



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter

December 1st 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas has arrived at Ashford Hill this week. On Tuesday morning, the whole school went off to watch *Beauty and The Beast* at the Corn Exchange. It was an absolute joy to see every child return with beaming faces and tales of what they had just seen: their happiness was tangible as they walked through the doors on their return. Teachers used the trip as a writing opportunity and there was some fabulous work produced across the school about the visit. A huge thank you to the PTA team for paying for the transport for this trip to ensure that it was affordable for all.

As the children returned from the Pantomime they noticed that some special elves had decorated the school hall ready for Christmas. The hall is full of streamers, balloons and sparkle with a 10ft Christmas tree standing proudly in the middle. Thank you to the special team of Elves who made this happen. The children are still in awe as they pass the hall (as are the adults).



This morning, the library seemed to have been the place for fun last night as our resident elf appeared to have returned from the North Pole and has been swinging from the bookshelves overnight! The children were pleased to see his return this morning. I wonder where he will appear next week!



This is a very busy time of the year – in fact my office is filled with the PTA hampers and crackers ready for the Christmas Dinner. All of the magic of Christmas is around school and we are still teaching our ambitious curriculum. It is at this stage, I must thank the whole staff team for the huge amount of effort, professionalism and care that they give every single day. Our teachers and team are working extremely hard to ensure that we meet the needs of every child in our care and that we have a rich and sequenced curriculum that is delivered in an engaging way to ensure all of our children are learning and striving to be the best that they can be. This is not an easy task as this often can take hours of an evening for teachers (a long time after the children have left school) and they work tirelessly to ensure our children get the very, very best. At this time of year this is also paired with creating a nativity from scratch, managing the excitement of our young ones as they prepare for the arrival of Father Christmas and ensuring that our children have access to the best learning that we can provide.

I am very proud to have a team of experienced and dedicated teachers and staff who are dedicated to the well-being and growth of our school and our children. We are constantly striving to be the very best that we can be as a school and sometimes this can take us out of our comfort zone – but from this, in a safe and caring environment, comes great things. Please bear in mind that with this Christmas excitement comes tiredness.

The children will experience this at this time of year as will the staff and parents!

I am sure you will join me over this season in saying a thank you to our team for the efforts and love that they have put into Ashford Hill over this past term. And believe it or not, this makes our day!

Attendance

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
93.5	87.5	96.9	94.7	91.4	95	93.8	96.5
Well done Y1 for having the highest attendance this week.							

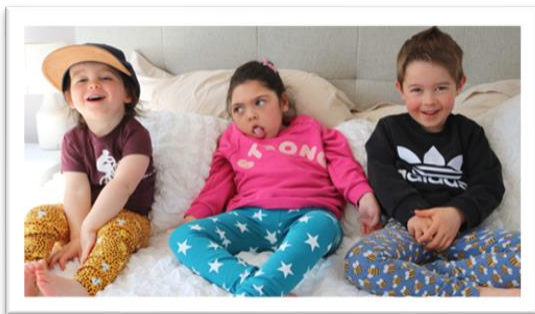
Xmas Jumper Day - Thurs 7th December

This year we are taking part in Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Sebastians Action Trust. Children are invited to wear Christmas Jumpers to school on this day and we would love to raise some money for the Sebastian Action Trust. If you are able to donate anything towards the charity please send this in with your child on the day.

Sebastians Action Trust are a local charity supporting families with seriously ill children emotionally, mentally, and practically. They passionately believe seriously ill children should be able to have quality time together with their families, never having to face life alone. Their mission is to ensure lives, however short, are lived to the full.

Back in September, Thomas (Oak) and Rowan Tordoff's (Willow) 8 year old sister Juliette very sadly died at home in the arms of her Mum and Dad. Juliette was born in 2015 with severe brain damage and was given a poor prognosis, but managed to live and enjoy life beyond what was expected. She is very sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. The family were supported throughout her life and now after her death by Sebastians Action Trust and this is a charity truly close to their heart.

Sebastians Action Trust receive no government funding and rely fully on donations and fundraising efforts. We look forward to seeing the children in their jumpers on this day.



PE – Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

Mr Walker has been working on our PE curriculum with the support of the Park House Affiliation and you may have heard from our key stage one children about the activities they have been taking part in over the last couple of weeks. I have witnessed and attempted indoor caving this week and it was a real experience – the children have been practising their caving techniques and archery in a competitive and team building manner. The concentration levels were high this week as they progressed onto more challenging tasks in their caves! As the archery lesson progressed the children's aims were becoming more and more accurate and they even had a surprise visit from Mr Dixon, an experienced archer much like Robin Hood!

We look forward to seeing our PE curriculum develop over the year.



Clubs letter for next week

It was the final week for teacher led clubs this week. Early next week we will be sending out information about the clubs available for next term. You will have an email prior to the clubs being released to ensure that that all parents are able to access the club booking at the same time in an evening rather than during the day.

Teachers volunteer their own time to provide these clubs to the children and with their extremely busy schedules and workloads I am sure that you are as grateful as I am that our children have these opportunities open to them after school. Thank you to the teachers for going out of their way and providing the clubs and care this term.

You will also have received an after school provision questionnaire this week. Please take some time to fill this in so that we can ensure that we can get our provision as close to your needs as we possibly can.

Here is a sneaky peek of the festive treats created by the cooking club with Mrs Lang.



Nativity – Tickets

Thank you to those of you who have secured your tickets for the Nativity. The Nativity will be primarily KS1 and Early Years this year with the upper school joining them in the church for the songs and hymns. If you still need to book your place at the nativity – please do so as soon as possible.

