



# Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter

Ashford Hill Primary



'Be the Best We Can Be'

February 23rd 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all had a half term full of fun, family and friends; it was lovely to hear the stories of the holidays from the children as they returned to school on Tuesday. Year 1 had a real adventure on their first day back as they worked on their geography project at Legoland! They read maps and navigated their way around the mini city of London at the heart of the park – they were excited to see mini versions of all of the landmarks that they have been studying in school. They also used their maps to navigate their way to a few of the rides! Mr Walker said that the class had a wonderful day of learning and fun and many of them slept on the way back to school after a tiring time.

The start of this half term started with an Inset day for the team during which we were busy updating our safeguarding training, developing the learning environment within the classrooms and corridors, along with a firm focus on curriculum subject leadership. It is important for us to have days such as this to reflect on the things that are going well in school and the progress that we have made over the last eighteen months. It also gives us the chance to reflect on improvements and how to implement them to ensure that we are providing the best education to our children. Over the next half term, we will be working hard on our website to show how our curriculum is woven together and show you and potential parents the curriculum in action.

The Frozen auditions have taken place this afternoon and it was a real treat to see how hard the children have been working at home to perform their audition pieces. The research that many of the children have done to get ready for their audition was excellent and brought many a smile to the audition panel. We now have the very difficult decision of casting the show – well done to all of the children for making it so difficult for us. The cast list will be shared on Tuesday next week.

In assembly this week, we launched our new school values. These values are **Integrity, Determination and Community**. We talked together about what these values may look like around school and how we would demonstrate them. I then shared with the children my recent visit to the 911 Memorial and museum in New York. They were fascinated by stories of the Integrity, determination and community values that were shown during this time by the emergency services and communities at this time and how this had changed the world and travel to make it a safer place to be. You may like to talk about this at home with your children.

## Attendance

| Attendance % (whole school target 97%)                            |     |     |     |    |      |      |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|------|------|------|
| Whole School  | YR  | Y1  | Y2  | Y3 | Y4   | Y5   | Y6   |
| 96.5  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 95 | 87.5 | 94.6 | 94.6 |
| Congratulations to Year R, 1 and 2 for 100% attendance this week! |     |     |     |    |      |      |      |

## Smart Watches in School

There has been a rise in the number of smart watches in school. This can be extremely distracting for children in school during learning time and also can pose safeguarding risks throughout the day. We ask that children do not bring these to school.

## Wet Play Games for Classrooms

It has been a little rainy over the last few weeks which has led to break times indoors. During this time children play board games and spend time together in their classrooms. If you have any old board games or activities that you can spare or that your children have outgrown, we would love to rehome them for our wet play times to give our children a larger choice of things to do. If you do have anything please bring it in to either your class teacher or the school office.

## Are your children entitled to free school meals/ pupil premium funding?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you are entitled to this funding, the school will receive a pupil premium grant for each child (including Year R -2). The Pupil Premium Grant supports learning and teaching support, enrichment and well-being for our socially disadvantaged pupils. You can see our current strategy below. It has made a significant impact to many children and is reviewed by the school yearly.

You can see if your family are eligible and make your application through the following website [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-free-school-meals)

This website also gives further information about free school meals and the pupil premium grant. [Free school meals \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](https://moneysavingexpert.com/free-school-meals)

Our current pupil premium strategy at Ashford Hill [DfE external document template \(ashfordhillprimary.co.uk\)](https://ashfordhillprimary.co.uk/dfc-external-document-template)

### Parents' Evenings - Virtual

There will be a virtual Parents' Evenings for the spring term. This will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March- details of bookable slots will be sent next week. This will be followed by the curriculum showcase to view your children's work on 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2.45pm.

### Labelling of Uniform

Please ensure that all of your children's uniform is labelled as this helps us to get clothes back to their owner.

### World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

March brings us the famous World Book Day. This is always a great event in school where we celebrate authors and the characters they create. To mark the day, we ask that children and the team come dressed as one of their favourite book characters. If you would like some inspiration, please follow this link [Dressing up - World Book Day](#).

### After School Bus Transport

If you have arranged for your child to be dropped off at a different Bus stop on the way home from school, it is imperative that the school office is inform in the morning.

