



Integrity – Determination - Community

# Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter

Ashford Hill Primary



'Be the Best We Can Be'

July 19th 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I find it quite unbelievable to say that this is the final newsletter of the year. This year has gone in a flash and our young people have grown and flourished this year so quickly and wonderfully.

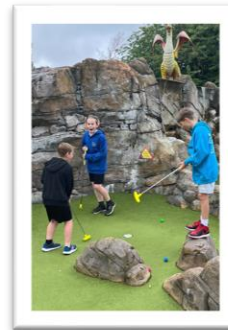
The year is ending on such a high for all of us. In the last few weeks, as a school community, we have been gaining success after success and this is coming in many ways. Our incredible results all round, the success of our school show, the happy faces that have been seen around this school as they try out their new classrooms, the joy of teachers who can see the undoubted progress of their class that they have worked tirelessly with over the last year, the laughs and shrieks of joy from the staff team as another skip arrived to help the declutter, our children playing and dancing together at the school disco – just to name a few. And just to add to that: today we heard that we have been awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award thanks to Mr Walker and his Young Leader Team. He has worked tirelessly all year to bring PE to become a real priority for our children and as a result, we have been recognised for this. Congratulations to Mr Walker for the extra hours of fixtures and planning that he has put in; it has meant that all of our children have been able to engage in school games throughout the year.

We have also been recognised as one of the top schools in Hampshire for Attendance. We have ended up in the top 5% of schools in most criteria areas. The only area that lets us down is unauthorised absences. I am hopeful that this decreases next year to ensure that we are in at least the top 5% of Hampshire schools in all criteria areas. It is a huge credit to staff, parents and children that we have achieved this! Our target is 97% attendance for the year and we are just under at 96.4%. Congratulations to all and we are really starting to prove that every school day matters. Thank you for your continued support in this area.

This week has been extremely busy; we have had transition days, where children have met their new teachers (and some existing ones), we have had two school trips out this week – the year 2 cohort enjoyed Hampton Court Palace and could not stop talking about it on their return.



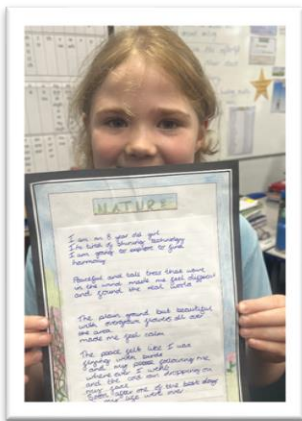
Year 6 had their final trip of Primary school as they went off to play golf after a MacDonald's breakfast in order to celebrate a successful Primary School career and fantastic progress in their SATs. I hear there were even a couple of hole in ones!



On Tuesday we invited parents in to school to enjoy all of the work that the children had to share with them from their year. It was lovely to see parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles join us to celebrate the achievements of all of our children: there were some real masterpieces to be enjoyed.



Thursday afternoon brought our final PTA event of the year – the Summer School Disco. As always, our wonderful PTA provided an afternoon of great entertainment and it was super to see the children having such fun, dressed up to the nines on the field in the afternoon. It is at this point that I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Year 6 parent PTA members who will be leaving us this year, with a particular mention to Fiona, who has been the PTA treasurer (and uniform stockiest) for many years. Without her dedication and love of Ashford Hill, so many events could not have taken place so successfully. Thank you to all of the year 6 parents and we hope that you come back and join in the fun in the future.



This week, we received high praise from a supply teacher who we have used at points during the year. He had sent a message to say:

*'Ashford Hill is a happy school. The children and staff are a team, and are settled. It feels organized and ready when you walk into the school and is such a nice place to be.'*

This was a lovely message to receive and a credit to our team and children. Also, I wholeheartedly agree.

Of course, no year is complete without the key stage 2 water fight – and all came dressed accordingly this year! What fun it was. And yes – ... the teacher vs children race. Suffice to say, we did not emerge as the champions this time... there is always next year!

Finally, none of the success we are enjoying comes without the sheer hard work and professional love that our staff team has for our school and our children. To lead and be part of such a wonderful and committed team is an absolute honour. Miss Hudson and I would like to say a very public thank you to each and every one of the team for being the very best that they can be every day!

Thank you for all of our lovely cards and gifts that we have received over the last week – it is appreciated and we love teaching your children.

I hope that you all have a wonderful break and I genuinely look forward to seeing the sparking school uniforms and smiling faces back at the school gates on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September (after a lovely long break that is!). And to our amazingly talented, funny and curious year 6s...Good Luck – we will really miss you!!

Bring on the sunshine...

