



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



January 18th 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a busy week at school this week. It has been a pleasure to see some of the wonderful work that is being created in our classrooms. The quality of our children's books are outstanding. I have been proud to show visitors how brilliant the learning behaviours are in our school.

This week brought a school data review with our CEO and Director of Primary. They were so pleased to see the progress that children are making and the positive impact of many of our new curriculum developments. It was a great experience to share our successes with them.

Attendance – Note from Miss Hudson (Attendance Lead)

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
97.6%	97%	100%	99.5%	98.6%	100%	90.8%	96.5%
Well done to Y1 and Yr 4 for having the highest attendance this week.							

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



You may have seen the new national campaign from the DfE highlighting the importance of attendance to parents and carers. The tag line 'moments matter' really is true. We expect all our children in school every day. If they are not in school, they miss precious learning, which they cannot catch

up on. We know you cannot help it if your child is ill but government guidance is clear that unless your child is being sick, has diarrhoea, or has a very high temperature, they should be in school. Remember you can give them liquid paracetamol or ibuprofen before school and if they get worse during the school day, we will always contact you. Please refer to the NHS Is my child too ill for school guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.

But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.

For other information please see the links from the DfE Attendance Hubs,

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/09/02/back-to-school-week-everything-you-need-to-know-about-school-attendance/>

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/03/improving-school-attendance/>

Year 6 SATS revision books

The SATS revision books have now been received in school. We will be able to send these home as soon as they have been paid for on school money accounts. Please let the office team know if you have any queries regarding this payment.

Curriculum Showcase and Egg Hunt

The PTA Egg hunt and the Curriculum Showcase will take place on Thursday 28th March from 2.45pm. This is always a fabulous event, and the PTA will be providing further information nearer the time.

Updates from Our Y6

Year 6 Reading

This year I am really enjoying guided reading. Our teachers have decided to bring in a new way to teach guided reading and we absolutely love it! Books are chosen across the year by our teachers and sometimes we can even suggest some that we might like to read. There are different books to study each term and this half-term we are reading "The Girl of Ink and Stars". I read this book last year and so was really excited when Mr D (our Yr6 and Yr5 teacher) announced

that this was the book we would be doing. It is full of mystery excitement and puzzling words. Making it an amazing story for children of our age. We love talking about it and I really recommend it. We can not wait to see what the next book will be

Imogen

Our Eco Project

This year Lou and I have had the privilege of being ECO warriors leaders and are starting to work on the sensory garden. We are really looking forward to redoing it, adding in all our signature details. So far, we have had the grounds cut back so that we can look at our starting points and we are starting to share our ideas with people. We are even considering teaming up with a local secondary school to make it a joint project. We are currently looking for sponsorship as we have some big ideas. I look forward to updating you with more of our plans later in the year.

Caitlin

New Computing Curriculum Developments

Hello, my name is Alex. I'm a digital leader in Ashford Hill Primary School. My job is to keep people safe around tech and teach the students it alongside our brilliant teachers. This leads us to our new computing programme Purplemash. Purplemash is a website full of games, puzzles, subjects and the most important one, I think: coding. Purple mash is a lot like scratch where there's blocks which you can put commands in and make your character/background move and change colours. The other Digital Leaders (Finlay, Dexter and Ronnie) and I are also teaching year 3 and 4 sometimes too and we hope they will enjoy it. We are enjoying using this so much and we can even do it at home!

Alex

School Performance

We are so excited that after our success with Matilda the Musical (our summer show) last year, that we are going to be performing Frozen Jr. at the Haymarket Theatre in Basingstoke. We all enjoyed last year's show so much that Mrs Kingham decided to do it again. It was amazing to be in the last show and have all of our families come to enjoy the performance. It was the best feeling in the world. In March we will be going to watch Frozen at the West End so we will get some inspiration for our auditions. We are so lucky to have so much to look forward to this year. I hope you come to our show.

Elodie

Baughurst Girl Guiding Information

Is your daughter aged 10 – 14 and looking for a variety of fun activities?

Guides is a relaxed, welcoming girl-only space where you can have fun with your friends and learn to be yourself.

A place where you can explore doing what you love as well as doing things you've never done before. Where else can you think up a new sport, make a new perfume, cook over a campfire, design an advertising campaign, have a mocktail

party, raise money for a charity you believe in? At Guides, you can do all of this and loads more.

In unit meetings, you'll do fun activities, play games and earn skills builder badges, all while being supported by our trained volunteers.

You could get skills builder badges in themes such as camping, communication and first aid and if you want to take Guiding home, there are lots of interest badges to do in between unit meetings, like the craftivism badge, fixing badge and whittling badge.

1st Baughurst Guides now have spaces available if your daughter is interested. Please come along for a taster evening on Tuesday 23 January from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 pm at the Baughurst Scout and Guide Den, Ash Lane, Baughurst RG26 5PW. No need to book – just come along and have fun.

Safeguarding Updates

Tips for managing wellbeing online

Have regular conversations with your child

Give children the chance to talk about what they're experiencing online, what apps and sites they use and who they're talking to.

Talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.

Remind them that it isn't just you that they can talk to – another trusted adult or a Childline counsellor might be easier sometimes.

When children communicate online, misunderstandings can lead to disagreements or arguments. Encourage your child to look at the Childline website, which has lots of useful advice articles:

Feeling good on social media

Coping with stress

Worries about the world

Childline's Calm zone is also packed with tools and activities to help children de-stress and discover new techniques that can support them when they're feeling down. Young people can also talk to each other about their worries on the Childline message boards.

Consider that what children see online is often through a filter. It isn't just images and videos that can be filtered or edited, but bodies and lives too.

Take breaks

Our devices are designed to keep us coming back. Features like infinite scrolling, app notifications, auto play and rewards for playing games every day are all persuasive designs to increase our use.

Mobile and wearable tech such as phones and smart watches can make us feel like we're always online and it can help everyone to take a break sometimes, to help switch off from online pressures.

You can use the settings on individual apps, or in the device settings, to silence notifications for a period of time.

You can also use the 'do not disturb' mode available on most devices to mute calls and notifications, to help avoid distractions.

Use wellbeing settings and apps

These sites and apps are specifically designed to help children with their online wellbeing:

BBC Own it which gives advice as they chat to their friends online.

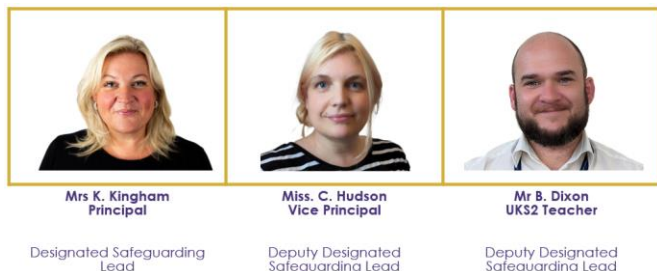
Headspace for Kids is an app to teach children the basics of mindfulness in a fun way. It's aimed at 3-12 year olds, with different content for the different age groups. Free for Headspace subscribers, limited access for non-subscribers.

You can also find out what apps your child uses the most and have a look to see if there are wellbeing guides which explain their settings to help support children's wellbeing.

Safeguarding:

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

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

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

Curriculum Showcase and Egg Hunt – Thurs 28th March

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
Tue 6 th Feb	Speed Stacking	Park House	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