



Integrity – Determination – Community

Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter

Ashford Hill Primary



'Be the Best We Can Be'

March 8th 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

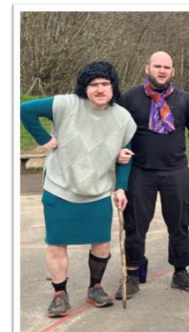
We have had a fantastic week here at Ashford Hill. On Wednesday, we invited in the Trustees of Thames Learning Trust to visit the school. This was part of their monitoring of our school development plan and also to see the school in action. I was so proud to show them around every classroom and they thoroughly enjoyed speaking to all of the children and the staff. I am waiting for the final report of their visit which I will share with you as soon as I can but the initial feedback is as follows:

- Wonderful children who are articulate and love school and love their learning
- Children are extremely proud of the work that they produce and they feel safe in school.
- The learning behaviours in the inclusive classrooms were impressive to see.
- The staff team have high expectations of the children and there is consistency in the way that they articulate this.
- The environment is warm, inviting and inclusive.

- Children really appreciate the work that the teachers and whole staff team do for them.

As you can imagine, we are delighted with how the day went and were extremely proud to have been able to share the developments that we have made over the last few terms with regard to our curriculum design and work around the pedagogy of teaching. Most importantly, our children's love for learning shone through.

Wednesday brought World Book Day. It really is one of my favourite mornings of the year – the staff arrive early and admire each other's creations and surprises as we enter the building. This year there were smiles all round as we had our very own Mr and Mrs Twit in the form of Mr Walker and Mr Dixon: what a treat! This is shortly followed by the arrival of our children who astound us with their costume creativity and love of books every year. Thank you to parents for helping the children with their creations; as you can see from the photograph above, everyone looked fantastic.





All of our children took part in a special book day treasure hunt, finding out about characters, books and authors. They worked hard all day to find out clues from teachers (and each other) about who their characters were and which book they came from – they then had to research authors and book titles with much success!



There was also a design a book nook competition in all of our classrooms. Children were tasked with choosing their most favourite story and turning it in to a diorama book nook. You can see their wonderful ideas below!



This afternoon, our winners of the Book Nook and Book Character competition were treated to a visit to Waterstones (and hot chocolate at Starbucks) to select themselves a book to read at home. The criteria was to show us how well you knew your book and to add the most important things to your book nook from your story. We were looking for understanding and creative thinking!! Congratulations.



Bonnie - Matilda



We have had a fantastic week at Ashford Hill. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school and community.

I look forward to welcoming you at the gate on Monday morning for another week of learning and activities.

Kirsty Kingham
Principal

Attendance

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
98.2	98.5	100	96.8	97.3	98.1	99.3	98.2
Well done, Y1.							

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please inform the office by 08:30. It is our statutory duty to know about where our children are during the school day and failure to report an absence will lead to safeguarding concerns if we do not hear from you.

Red Nose Day – Friday 15 March

Wear Something Funny for Money

Friday 15 March is Red Nose Day and we are inviting children to come to school wearing something funny or something red. The something funny could be odd socks, clothes inside out and back to front, non-matching shoes etc. The funnier the better. Please bring a small donation on the day and we will send all donations to Comic Relief.

Frozen West End Trip - Wednesday 13th March

The children will be travelling to London by coach and will be leaving school at 11am. We will be arriving back to school at approximately 7.00pm. We will update you on the evening via Teachers2Parents to let you know when we are nearby. Full school uniform must be worn and named water bottles will be helpful for the day. Children will need to bring a small backpack with a named water bottle, two packed lunches and plenty of snacks. Please provide easy to eat food (preferably no utensils) that can be eaten in their seats in the Theatre with little mess.

If your child needs medication, this will need to be left at reception and a form completed on the day.

If you are volunteering for this trip, please arrive at school at 10.30 for a full briefing and safeguarding talk prior to leaving.

We are really looking forward to this experience and I cannot wait for you to hear all about it when the children return home.

Cross Country Event – Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday brings a large Cross Country event. We will be taking over 35 children to this event and there are many parent volunteers. Children who are attending this event will need to have packed lunch on this day. They will be eating this prior to leaving school at 12pm. If you have any questions regarding the trip, please contact the school office or Mr Walker. The coach should return to school at around 4.50 -5pm – we will keep you informed as sometimes the event can get very busy which can then lead to delays. Thank you for your patience.

