



# Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



September 15th 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is the end of another busy week at Ashford Hill. We have had some sleepy children arriving at the gate this morning as they are starting to get used to being back to school. But as soon as they get back in their classrooms they are switched on and ready to learn. It is great to see!

We had a visit yesterday from a headteacher and Ofsted inspector to complete some training for our staff team. He was here early and sat in reception for forty minutes before the start of the meeting having a cup of tea. He was enamored with our school. He commented on how wonderful our children and staff were and how calm, welcoming, warm and purposeful the atmosphere was. This was just what we needed to hear as a team and we are looking forward to more visitors as the year progresses.

There are a lot of dates and meetings to take in over the next few weeks so please add these to your diary.

## Student Leadership:

It has been fantastic to see so many students interested in taking a leadership position within our school. We have had elections and interviews all day and the outcome will be shared early next week. We are always astounded at the talents and interests of our children and it leads us to be inspired. I am a great believer in playing to people's talents and passions therefore, there may even be some new roles created that play to the strengths of our children and that will lead to great school improvement - watch this space! Children will be told the results on Tuesday. Well done to all of those who interviewed today – you make us proud!



## Golden Sparkle Badges This week

The school value that is the focus for this half term is Active and Motivated learning. The two children who wowed us with their motivation to work this week were **Thomas** (Oak Class) and **Brodie** (Hornbeam Class). Congratulations for showing us your great attitudes to learning.

## Open Days for Year R 2024:

It is that time of year again. We have open days for the year R September 2024 intake. If you or you know anyone who would like a place next September, please share these dates:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – 1.45pm

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November – 9.30am

Ashford Hill Primary School Year R September 2024 Open Days and Tours

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 1.45pm - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am

We warmly invite you to visit our school and look inside and to meet our team and wonderful children.

Please contact the school office on 0118 981 3822 or email [admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk) to book a place on the tour. Individual tours also available by request.



## Y6 to Y7 Transition and applications to secondary school:

At the beginning of next week we will be sending out the information about applying for a secondary school place. Please keep an eye out in your email box as it is vital that these applications are completed in good time. If your children are attending any open days at other schools, please ensure that you email [admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk) to ensure that this is logged with our admin team and does not affect your child's attendance percentage.

## Mobile Phones:

We have seen an increase of children bringing mobile phones to school; if your children **must** bring a phone with them for safeguarding reasons (eg. walking home from school alone), these must be handed into the office at the start of each day and collected at the end of the day. The office will keep them safe during school hours.

## Homework:

Homework should arrive home this week in your children's bags. We are having some issues with the Times table Rockstar platform this week and this should be rectified by next Friday. Reading is the real priority with your children. Please ensure that they are reading independently or being read to for 5 minutes a day. Most children's phonics scheme books will be arriving home next week (we have just got started on these) but your child will have a reading for pleasure book in their book bag today – please share this with them at home; some children may receive phonics books as they have completed them in class. Next week Miss Hudson will be sending a letter home to explain how the books coming home will work. Reading has a huge impact on children's progress and their success at primary school.

## Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Sept – 6.30pm Meet the teacher evening YR-6:

Teachers will invite you into their classrooms on this evening to talk to you about the curriculum that your children will be covering this year, homework and classroom routines. They will also share with you how to help your children at home and the opportunities that are open to our students this year. This is also a great opportunity to meet your teacher and ask any questions that you may have. Each meeting will be approx 30 mins so if you have a child in two classes, you will be able to visit each.

## Harvest Festival:

We are still waiting to have the date of the festival confirmed by the church – however, we would like to welcome you to bring in any tin cans or harvest festival items to be donated to the foodbanks and residents in the first week of October. Thank you for your generosity in events such as this.

## Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Sept – 6.30pm Parent Volunteer Meeting

Now that we are securely part of the trust and we are on track, it is a great time to think about volunteering in school. If you have any spare time in the week and would like to join us to help with readers, support classrooms, work in the grounds on projects or if you have a special talent for the library or displays, please do come along to the meeting. This will be a virtual meeting and the code will be shared nearer the time. We look forward to welcoming you into the school. There will be an application to complete after the event unless you have already done so.

## Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Oct - 7pm - Reading Meeting with Miss Hudson

Miss Hudson will be holding a reading meeting for parents. This meeting is for all parents and will cover early reading to KS2 reading. It will cover how we teach reading and how to support your children at home. A virtual code will be sent to you nearer the time.

## Matilda Photos and Brochures:

These were sent home this week. Huge thanks to Martin (Father of Mrs Quant) for taking such brilliant and professional pictures. We are hoping that he comes back next year for our next show.

## School Photos Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October:

School photos have been booked for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. We will remind you nearer the time in order to give you some warning for hair gel and buns! Please ensure that your child wears full school uniform and not PE kit on this day - PE kit can be brought to school in a bag on this day.

## Outstanding Dinner Money:

If you have any outstanding dinner money or trip money from last term, please can you clear this as soon as possible. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Mrs Marchetti in the admin office and she will be able to help you.

## Attendance:

The start of the new year gives us the opportunity to ensure that attendance remains high from the very start. Great schools have good attendance. Our school target is to keep attendance between 100% and 97%. Miss Hudson will be leading on attendance this year, so if you have any concerns regarding your child and their attendance, please do not hesitate to speak with her on the gate to book an appointment with her. She will be sending out a copy of our attendance policy and procedures to you next week. You can also contact the school office to book an appointment.

## 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:



Mrs K. Kingham  
Principal

Miss. C. Hudson  
Vice Principal

Mr B. Dixon  
UKS2 Teacher

Designated Safeguarding  
Lead

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

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**

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Sept – all day - Oak class to Hillier Garden

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Sept – 6.30pm Meet the teacher evening Yr-6

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Sept – 6.30pm Parent Volunteer Meeting

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct – am - School photos for all children (Uniform)**

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Oct - 7pm - Reading Meeting with Miss Hudson

*Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct – TBC – Harvest Festival (provisional date tbc)*

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Oct – 9.30am - Open Day for New Parents

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Oct - Young Minds Mental Health – Yellow Wear**

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct – Parents' Evening

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct – Parents' Evening