### Frozen West End – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

The trip date is nearing. The trip is dependent on contributions from parents towards tickets so please do. Please make your contribution on your school money account. If you have any questions regarding the trip or payments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Packed Lunches and Snacks – Encouraging Healthy Eating

Over the last few weeks, we have been noticing an increased number of packets of crisps and chocolate bars in lunch boxes. It is really important that children are offered a balanced meal for lunch and dinner. Sometimes, we are aware that it may be a last-minute dash out of the house and lunch boxes contents are the last thing to think about but please review what children are packing in their own lunchboxes also. Snack times should consist of a healthy snack only. If you would like to look into this further, please have a look at this link:

## Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

### Lunchbox tips



**Keep them fuller for longer**  
Base the main lunchbox item on foods like bread, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain where you can.



**Freeze for variety**  
Keep a small selection of different types of bread in the freezer so you have a variety of options – like bagels, pittas and wraps, granary, wholemeal and multigrain.



**DIY lunches**  
Wraps and pots of fillings can be more exciting for kids when they get to make them. Dipping foods are also fun and a nice change from a sandwich each day.



**Cut back on fat**  
Pick lower-fat fillings – like lean meats (including chicken or turkey), fish (such as tuna or salmon), lower-fat spread, reduced-fat cream cheese and reduced-fat hard cheese. And try to avoid using mayonnaise in sandwiches.  
[See more healthier swap ideas](#)



**Mix your slices**  
If your child does not like wholegrain, try making a sandwich from 1 slice of white bread and 1 slice of brown bread.



**Always add veg**  
Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A Day. Adding a small pot of reduced-fat hummus or other dips may help with getting kids to eat vegetables.



**Ever green**  
Always add salad to sandwiches and wraps too – it all counts towards your child's 5 A Day!



**Cheesy does it...**  
Cheese can be high in fat and salt, so choose stronger-tasting ones – and use less of it – or try reduced-fat varieties.



**Cut down on crisps**  
If your child really likes their crisps try reducing the number of times you include them in their lunchbox, and swap for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead.



**Add bite-sized fruit**  
Try chopped apple, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, blueberries, halved grapes or melon slices to make it easier for them to eat. Add a squeeze of lemon juice to stop it from going brown.



**Tinned fruit counts too**  
A small pot of tinned fruit in juice – not syrup – is perfect for a lunchbox and easily stored in the cupboard.



**Swap the fruit bars**  
Dried fruit like raisins, sultanas and dried apricots are not only cheaper than processed fruit bars and snacks but can be healthier too. Just remember to keep dried fruit to mealtimes as it can be bad for teeth.




**Switch the sweets**  
Swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for malt loaf, fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned – in juice not syrup).



**Yoghurts: go low-fat and lower-sugar**  
Pop in low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurts or fromage frais and add your own fruit.



**Get them involved**  
Get your kids involved in preparing and choosing what goes in their lunchbox. They are more likely to eat it if they helped make it.



**Variety is the spice of lunch!**  
Be adventurous and get creative to mix up what goes in their lunchbox. Keeping them guessing with healthier ideas will keep them interested and more open to trying things.



**Plan to Eatwell**  
The guide shows how much of what we eat overall should come from each food group to achieve a healthy, balanced diet. It can be really useful when thinking about what goes into kids' lunchboxes.  
[The Eatwell Guide](#)

### 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.

Safeguarding

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

Exploitation Parent Workshop

There is a parent workshop hosted by the Ivison Trust regarding County Lines in Hampshire. If you would like to educate yourself further on this and the effect that this can have on children, please register for the webinar at [www.ivisiontrust.org.uk/webinars](http://www.ivisiontrust.org.uk/webinars)



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|  |  |  |
| Mrs Kirsty Kingham   | Miss C Hudson  | Mr B Dixon   |
| Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead<br>(DSL)                                | Vice Principal and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead<br>(DDSL)                   | Class Teacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead<br>(DDSL)                    |

Dates for your diary

Hands on - Puppets Afternoon

A fun afternoon for families to come and experience a puppet show followed by making sock puppets with Jo Bryant at The Ship Inn Country Hotel Ashford Hill, RG19 8BD Sunday 3rd March 2024 at 3pm – 5pm

Tickets £10 per child (Adults FREE): Eventbrite /0118 981 4504 (adult to stay with child/ren)



School Dates:

- World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Y2-6 – Frozen West End Trip – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Parents’ Evenings - 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March
- 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 2024

| Date                      | Event                       | Location           | Years     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 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       |
| Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb   | Speed Stacking              | Park House         | 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       |

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all at the gate on Monday morning.

Kirsty Kingham  
Principal