Kirsty Kingham  
Principal

Congratulations to all and thank you to Miss Hudson, our attendance champion, who has supported our families this year to improve our attendance figures – every day counts!

### Games Mark – Gold Award Winners

We are delighted to announce that we, Ashford Hill Primary School, have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year.



The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.



Our sporting achievements this year include:

Badminton, Speed Stacking, Hockey, Cross Country, Kwik Cricket Skills, Miniballers, Tri Golf, Table Tennis and Cricket.



With a total of 66 young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport,

### Attendance

Please see the awards and credit that we have received for this academic year below.

**Local authority comparison**

Compare your attendance and absence in the same phase of education (primary or secondary) in your local authority. Data is from schools sharing daily attendance data with DfE. Results show data for the academic year-to-date, for compulsory school age pupils.

[How we calculate your position.](#)

**Filters**

- Special educational needs (SEN) support
  - All pupils
  - Pupils with SEN support
  - Pupils with no SEN support
- Free school meals (FSM)
  - All pupils
  - Pupils with FSM
  - Pupils with no FSM

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking
Overall attendance	96.7%	You are ranked 13 out of 401 schools
Overall absence	3.3%	You are ranked 13 out of 401 schools
Authorised absence	2.7%	You are ranked 16 out of 401 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.6%	You are ranked 58 out of 401 schools
Persistently absent	3.1%	You are ranked 8 out of 401 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1 out of 401 schools

including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.



As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. We look forward to applying once again in 2025!

### Dates for your diary

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Inset Days

4<sup>th</sup> September – School Starts

13<sup>th</sup> September – School Council Elections and Head Student Interviews

25<sup>th</sup> Sept – 6.30 Parent Volunteer Safeguarding Meeting and 7pm Meet the teacher evening for all parents to attend.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival 9.30am (provisional date)

15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October – Virtual Parents Evening

24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October – Inset Days

10<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school trip to Pantomime

11<sup>th</sup> pm and 12<sup>th</sup> am December - Nativity Performance

18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch and Parties

19<sup>th</sup> December – 2.45pm Curriculum Showcase for Parents

20<sup>th</sup> June- Sports' Day

3<sup>rd</sup> July – Oliver! Jr Performance at the Haymarket Theatre (year 2-6)

### Safeguarding

Safeguarding is our number one priority. Together we want to ensure that all children are safe, happy and secure at all times. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing of a child, please contact us.

		
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)

### A message from Local Policing

*Six weeks of summer is literally round the corner and as a parent that could create a mixed bag of emotions – one being that your child/teenager is becoming more independent and will want to see friends, and enjoy their freedom out in the community.*

*I'm Sergeant Christian Lavin from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary and I'm determined to prevent antisocial behaviour (ASB) from escalating over the holidays but I need your parental help to start conversations with your child about what behaviour is and isn't appropriate.*

*Now I'm not in the business of being known as the 'fun police', which is why I'm writing to you all **now** just as school/college breaks for summer... to simply ask if you'd have a chat with your child to make them aware that their own actions can help them to have fun without having a negative impact on anybody.*

*I can confidently say that the majority of children are considerate and respectful and uphold their school values within the community as perfect role models, however there will always be a few that do not and they can easily influence others.*

*Much like everything in the media – the antisocial few mean that groups of innocent youngsters can be tarnished with the same brush by communities as being troublesome. By speaking with your child on how to make the most of the area they live in, whilst respecting themselves, your family, and their community we can avoid that as best we can.*

*Here are our tips for approaching the topic of ASB with your children, follow this step-by-step to open up the conversation:*

<https://www.safe4me.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/P-ASB-3-1.pdf>

<https://nkhdf.nimsite.uk>

<https://www.safe4me.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/P-ASB-3-1.pdf>

*We also want to know what it is like to live in your community. Hampshire Let's Talk is our new community survey initiative that aims to understand the needs of our local communities and enables you to share any concerns with our officers.*

*Discover free and affordable groups, activities, and events happening for teenagers and young people in your area by following our local neighbourhood police social media accounts, as we'll be highlighting over summer as much of these as we can.*

*For those of you who aren't fans of social media, consider signing up to Hampshire Alert - a free messaging service that allows the police, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations keep you informed about issues in your area that are relevant to you.*

[www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk)

*Together we can make your community safer for everyone.*

*Thank you for your support.*



#### School Meals increase – September 2024



The price of school meals will increase on **Monday 2 September 2024** by 20p to £3.20 for all pupils and young people across Hampshire who purchase school meals through Hampshire County Council's Education Catering service. The meal price reflects the impact of inflation, including food price rises and associated costs.

Many thanks