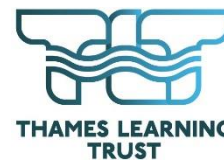




Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



25th February 2023

I cannot believe that we are halfway through the school year already. It was lovely to hear about the children's adventures over half term this week. I am always reminded when I walk around school and spend time with visitors how wonderful our children are. A visiting teacher asked to come back again the day after as, the children are such a delight to work with.

This half term we welcome some new faces to our Ashford Hill team. A warm welcome to Mrs Lang, our new Maple Class teacher; Mr Roberts, our interim SENCO and Mrs Marchetti who has joined the admin team for two days a week. It is always exciting to welcome new talents to our team.

It was lovely to see the return of Film Club, the smell of popcorn filled the air as a hall full of children were giggling their way through 'Bad Guys' on the big screen. Thank you to our dedicated team of volunteer parents who give up hours of their time to provide these events for the children – it really does make a difference.

Industrial Action- Friday 2nd March

On Thursday there will be further industrial action. This time I will be prioritising year groups that have end of key stage assessments in the summer term. Thank you to the keyworkers that have completed the form online. On Thursday, if your children are attending school, please take your children to the following classrooms:

Year R - Willow Classroom

Year 2 - Maple Classroom

Year 6 – Hornbeam Class

Keyworker children – Oak Classroom

There will also be optional work provided for children who will be at home on this day.

World Book Day - Friday 3rd March

Friday brings a firm favourite of the school calendar: world book day. This is the day that we celebrate reading and the wonder of books. Each child will receive a £1 gift token to put towards book of their choice at certain outlets. If your children would like to dress up on this day and you would like some further inspiration, this link could be helpful. [75 Easy World Book Day Costume Ideas 2022 - tried and tested by parents | Mumsnet.](#)

Matilda Auditions – Friday 3rd March



There was excitement in assembly on Wednesday as we launched Matilda Jr. There was a gasp from the children as they were shown pictures of the theatre that

we would be performing in. The children that wanted to, then signed up to audition next week. This will be an informal process and all children who would like to audition for a speaking part have been sent a script to practise. The song that the children are currently learning is 'Naughty' and they will give us a short rendition of the piece. Here are the words (although I am sure that you have them on repeat around your homes currently). The children will only be required to sing the first part of the song, if they wish - but we know how much they love it, so here are the words for the rest!

*Jack and Jill, went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water, so they say
The subsequent fall was inevitable
They never stood a chance,
they were written that way
Innocent victims of their story*

*Just because you find that life's not fair, it
Doesn't mean that you just have to grin and bear it!
If you always take it on the chin and wear it
You might as well be saying
You think that it's okay
And that's not right!
And if it's not right
You have to put it right!
But nobody else it gonna put it right for me
Nobody but me is going to change my story
Sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty*

Thank you for your lovely emails and feedback this week about how excited the children are. There are still spaces on the parent/carer 'crew' for the show which I will let you know about later in the year.

Our Newest Addition

You may have seen a new shiny addition to our car park. Mr Kearsey (our CEO) delivered our new mini bus this week. We are so happy to have this extra mode of transport. This will ensure that local trips become much more affordable and

that we are able to enrich our curriculum even further. It will also help us to attend sports fixtures and inter-school events with ease.



Attendance procedures and Hampshire

Attendance has nationally taken a dip post Covid and it is a real priority for schools to ensure that children are in school everyday to ensure that learning is not lost. Please follow the link below which will take you to the attendance guidance from Hampshire County Council. This explains about unauthorised absence, medical appointments and the fining process.

[Attendance guidance for parents/carers | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/attendance-guidance-for-parents-carers)

Uniform

It is the middle of the school year and the children are growing quickly. Fiona from the PTA has a collection of pre-loved uniform, if you need to stock up. You can contact her via the PTA page or you can leave a message at reception and she will get in contact. Thank you Fiona for providing this service for our parents. It could not be more helpful during the current economic climate.

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.

Assessment Week 27th Feb

Next week is assessment week for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This is a mid-year review of learning and children get to show off what they know already. At Ashford Hill, we believe that all assessment should have purpose and inform future planning and teaching. Assessments like this also support children to become familiar with the formats of the end of key stage assessments which are statutory. If you have any questions about the assessments, please speak with your class teacher.

