



Integrity – Determination – Community

Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter

Ashford Hill Primary



'Be the Best We Can Be'

March 15th 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another week has just flown by and the return of some sunshine has put everybody in high spirits. There is a real buzz of excitement and learning around school as we continue on with our school improvement journey. There were an array of smiling faces as children lined up for Lunch on Monday to see their World Book Day 'Book Nooks' which were on display for all to see. The children were so proud to be able to point out their work and spot the masterpieces of others – it also led to lunch queue conversations about the 'best books in the world'! As you can see – it is certainly a sight to be seen. We can't wait for you to admire these when you come in for the curriculum showcase later this term.



We have had our first set of Subject Leadership meetings with our Director of Primary. This was an opportunity to start showcasing some of the work that we are doing around our curriculum development and subject leadership. Our parent survey at the end of last year, showed us that you would like to know more about the curriculum and what children are studying. This has inspired us to take you on the journey of curriculum development with us. Later in the summer term, we will be inviting you in to share all of the wonderful, interesting and inspiring things that we will be teaching the children during their time with us at Ashford Hill. Early in September, class teachers will be sharing their class curriculum with parents – we will also begin to send home knowledge organisers so that children can share their learning with you around the dinner table, at bedtime or even during those lovely conversations in the car!

Tuesday brought a huge Key Stage 2 cross country event. There were many schools involved and our children had a great time taking part. We even came quite highly in the rankings in some of the races, so a huge well done to all 35 of our children for taking part and showing such good sportsmanship throughout the day.



While the sun was shining on Wednesday, the whole school had a very Frozen themed day. Our Year Rs and 1s enjoyed a workshop from Breaking Barriers' Natalie – apparently they could be heard for miles around dancing and singing at the top of their voices. Thank you to Natalie for providing this for us. Our youngest performers had the most wonderful few hours...



Meanwhile, the rest of the school hopped on the coaches and went to experience the West End London Production of Disney's Frozen: it was spectacular! Our children were an absolute credit to our school and to their parents. The best part, as a teacher, was to watch the children's reactions to the show itself... they were in awe of what they saw before them, as were the adults. The children rose to their feet during the curtain call and could not help but sing along! We even have a new member of the Ashford Hill Team in the form of Olaf – he will join us at all of our rehearsals to ensure that the quality is just as good when parents come to watch in July. Thank you to all of the staff and parents that made this happen and thank you to Mr Walker for leading the trip and ensuring that it ran like clockwork.



This week has seen a lot of annual conferences for Headteachers and I have been lucky enough to attend two this week. Both conferences have left me reflecting on everything that we have achieved so far, but also left me inspired about all of the wonderful achievements that lie ahead. The main theme of all of the speakers at the conferences was about momentum, building and appreciating our teams, and enriching the lives of all of our learners by inspiring them through how we, ourselves, behave as adults and the curriculum that we lovingly design for them.

A stand-out speaker for me this week was Roger Black (Olympian); he was the Keynote speaker at the Hampshire Headteacher Conference. I remember him, and his best friend Kriss Akabusi, visiting my primary school when I was much younger. I remember being inspired by him even then... not to run, or compete in the Olympics, but his mindset! The same man, 30+ years later, inspired me again (and this time I held the Olympic medal!). The main take-aways from the session really linked beautifully to what we believe at Ashford Hill.

'You don't have to have had the gold medal, to have won.' This has particular significance to our school motto *'be the best we can be'*. Working hard to achieve goals and having passion should be enough to be proud of yourself and your achievements – this rang particularly true with our Year 6s this week as they looked at their progress in the mock SATS results from October and February – they were so proud to see that their hard work and dedication was paying off and the smiles on their faces were a delight as they were not concerned about ranking themselves against each other, but witnessing the improvement in their own personal best.

Roger also shared the phrase that changed his mindset – *'Essence lies not in the victory but in the struggles'*, this is something that relates to our developing culture at Ashford Hill. Character education is of the upmost importance to



support our children as they move through the education system and on to their adult lives. It is this healthy 'struggle' to learn new ideas and challenge themselves to retain and apply new knowledge along with developing themselves as brilliant citizens and friends that really makes our children stand out at Ashford Hill. I also relate this to our staff team – we have had a few victories over the last few weeks and our team thoroughly deserved them – the 'struggle' to continuously improve and develop our school has taken commitment, creativity and real resilience for many of us. We are now in the position where we are starting to see the fruition of the hard work from all of our stakeholders at Ashford Hill and this makes the future exciting. It shows us that we are moving forward to be the best that we can be as a school.

