



# Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



January 12<sup>th</sup> 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great week we have had. It was lovely to see the children back to swimming on Thursday afternoon; it was a huge success. A big thank you to those of you who volunteered your time to take the children. I am sure that the changing will get quicker each week!

This week's newsletter is mainly focused on our homework changes. Our homework has been redesigned to support impactful learning and less pressure on parents and children at home. Please take your time read through the information below. There are also some more general messages at the end of the newsletter.

Have a fabulous weekend.

## Attendance

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
96.6	91	98.8	98.9	91.4	100	98.5	98.8
Well done Y4 for having the highest attendance this week.							

## Homework

We have renewed our homework policy- please see the full document here:

<https://www.ashfordhillprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=197&type=pdf>

### What will be different?:

There will no longer be homework logs for the children to complete. All of this will be logged virtually on the systems that we use in school, so that we can track both engagement and progress. Teachers will be able to see engagement at the click of a button and they will check in with the children each week.

### Purpose of Homework

We believe that carefully selected homework is an important aspect of education and serves a variety of purposes for our children including:

- To provide opportunities for families, children and the school to work in partnership to achieve the aims and vision of the school
- To consolidate and reinforce children's skills, knowledge and understanding particularly in English and mathematics

- To empower children, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study as they progress through their educational career and beyond.

### Homework Structure

There are two types of homework for our children:

#### Weekly homework:

Reading, Spelling Log Review and Maths

#### Termly Project homework:

Each learning journey involves a termly curriculum showcase. The homework will be displayed as part of the topic showcase. This is not compulsory homework but will support children in gaining further knowledge and a deeper understanding of their current learning journey at home. Teachers will send home a letter at the start of a term to inform you of the project homework for this period.

Year Group	Weekly Homework Reading is suggested daily for 10 mins Maths is suggested for 20 minutes weekly (in small intervals)	Termly Project Homework
<b>Year R</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> </ul> Summer Term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• NumBots from Summer term 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Term Only</li> </ul>
<b>Year 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• NumBots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Termly Topic Homework</li> </ul>
<b>Year 2</b>	Autumn Term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RWI Reading</li> <li>• RWI Spelling Log Reviews</li> <li>• NumBots</li> </ul> Spring Term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerated Reader</li> <li>• RWI Spelling Log Reviews</li> <li>• NumBots</li> </ul> Summer Term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerated Reader</li> <li>• RWI Spelling Log Reviews</li> <li>• Times Table Rock Stars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Termly Topic Homework</li> </ul>
<b>Year 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerated Reader</li> <li>• RWI Spelling Log Reviews</li> <li>• Times Table Rock Stars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Termly Topic Homework</li> </ul>
<b>Year 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerated Reader</li> <li>• RWI Spelling Log Reviews</li> <li>• Times Table Rock Stars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Termly Topic Homework</li> </ul>
<b>Year 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerated Reader</li> <li>• RWI Spelling Log Reviews</li> <li>• Times Table Rock Stars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Termly Topic Homework</li> </ul>
<b>Year 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerated Reader</li> <li>• RWI Spelling Log Reviews</li> <li>• Times Table Rock Stars</li> </ul> <p><i>From the Spring Term, year 6 children will be provided with SATs booster books. There will be an additional maths and grammar/reading task set each week which will total and additional 30 minutes of work each week. This will be set each Friday and due in the following Friday.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Termly Topic Homework</li> </ul>

NB. Children will have access the Purple Mash programme. Purple Mash is an award-winning website for children aged 5 to 11, packed with creative tools, educational games and themed resources. Children can independently enjoy this at home. Passwords will be provided with an accompanying letter from the class teacher early next week.

### Reading homework

All children will bring home books so they can read with you and to you daily. Our suggested reading homework is 10 minutes per day. The books the children bring home will depend on the year group they are in.

- YR and Y1 children will continue to bring home their RWI phonics book (or Ditty's for some children in YR) which they are reading in class, plus a RWI book bag book. They will also be able to bring home a library book, should they wish to.
- Y2 children will continue to bring home a RWI phonics book plus a RWI book bag until February half term. They will also be able to bring home a library book, should they wish to. After February half term, those children who have completed RWI phonics will bring home an Accelerated Reader levelled book plus a library book, should they wish. The children will take a reading assessment which will tell us the level of book they should be reading. Any child still on phonics will continue to bring home their RWI phonics book, a RWI book bag book plus a library book, should they wish to.
- Y3 – 6 children will continue to bring home a library book until the week beginning 22 January when they will bring home an Accelerate Reader levelled book plus a library book, should they wish to. The children have already taken a reading test which tells us the level of book they should be reading.

Miss Hudson will be launching Accelerated Reader with the children next week so please look out for the parent information which will follow.