Trips and Payments

I am sure you are aware that there are many opportunities for school trips over the next two terms. Letters have been sent home regarding our current trips. There will be a financial contribution for each visit and the PTA have been most supportive in providing the funds for the transport to these events, which enables us to lower the costs for

parents. If you require any further information on how to pay for trips or instalment options, please do not hesitate to contact us.

School Lunches and National Shortage

Mrs Leonard has informed me that there is a national shortage of certain foods that will affect our school dinner menu. She will update us weekly of menu changes and we will pass these on via a text message to parents. Please keep an eye out as there will be some menu changes over the coming weeks.

SATS Meeting – KS1 and KS2 – Thurs 9th March

There will be a SATS meeting/presentation for the parents/carers of children in Year 2 and Year 6 on the 9th March.

Year 2 – 7pm

Year 6 – 7.30pm

This will be a virtual meeting – please follow the link below to sign onto the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82093023998?pwd=UHNzVHBGeWVYm1lNnc01yU3ZZOGs1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 820 9302 3998

Passcode: 0fuH2J

Special Educational Needs

As you will know from previous Newsletters, Mrs Barbara Hunter our School Improvement Partner has been covering the Senco role since Mrs Graham left. Unfortunately Mrs Hunter has been unwell this term so has not been able to do either of these roles in the way she wanted to. The good news is that she is now back with us to do the SIP role, and we have also managed to secure the services of a very experienced Senco, Mr Tim Roberts who will be staying with us until we are able to recruit a permanent Senco. Mr Roberts will be undertaking some different types of assessments with those children on the SEN (Special Educational Needs) register (if you don't know what this is then you probably don't need to know!)

We are delighted that we have the experience of both Mrs Hunter and Mr Roberts who will be with us on a part-time basis each week, on different days to support us all at Ashford Hill. If you have any questions for any of us, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Parents' Evening This Week

You should have now received your parents' evening time slot. If you have not, then please contact the office on Monday morning. Children's books will be available in the hall prior to your appointment time so please allow an extra 10 minutes before your appointment time to look through your children's work. Children are also welcome to join you for the meeting with their teacher. There will not be allocated SENCO time at this meeting, but if you would like to book a meeting with the SENCO or with myself, please contact the office and they will book you in. There will be no teacher led clubs this week due to parents evening.

Parkers Donation – Read Write Inc

We have received a donation from Parkers estate agent of £545 towards our Read Write Inc scheme. Thank you to the PTA for arranging this way back last year. This will go towards boosting some of the resources that we use for phonics lessons.

Return of books

Reading at home is an important part of learning to read and we encourage families to read together. Every week children are sent home with books, and it is important that these are returned to the class teacher at the end of each week. Each Read Write Inc book costs around £6 per book and we only have a certain number in school; these books are also used for teaching. Please can you ensure that any library/read write inc. books that you have are returned to school as we would like to audit our stock. At this point, I will share the horror in my house this week as my 16 year old daughter and I discovered a school library book taken out in 2020 – it was returned with a huge apology to the librarian (apparently)! So, I can assure you that there will be no judgement if there is one book or 20 books returned over the next week.

School Dates for 2023-2024

Next year's term dates are published on the school website. Please add these to your diary for next year.

[Ashford Hill Primary School - Term Dates](#)

Learning in Classrooms

It was lovely to see so many children learning outside this week as the weather has been bright this week. Our twitter account has some pictures of them working hard outside. So please log on and have a look at the goings on in school. You can also access these pictures from the website. [Ashford Hill Primary School - Home](#) .

I have shared some of the thoughtful volcano poems from Oak class this week as they have been discovering more about tectonic plates.

Have a restful weekend and we look forward to welcoming you into school 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.

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

Violent like a beast rampaging through the cities

Oh like an alien destroying everything in its way

Large amounts of red lava drooling down the volcano

Creeping down the lava river, very slowly like acid in the Earth's belly

Ash clouds forming to block out the shimmering sunshine

Nothing can stop it from destroying every house

Ominous like destructive liquid that is indestructible

By Logan

