

The Gift a Book for Christmas has been a huge success. The books have now all been added to our system and will make it on the class library shelves on Monday. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our classroom libraries. The investment in children's reading is the greatest gift and our priority this year.



Parent Meeting with Richard Kearsley CEO – Friday 13th Jan 2.45pm

The CEO of Thames Learning Trust will be joining me to welcome parents to a presentation about the trust and for any questions that you may have for us. You will receive a form to fill in via email to confirm your attendance at this meeting. Questions for the CEO will also be submitted via this form. Please look out for this in your inbox.

Twitter

We now have a twitter account that is linked to our website. Mrs Wildman will be updating twitter with the wonderful things that are happening at Ashford Hill. Please follow us as we will add updates each week of photographs, projects and events that will be going on and around school.
twitter.com/AshfordHillPS

Clubs

This week we sent out a form to confirm which clubs your children would like to attend this term. We have many opportunities for children to join in and are always looking for different opportunities for extra-curricular activities. If you have not done so already and would like to book your child into an afterschool club, please complete the online form before the end of the day on Monday 9th Jan.

Lunches

Children do not have to commit to having packed lunches on certain days and school lunches on others. They can make the choice every morning and the kitchen will be able to accommodate orders each day, even if there is a change of children's lunch choice every week.

Special Lunch Menu – Theme Day – Thurs 19th Jan 2023

There will be a change to the menu on Thursday 19th January as the kitchen team will be hosting a special Themed lunch. Next week we will let you know what is on offer and the theme of the day – so please keep an eye out as you will certainly not want to miss out.

Start Time

Classrooms open at 8.45 for children to arrive and there are always core learning tasks that take place before registration. As children progress through the school it is important for them to complete these tasks as it helps them to revisit prior learning and get ready for the learning for the day ahead this also gives them time to settle in. Please aim to drop your children at school between 8.45am and 8.50am. Registration closes at 9am.

Covid 19 Seasonal Flu and Scarlet Fever Update:

I'm sure you will all be aware that there are very high levels of illness circulating in the UK at the moment – COVID-19, seasonal Flu and scarlet fever (caused by group A streptococcus). The high levels of illness are putting increased pressure on the NHS and their frontline services. It is expected that this situation will continue for a number of weeks into the winter. The [UK Health Security Agency](https://www.ukhsa.gov.uk) (UKHSA) has issued guidance in relation to helping to minimise the spread of illness through communities such as schools – the guidance can be found [here](#). Key points are as follows:

- If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school until they feel better and the fever has resolved.
- Good hand hygiene is key, so regular handwashing with soap and warm water is important. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.
- Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

- The flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with.

We hope that this is useful. We will be doing what we can to protect our community and minimise any potential disruption for pupils.

Have a fabulous weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Kirsty Kingham - Principal

Dates for your Diary:

The school website now has diary dates included – you are also able to subscribe to this to ensure that you are always up to date on dates coming up over the term.

Please follow the link to view the calendar. [Ashford Hill Primary School - Calendar](#)