



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



26th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can not believe that we are at the end of another half term. The time seems to fly by so quickly. It really is lovely to look out of the window as the sun is shining and see the children playing on the common again. The children have been an absolute joy this week as they have shared work that they have been proud of this half term. It is amazing to see the progress that children have made over the year so far.

We have now finished the SATs in year 2 and 6 and we now are awaiting county moderators early next term. Hampshire Moderators come to join the class teacher to confirm that our judgements and assessment is accurate for our children; we look forward to sharing the wonderful work with them.

Currently, the choir are practicing for the Lions Treacle Fair in the hall and are sounding wonderful. If you would like to go and watch their performance at around 1.15pm the fair will be on the 4th June at Saunders Field in Tadley. The fair runs from 11am-5pm.

This week we successfully appointed a new full time class teacher for September – we were so lucky to have such high-quality candidates to choose from. I look forward to bringing you details of the staff team for September in the near future. We will be keeping the same class structure for next year which will ensure consistency for the children and also, the chance to develop our curriculum even further.

I can not end this half term without a huge thank you to the staff team for the amount of hard work that they have put in with curriculum and cover over the last few weeks and months. Thank you to those of you who have emailed in about the wonderful job that some of our team members are doing. It is wonderful to have such a dedicated team to support our children.

We hope that you have a wonderful Half Term and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 5th June!

Kirsty Kingham

Principal

Other Information

Year 6 Residential Report -from year 6 (Billy and Charlotte)

Last week, Hornbeam class went to Dorset for an incredible week away! The experience was action packed because we did loads of fun activities like abseiling, dragon boating and climbing! The whole event was a learning experience for us because we had to undertake challenging activities that many of us hadn't done before. I liked all of them but my favourite activity was the giant swing, which could go up to ten metres!

The location of our cabins was perfect because we had a gorgeous view of the sea! Breakfast started around 7:30 for us, but it changed depending on our school. Our lunch time was at 12:55 and dinner was at 6:10. In the afternoons we did (in order) a quiz, balloon splash, passport to the world and a disco. Balloon splash's aim was to stack your shoes so they don't fall, then the team with the highest tower of shoes got a few coins then you had to draw your instructor which got you more coins. Then we spent those coins on protecting a water balloon. In passport to the world, we had to run to a designated flag around campus and answer all the countries' questions.

Although we missed our parents, we had a wonderful time away. We were allowed to write letters home and our parents wrote to us as well saying how much we miss them. If we got the chance we would definitely do it again! We had a blast!

Residential Trips Moving Forward

We have just returned home from a successful residential trip with Hornbeam class and it was amazing to see them grow so much in such a short space of time. It is at this time of year that we have to secure future bookings with activity centres and coach companies.

Residential trips have the following benefits for children:

- Develop independence in children
- Improve confidence and self esteem
- Improve relationships for children and teachers
- Engage and motivate children outside of the children with new activities
- Allow children to flourish and challenge themselves in a new environment
- Make lifelong memories

However, with rising costs and during a cost-of-living crisis I believe that to have a trip two years in a row will be very costly for families and I would like to stagger this cost for families in a more effective way (A week long residential can be around £400-£500 per child increasing to nearly £600 for next year). Previously, I have experienced some fabulous year 4 residential which have benefitted the self-esteem and independence of year 4 children before they move onto the upper primary school. A shorter time away really helps them to prepare for a longer residential in the future as well as the benefits listed above.

I would like to move towards a model of 2 residential trips throughout our children's primary schooling to enable children to experience the benefits of a residential trip sooner than year 5. This would look like the following:

- Year 4 : 3 day (2 night) residential
- Year 6: 5 day (4 night) residential (post SATS)

I am aware that this then will affect our current year 4 cohort and I am conscious that they do not miss out on a residential of some description next year. I have been to consultation with the current year 4 parents about a trip for next year. For the final time year 5 will be joining year 6 for their residential after SATS in May 2024. Information and costs will follow next half term in order to stagger costs.

Next year's year 4 will take part in a 3 day residential trip in the 2023-2024 academic year – details will also be shared with you later this term.

In the academic year 2024-2025 we will move to the new model for residential trips.

PTA Summer Fair and Car Show Update

The summer fair and car show will be held in the Autumn term as a Colour Run and Car Show. Further details will follow next term.

Matilda: Tickets, Rehearsals and Production meeting

We are now in full preparation mode for our show! The next production meeting will be 7pm on Wednesday 7th June at school. Please feel free to join if you would like to help in anyway. The teams have started to plan costumes, props and set together. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have joined the team – they should have already received a letter with details on via the teachers2parents system.

If children have scripts, please can they start to bring them in each day. There will be a big focus on line learning and song learning over the next few weeks. I will publish a rehearsal schedule for the children over the next couple of weeks.

School Dinners – H3CS update

The price of school dinners will **increase to £3 per day** from the 5th June. You can pay for dinner on the school money account.

Summer Picnic Lunch Boxes

We are pleased to tell you that after the half term break, our kitchen team will be offering a Picnic Lunch box option to all of our pupils as a choice for their lunches. Weather

permitting, the children can choose to take these picnic boxes out to the field to enjoy al fresco!

Picnic Boxes will contain:

- A filled baguette with the filling of the day (see below)
- Carrot/Cucumber Sticks
- Half a sausage roll or pizza strip
- Piece of fruit
- Pudding (biscuit or cake- no jellies or ice cream)

Monday - Tuna Mayonnaise

Tuesday - Cheese

Wednesday - Ham

Thursday - Egg Mayonnaise

Friday - Ham and Cheese

The other usual meat, vegetarian and jacket potato (KS2 only), hot meal options will be available as normal. For those who pay for their school dinners, picnic boxes will be priced at the same amount as hot meals - **£3.00** (new dinner price effective June 2023).

Picnic boxes can be ordered on the day in the same way our children make their usual lunch choices. The details in this newsletter are for your information only.

We hope our pupils enjoy their picnic lunches during this last half term of the academic year! If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Staff Car Park

Please avoid crossing the staff car park at all times, as we have delivery vans coming and going at all times of the day. To exit the school grounds, please use the pavement areas only for everyone's safety.

During the school holidays there will be some work on our outside fencing and the carpark will no longer be able to be accessed for drop offs. Please use the carpark opposite and ensure that disabled bays are left free if you do not have a disabled badge.

Holiday Dates and Inset Dates for Next Academic Year

The term dates and Inset days can be found at the link [download.asp \(ashfordhillprimary.co.uk\)](https://www.ashfordhillprimary.co.uk/download.asp) or [Ashford Hill Primary School - Term Dates](#). You will need to scroll to the end of the page on the second link. Hopefully this will be helpful when planning holidays and childcare for INSET days.

Dates for your Diary:

Please see the website for further information:

Matilda Production Meeting: 22nd May 7pm

Sports Day: **Thurs 22nd June** – Parents invited from 12pm – Races to start from 1pm

Matilda the Musical: Thursday 13th July at 5.30pm – tickets will be on sale after half term. They will be £12 per ticket and a £3 admin fee per ticket.

Topic Showcase: Tuesday 18th July 2.45pm

Last Day of Term: Friday 21st July

Please follow the link to view the calendar –

[Ashford Hill Primary School - Calendar](#)