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.

School Uniform and Presentation

We are more than half way through the school year and we are well settled into our school routines. In order to focus on our learning and strive towards being the 'best that we can be' it is important that we are dressed for learning. School uniform must be worn daily and school shoes on non-PE days. Trainers should only be worn on PE days and only school branded jumpers and hoodies are permitted. Hair that can be tied up, should be tied up as even shoulder length hair that is down can hugely detract from learning. If you require any uniform to update your wardrobe, please contact the PTA as they have a huge amount of pre-loved, good-quality uniform if you require a refreshed stock at home.

Children must not wear jewellery in school, with the exception of one stud earring in each ear. Nails must also be varnish free. If children have used home tattoos at the weekend, these must be removed before school (this is easily done with baby oil).

The PTA have kindly contributed towards a staff PE kit, this is to model to the children the expectations of their PE kits and to show that our uniform represents both our school and ourselves and our attitude to presentation and learning. We are looking forward to the arrival of these.

Message from the PTA

Wednesday evening saw a very productive PTA meeting. There will be an update and newsletter from the PTA regarding the events that will be coming over the next few months and early next year. As budgets tighten nationally, the PTA is an important source of funding for the extras and sometimes the essentials. We rely on this support to enhance the curriculum, cover transport to ensure that trips are affordable for all and for developing our school environment and school improvement. The PTA is also a great part of our community and if you have any spare time and would like to volunteer while making new friends and being part of exciting projects, please do get in contact with the school office or the PTA email. The more the merrier and you really do make the difference!

Frozen Production Team – Parent Volunteer Request

The parts have now been cast and we are heading towards our performance. Although the rehearsals in school do not start until after the SATs, the production team work begins from now. If you would like to be part of this exciting and rewarding event, please respond to the form that will be sent home early next week. There will be an initial production meeting on Monday 18th March at 7pm via zoom.

Last year, it was a real blend of parents, teachers, grandparents and the wider community to put on the school show – and it was such a wonderful collaboration with the most incredible outcome. We welcome you to join the team. There is nothing better than watching the children shine on stage at the end of the process.

Library Books

Thank you to those parents who have replaced books. We have provided all children with a waterproof book bag this week. Please ensure that this is in school bags daily and that reading books are kept in these bags. Hopefully the books will be more protected in these bags.

Safeguarding

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

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

Dates for your diary

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

Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March (Wear something funny for money)

Parents’ Evenings - 19th and 21st March

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 2024

Date	Event	Location	Years	Timings	Cover needed?
Thu 19 th Oct	Multiskills	Park House	1/2	15:45 – 17:30	From 3pm
Wed 22 nd Nov	Alternative Olympics	Theale	5/6	4-5:45	No
Thu 14 th Dec	BISL Badminton	Theale	3/4	4-5:30	From 3pm
Tue 6 th Feb	Speed Stacking	Park House	1/2	4-5:30	No
Tue 27 th Feb	Hockey Festival	Park House	5/6	Tbc	Tbc
Wed 28 th Feb	Football vs Kingsclere School	Ashford Hill	5/6	3:30 – 4:15	No
Tue 12 th Mar	X Country	Newbury Showground	3/4/5/6	12:30 – 4pm	Yes
Tue 30 th April	Netball	Kingsclere School	5/6	3:30 – 4:15	From 3pm
Tue 26 th Mar	Rugby cluster event	Kingsclere Fieldgate Centre	5/6	3:30 – 4:30	
Tue 23 rd Apr	Kwik Cricket Dynamos Skills	Douli Abbey	3/4	10-12 or 1-3	Yes, have asked if we are likely to be sun or pm slot or both
Thu 9 th May	Tri Golf	St Barts	3/4	3:45-5:45	From 2:45
Tue 14 th May	Kwik Cricket	Falkland	5/6 Girls	Tbc	Tbc
Tue 4 th June	Kwik Cricket	Douli Abbey	5/6 Boys	10-3	Yes
Tue 18 th June	Table Tennis	Willink	5/6	3:45-5:45	From 2:45
Tue 2 nd July	Dodgeball	St Barts	KS2 Girls	3:45-5:45	From 2:45
Tue 9 th Jul	Multiskills	Theale	1/2	3:45-5:30	From 2:45