### Spelling Homework (Year 2-6)

We will no longer be doing weekly spelling tests or sending set spelling lists home to learn. Research shows that learning spellings this way does not aid progress or application of skills. At Ashford Hill, we believe in doing the work that makes the difference to both our progress and to our life balance.

Read, Write, Inc. Spelling is a spelling programme based on proven strategies of teacher modelling, followed by partner work to embed learning. The programme covers all of the word structures and spelling requirements for Years 2-6 and is the next step in your child's learning from the Read, Write, Inc. Phonics programme that we already follow in EYFS and Year 1. The scheme has been specially created to meet the higher demands of the spelling curriculum appendix and the results it produces are outstanding. We certainly hope that it has the same impact with our pupils.

Your child will now receive:

- Spelling pattern lessons – three times per week.
- In-school access to the Read, Write, Inc. Spelling practice books which are full of structured activities and lively illustrations.
- Their own Logbooks, which are to be taken home to record individual progress and build a home/school link. This can be done through practising words that your child has written to 'Log and Learn'.

Consolidation of their weekly spellings will be through a range of other teamwork activities within the spelling lesson. Pupils' spelling knowledge will continue to be assessed informally on a weekly basis and then through a spelling test at the end of each half-term. This will ensure that they have consolidated the spelling rules learned in the half-term. Therefore, it is important that, as part of their homework, pupils use their 'Logbooks' to continually review and revise spelling rules and patterns that have been previously taught, using their words to 'Log and Learn' each week. There will be a new spelling pattern taught every two weeks and the words inside the children's logs will be refreshed.

You could call out the words for your child to spell aloud or quickly jot down and write your initial next to the word each time they spell it correctly. Keep returning to words on previous pages until you are sure your child can spell them easily. Regular repetition of spellings is important to ensure that all pupils can consolidate and apply their spelling knowledge.

The school has made a considerable investment buying in this scheme and the spelling scheme will have the most impact if pupils take home their Logbooks for daily practice of their 'Log and Learn' words. However, should a logbook be lost, there would be a charge of £2.00 needed to replace it. Books should be in school every day and kept in their school bags.

We are really looking forward to seeing the results from this scheme.

Year 1 children will be completing their spelling reviews during class time with Mr Walker and will not be bringing them home.

## Maths Homework

**Year 1 and 2** - Numbots passwords should have been sent home already for children to use. This programme is fantastic at supporting children with number bonds and early calculation. We recommend that it is practised in short intervals of 5 minutes. The more that children complete, the more they learn and they will also earn coins to make their own robots.

**Year 3-6** - Times tables are the absolute key to the success of our children in maths. Without the rapid recall of these number facts, children will find the end of key stage assessments very difficult and the next stages of education will be a challenge. Timestable Rockstars should be used at regular intervals throughout the week for children to practice these. It is also great if you can work on these with your children. It really does make all the difference. Class teachers have already sent home the passwords.

If you do have any further questions regarding homework passwords or information, please do speak with your class teacher.

## Feedback

Homework Feedback is an important part of learning and progress and there are many different ways this can happen. We recognise that much of this feedback will be provided by adults working with the children as they do their homework and not solely by the teacher. Use of systems such as Accelerated Reader, NumBots and Timestables Rock stars are personalised to children and the teacher will have an overview of children's strengths and weaknesses from the accompanying teacher software. This enables homework to guide formative assessment and future learning in school.

## Minstead meeting – Monday 7pm

Year 4 parents should have received a zoom code for the Minstead Residential meeting on Monday evening. We look forward to sharing the details of this trip with you. Your children may also like to listen in. Please check your email for the invite.

## Swimming Next Week

Thank you for your patience after school on Thursday as our children arrived back a little bit later than 3.25pm. We are hoping that we should be back on time this week. But please bear with us in these weeks.

## Curriculum Showcase and Egg Hunt

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

## Frozen Jr - Y2 – 6 End of Year Show



Due to the success of our production of Matilda last year, we are excited to announce that we will be producing Disney's Frozen Jr. at the Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (tickets will cost £15 per seat and be on sale nearer the time). Later this term, we will be holding auditions for the roles and we will also be taking years 2 – 6 to see the show in the West end after half term.

Last year we had an amazing team of parent/grandparent volunteers who pulled the show together behind the scenes. If you would like to be part of the show team for this year, please register your interest via email to [admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk). The more the merrier and it really is a fantastic experience for both adults and our brilliant children.

## Safeguarding:

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

The car park can be a dangerous area for children. Please do not allow children to be alone or unsupervised in the car park opposite school - there are many cars reversing or parking and small children are not always easy to see. Please let's keep each other safe. Please keep children close to you 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**

Y4 – Minstead Residential Trip – 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Y3 – River trip to Minstead 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Y2-6 – Frozen West End Trip – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Curriculum Showcase and Egg Hunt – Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March

Sports Day – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

SATS week - 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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

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