



# Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Well, there we were thinking it would be a nice, quiet and normal week now that the sickness bugs have done their rounds. We were clearly mistaken! Thank you so much to our wonderful team who made it in as soon as they could to clear the site and make it safe for your arrival on the day of snow. It is important to us that the children do not miss learning hours and we will always go out of our way to ensure that the school is open for them. Thank you for the cakes and donuts that were given to us for the staff room that day – they were well received. There are some rather fabulous snow pictures from Mrs Dixon at the end of the newsletter!



## Hillier Gardens - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Year 2 will visit Hillier Gardens this week. The trip will happen during the school day and we will return at around 2.30pm. If you would like to volunteer to join us, please contact the office – there is plenty of room on the coach.

## Ronnie and Hallie's Fundraising Idea

This week in assembly we spoke about just how important it is to make a difference if you can. Ronnie and Hallie are doing just this. They have been affected by Cancer in their family and are going to climb Snowdon in a bid to raise money for their chosen charity – Cancer Research UK. It is wonderful to see young people who know that they can make a difference. Please see the details below from their Mum.

### My Story

Thank you for visiting my Fundraising Page. The money I raise will help fund life-saving research and to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

Due to 2 family members battling cancer as we speak (Nanny S and Grandad G) the grand kids want to do something special and raise money for cancer research. In return for the kind donations, Bobbie (12), Ronnie (9), Archie (6) and Hallie (4) will be hiking up Mount Snowdon in Wales. This will be challenging for them but they really want to have ago!

Lets show them some support and help them reach their target of £250

Much love to all x

If you would like to donate money towards their climb, please follow the link below.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/elouises-giving-page-80>

## SATS Meeting – KS1 and KS2 – Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you to those of you who were able to make the SATS information evening this week; we have emailed the slides out to primary email addresses and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask your class teacher.

## Recruitment

It was a joy to show around potential Vice Principal and SENCO candidates this week. I was proud to show them the progress that we have made so far and enthuse about the journey yet to come. Our potential candidates commented that they were excited about the opportunity to become part of the future of our school and also how they felt drawn to us from our website alone! Big praise indeed. Interviews will take place in the next couple of weeks and I hope to bring you news of the new member of our team very soon.

## Kit Malthouse Visit

With thanks to Billy and his 'contacts', Kit Malthouse (MP) will be visiting our school after Easter to come and see what our student leaders have been up to. He will also be speaking to the children about being leaders of the future. I look forward to updating you with more information about this next term.

## Singing Lessons Next Term

Singing lessons have been a huge success with the children. You are now able to book sessions for next half term with JJ. If you are already booked in to have sessions, then you can email JJ directly. If your child would like to join a lesson, please contact the school office. It will be £10 per session and there will be 12 sessions next term.

## Kitchen Team

I am sad to bring you the news that our kitchen team have been redeployed to another school and will be leaving us. Clare and Nicky are the most fantastic pair in the kitchen and are a core part of our community – they also make the best school meals I think I have eaten. Clare has been here for 7 years and was also the caretaker for a while to support the school. Thank you to both of them for the joy that they bring to us every day. We wish them well in their new roles. We will welcome the new team after Easter.

## Parking Opposite

Next week, I am arranging a meeting to find out exactly what the rules are for parking opposite the school. I am aware that there have been some problems with the gravel layby – so I will clarify with you the agreement about our use

of the car park opposite next week. Thank you for your emails and drop ins regarding this.

### **Industrial Action - Wed 15<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> March**

I have sent out a form already this week to inform you of the partial closure next week.

Once again, I have prioritised the year groups R, 2 and 6. We will also be inviting Keyworker children, who have both parents working in on those days. Please complete the form if you would like your child to attend and you are a keyworker. You can collect children after your shift has finished if you wish before the end of the school day.

### **Parents' Evening**

Parents Evening will now be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Thank you for your support and understanding about the postponing of these evenings. If you have not yet had your allocated timeslot sent home, please do get in touch with the admin team or your class teacher who will be able to help you.

### **Topic Showcase – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Recycling Project Reminder**

After Easter, as a whole school community, we will be looking at recycling and how to look after our planet. For a project later in the year we will require milk bottle tops, plastic food trays and plastic yoghurt pots. Please start saving these if you can so that we have got many to use at the start of next term.

### **Safeguarding Update**

Here are some top tips regarding screen time at home. Several parents have asked about screentime recently, so this is well worth a read.

### **Your child's screen time**

Know the risks, and what you can do to keep your child safe.

What's the problem?

Spending time online and on devices can be a positive thing. But, high levels of screen time can put your child more at risk of:

- Being bullied online
- Abuse and grooming (when someone builds a relationship with a child to exploit or abuse them)
- Seeing inappropriate content
- Not getting enough sleep and exercise
- 4 steps you can take to protect your child

#### **1) Set parental controls on devices**

Use parental controls to restrict access to in-app purchases and explicit or age-rated content, and, on some devices, how long they can spend on the device.

You'll likely need to set a password. Make sure it's different from the password used to access the device, and that your child doesn't know it.

Parental controls are usually located under 'Settings'. See below for more detailed instructions for different devices.

#### **2) Agree rules on screen time**

There are mixed views on 'safe' screen time, but you could agree some limits to stop screen time interfering with your child's sleep or family activities:

- Make a plan together, and stick to it. You could set media-free times and zones, like during meals or in bedrooms
- Try to avoid screens an hour before bedtime
- Model the behaviour you want to see – which may mean no screen time for you at the times agreed with your child. Children are more likely to learn from example
- Try to minimise snacking during screen time
- Turn not using screens into a game, using apps like [Forest](#), where not using devices is rewarded

#### **3) Talk to your child about staying safe online**

Tell them:

- To be aware that anyone can pretend to be a child online
- If they talk to people they don't know, not to give away personal information – like what street they live on or where they go to school, or to share their location with them. To say no to any requests they get for images or videos, and stop talking to the other person if they are asked for these things
- To set their profiles to private, to limit what others can see
- To be 'share aware' – think carefully about what they share and with whom. Once it's out there, they've got no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's illegal to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s, full stop
- If they see something that upsets them, or someone bullies them, to tell an adult they trust

Don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

#### **4) Encourage off-screen activities**

Help your child get active for the recommended 60 minutes a day:

- See [www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities) for free ideas for activities and games
- Try an app that's designed to get children active – see the examples at [www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/](http://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/)

I hope you all have a lovely, peaceful and cosy weekend and we look forward to seeing you all next week.

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.

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

### SNOW SNOW SNOW: Our snow Angels