Finally, and most importantly, my main take-away was this: Roger explained that winning a solo race was great – but winning a relay race with four of your best friends was the best feeling in the world: a shared experience. He said: *'Differences make us unique; it's the similarities that make us champions'* I truly believe that our whole school community are dedicated to making Ashford Hill the very *'Best that it can Be'* and it is with the dedication, passion and the commitment of all of us that will lead to the success of all of our children for today and the future. To see them thrive and experience the world as confident, unique and secure adults who are aware of the opportunities ahead of them will demonstrate our success and how we are collectively champions of our wonderful school – every single one of us counts.



Parents' evening will take place next week and we will send you a meeting code on Monday. 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
96.2	96	100	94.7	90.7	99.4	94.3	98.8
Well done Yr1							

Frozen Production Team – Parent Volunteer Request

If you would like to be part of this exciting and rewarding event, there will be an initial production meeting on Monday 18th March at 7pm via zoom. Here is the link to join

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83071831892?pwd=YNyGRbR99L9XFnel496viupsnRzgls.1>

Meeting ID: 830 7183 1892

Passcode: 7P9aWC

The more the merrier and there are many jobs some big and many smaller parts. It really is something magical to be a part of.

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.

After School Clubs for Summer Term

We are pleased to be able to offer the following clubs for the summer term.

Teacher led clubs will run from the week commencing 15th April 2024 until 24th May. Any external clubs (Musical Theatre, Street Dance and Football) will contact parents and let them know the dates that the clubs will run until.

Please have a look at the clubs offered and sign up before the end of the day on Friday 22nd March on the attached form to ensure that you have registered interest for your child. We will then get back to you to confirm your children's places.

Breakfast Club (Open to all children Years R-6)

Breakfast club is provided by GOL and can be booked via email to mason@golelitecoaching.co.uk. The club runs from 7.45 until 8.45 each morning. Please contact Mason for further details

Musical Theatre and Performance Club – Monday 3.25pm to 4.15pm (YR-6)

Children will learn and practice routines and musical theatre techniques throughout the term. This club will include singing, dancing and some acting skills. This club is booked directly through the breaking barriers team and will be charged at £5 per session and is charged termly. Please contact <https://breaking-barriers-theatre-company.classforkids.io/>

Street Dance – Tuesdays 3.25pm to 4.15pm (YR-6)

The very popular street dance continues with a mixed KS1 and 2 group. The children had great fun last term and they can look forward to learning more high energy dance routines this term. Please contact breaking barriers for more details. £5 per week and is charged termly <https://breaking-barriers-theatre-company.classforkids.io/>

GOL Football Club Tuesday and Wednesdays - 3.25pm to 4.30pm (YR-6)

The ever popular GOL football club continues— please contact Mason for further details and to book your child's place mason@golelitecoaching.co.uk

Cooking Club -Mondays 3.25pm-4.15pm (Y1-6)

Mrs Lang's cooking club is returning for the summer term. There will be a small fee of £2 per week towards ingredients and kitchen equipment. Due to the popularity of this club, Mrs Lang will host one group of children for the first half term and a second group of children for the second half term. Please register your interest and we will get back to you with the details of which session your child will attend. Priority places will be given to children who have not already attended cooking club, on a first come first served basis. Please do still register if your child has already attended this club in case we have any spaces available.

Fun Fitness - Thursday 3.25pm-4.15pm (Y1-3)

Mrs Yeo will be hosting her Fun Fitness club on a Thursday after school. Children are to be collected from outside Willow class at the end of the club. PE kit is advised but not essential.

SATs Booster Club – Thursdays (last date 9th May) 3.25pm to 4.15pm (Y6)

Mr Dixon will be providing additional support for SATs pupils this term after school on a Thursday. Please register your interest on the form attached for a space for your child this term.

Sewing Club – Wednesdays 3.25pm-4.15pm (Y1-6)

Mrs Walker is introducing sewing club this term. Children will work towards becoming costumiers as they create the Hidden Folk costumes for our school production of Frozen Jr. During the second half of the term, the children will create their own textiles to bring home. There will be a small fee of £12 per child towards materials and equipment for the second part of the term.

Creative Maths – Tuesdays 3.25pm-4.15pm (last date 21st May) (Y1-6)

Mrs Kingham will be guiding children in this club to use their mathematical skills to think creatively as they build their own 3D villages, towns and cities. They will move from planning through to building phases, understanding scale and how nets work.

Please book your space using the form sent to you via your email address.

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.

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
<i>Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead</i> (DSL)	<i>Vice Principal and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead</i> (DDSL)	<i>Class Teacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead</i> (DDSL)

Dates for your diary

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 am 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