LIBRARY: Accelerated Reader – Help needed!

We are in the process of implementing a new reading initiative. This includes the restocking and reordering of the library. Accelerated reader is a programme that supports children to choose the appropriate books for their reading level and will support them to progress in their reading. It begins with an assessment of their current level of reading and then directs them to a section in the library to take their books from. This is then monitored by teachers and the children are able to complete star reader quizzes to ensure that they are reading and comprehending the book well.

In order to start this after Christmas, our whole library will need reordering. We have two whole weeks of term left and will need all of the parent/ grandparent help that we can get to complete this huge task. If you have any free time in the day and would like to come and help the library elves with this task, we would be so grateful. Please email the office admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk or drop in to let us know if you can help. I can assure you it will be a very rewarding task once complete!

Nativity Costumes

We have most nativity costumes in school for children, however, they may need a t-shirt or leggings. Costume requirements will be sent home by your class teacher early next week. Please speak with your class teacher if you have any questions.

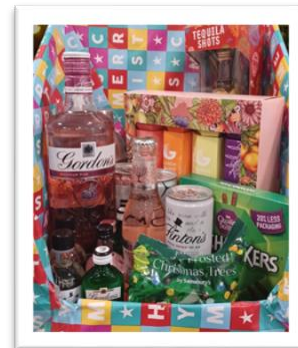
Curriculum Showcase for Parents – Thurs 14th Dec at 2.45pm

Please come and join us to celebrate the work of your children for this term. This is a great time for them to share the work that they have been up to in school and for you to celebrate their success with them and their class teacher.

PTA Hamper Link

The PTA Christmas hampers are all ready to go to their new owners. There are many hampers available as raffle prizes and below are just a small selection. Please follow the link below to get your tickets. Please share far and wide to make this a great success.

<https://raffall.com/348829/enter-raffle-to-win-christmas-hampers-hosted-by-ashford-hill-primary-school-raffle>



Christmas Workshop

Funded by UK Government

SKILLS FOR LIFE
MULTIPLY

Are you struggling to budget for your Christmas dinner?

If so, come along to our Christmas workshop and receive a £25 gift voucher on completion

- Learn in a fun and festive environment.
- Plan a Christmas dinner for only £25.
- Work out a timings plan to cook your Christmas dinner.
- Children welcome and Christmas craft activities will be provided.
- Finish with a fun festive quiz.

TDCA

This course is aimed at adults over 19 years who do not have a Level 2 maths qualification. (e.g. Math GCSE at grade 4/C and above, or a Functional Skills Level 2 in maths). However, places are also open to those lack numeracy confidence or have experienced a 'skills fade' in their numeracy knowledge.

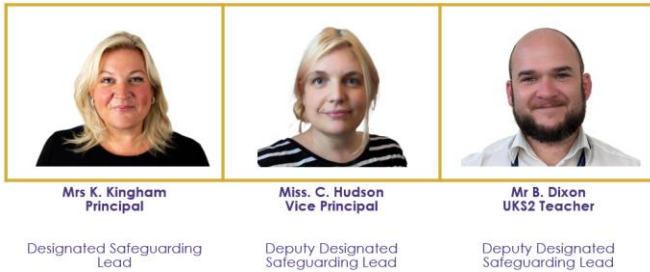
Date: 5th December 2023
Time: 10.00 – 12.00 hours
Venue: TDCA Community Centre

To book your place, please complete the booking form using the QR code or link [BOOK HERE](#)

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding is our number one priority. Together we want to ensure that all children are safe, happy and secure at all times.

This year our Designated Safeguarding Lead Team are as follows:



Please do have a lovely weekend and Miss Hudson and I look forward to seeing you at the gate bright and early on Monday morning.

Kirsty Kingham

Principal

Dates for your diary

7th December 2023 – Christmas Jumper Day

Nativity and Carol Concert – Whole school – Families invited.
Tuesday 12th afternoon and Wednesday 13th Morning.

14th December – Curriculum Showcase – 2.45pm

Y4 – Minstead Residential Trip – 7th – 9th February 2024

Y3 – River trip to Minstead 8th February 2024

Y2-6 – Frozen West End Trip – Wednesday 13th March 2024

Sports Day – Friday 21st June 2024

SATS week - 13th – 17th May 2024

Y5/6 Residential Trip - 3rd – 7th June

Date	Event	Location	Years
Thu 19 th Oct	Multiskills	Park House	1/2
Wed 22 nd Nov	Alternative Olympics	Theale	5/6
Thu 14 th Dec	BISI Badminton	Theale	3/4
Wed 7 th Feb	Speed Stacking	Theale	1/2
Tue 27 th Feb	Hockey Festival	Park House	5/6
Thu 7 th Mar	Tag Rugby Megafest	Newbury RFC	3/4
Wed 13 th Mar	KS1 Cricket	Willows	1/2
Tue 12 th Mar	X Country	Newbury Showground	3/4/5/6
Tue 23 rd Apr	Kwik Cricket Dynamos Skills	Doui Abbey	3/4
Thu 9 th May	Tri Golf	St Barts	3/4
Tue 14 th May	Kwik Cricket	Falkland	5/6 Girls
Tue 4 th June	Kwik Cricket	Doui Abbey	5/6 Boys
Tue 18 th June	Table Tennis	Willink	5/6
Tue 2 nd July	Dodgeball	St Barts	KS2 Girls
Tue 9 th Jul	Multiskills	Theale	1/2