



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



September 6th 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

And just like that the summer is over – in many more ways than one. It was wonderful to see the children arriving in their uniforms with smiling faces on Wednesday morning. We really have missed them.

We have also been joined by our new year R cohort who have already impressed us with their manners and attitudes. Although they are a small cohort for us this year, they have so much personality and I can already tell that it is going to be a wonderful year for them.

Over the summer a lot of work has been happening in school and we can not wait to share this with you. It is amazing what a fresh lick of paint and a bit of creativity can do. We are in the final stages on finishing the library and I am hoping that this will be completed before the meet the teacher evenings later this month. Thank you to the PTA for providing funds for us to be able to complete these projects. I will share all of the details with you over the coming weeks.

There is a lot of content in the newsletter this week, so please make a note of all of the dates and messages and if you do have any questions, please do let us know either at reception or via our email address admin@ashfordhill.hants.sch.uk.

Have a fantastic week and I am hoping that the sun will shine for at least an hour or so!

Attendance

The start of the new year gives us the opportunity to ensure that attendance remains high from the very start. Great schools have good attendance. Our school target is to keep attendance between 100% and 97%. Last year we achieved 96.6% and we know that as a community we can do even better. This is a huge focus for OFSTED and as they are due to be coming to us anytime soon, I would love to show them just how much we care about attendance and the importance of our children being at school for their learning every day.

Miss Hudson will again be leading on attendance this year, so if you have any concerns regarding your child and their attendance, please do not hesitate to speak with her on the gate to book an appointment to meet with her. She will be sending out a copy of our attendance policy and procedures to you next week. There have been some changes from the local authority and government with regards to fines which are important to understand.

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
97.1	100	100	100	80	100	100	100
What a fantastic start to our Attendance for this week.							

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 another child or your own, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Safeguarding Leads.

This year our Designated Safeguarding Lead Team are as follows:

		
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)

In assembly this week children have been taught about our lanyard system. Please speak to them and ask them what a blue, green and red lanyard mean when adults wear them around school as this is an important part of our schooling life.

Contacting Teachers

Sometimes you may need to contact a teacher regarding your child or to ask a questions – please ensure that all questions or communication for teachers is done through our admin email address. We will ensure that all emails are directed accordingly and that you will get a timely response. Please do not contact teachers personal school email addresses.

Golden Sparkle Badges

The Golden Sparkle Badge is a weekly prestigious award that is given to one or two children per week. To gain this award is huge recognition for children as they will be modelling to others how they exemplify the school values every day. Our school values underpin everything that we do and everything that we believe at Ashford Hill and in turn they guide us all (adults and children) to be the best we can be. These are the values of Integrity, Determination and Community. Over the coming weeks we will be doing lots of work around our school values and what they mean to us. I will keep you updated in our newsletters. The Golden Badges will be rewarded each week (from next week) in our celebration assembly on a Friday.

Wellington Boots and Coats:

As we like our children to be able to adventure outside in all weathers, please can you provide a pair of wellington boots to have in school. We often like to learn and play outside and this will help to keep school shoes clean (and our new carpets!). Please make sure that children have coat each day in this every changing weather.

Student Leadership:

Today we have shared the Student leadership roles and responsibilities with the children in assembly and I am sure they will be excited to share the news with you.

At Ashford Hill we are great believers in growing and developing our children to become great leaders. In order to do this, they must have the opportunity to learn, practise and develop their leadership skills therefore, allowing them to fulfil our school vision and be the best that they can be. This year there are several exciting opportunities available for our children to do just this. Below is a table of student leadership roles that children are able to apply for. We encourage children to read through the job descriptions below, with their parents, and decide if there is any role that they would like to commit to for the year ahead. It is important to note that each role requires training and a high level of commitment throughout the year rain or shine. We hope to develop leaders who:

- Can live out our school values every day
- Are kind, fair and organised
- Keep an open mind and consider the ideas of others as well as their own
- Learn from mistakes and use them to develop themselves further
- Understand the needs of others and are inclusive of all
- Seek knowledge

- Can collaborate and communicate well with others to achieve shared goals

Role	Year Group eligible	Roles and Responsibilities	Leading Team Member	Application Process and Deadline
Head Student 2 Places available	Year 6 only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting an example to other students across the school. • Meeting visitors and representing the school. • Participating in School Council meetings. • Selecting children to be awarded merit certificates in celebration assemblies. 	Mrs Kingham	Letter addressed to Mrs Kingham. Letter to include why they would like to be a Head Student and how they can support the school. Children will then be selected for interview.
Sports Ambassador	Year 6 only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting an example of positive sporting attitudes. • Supporting some classes in PE lessons. • Leading sports and games during lunch break. • Sharing which class has won Sports Class of the week by liaising with the sports coach. • Awarding Merits based on student performance and effort • Directing the duties of Young Leaders • Responsibility for the PE Shed 	Mr Walker	Letter addressed to Mr Walker and Mrs Lang to include why they would like to be sports ambassador and how they can support the school. Children will be selected on the power of their letter.
Team Captain	Year 6 Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting an example of positive attitudes. • Leading team assemblies – first Thursday of each month. (Themes to be decided each month) 	Mrs Lang	Your child will need to prepare a speech to give at team assembly and will be chosen through a short voting process.
Digital Leader	Year 6 Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading their team during sports day – keeping the team spirit up! • Maintaining a safe working environment with the school's digital equipment. • Supporting the use of technology in assemblies. • Supporting some classes with their computing lessons. 	Mr Dixon	Letter addressed to Mr Dixon to include why they would like to be digital leader and how they can support the school. Children will be selected on the power of their letter.
Student Councillor (..... Lunchtimes)	All Year Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly meetings • Listening to their peers' ideas and sharing them with the school council. • Sharing plans and decisions made by the school council with their class. 	Miss Hudson	Your child will need to prepare a poster to be displayed in school and a speech to give to their year group. The councillors will be chosen through a short voting process.
Young Leader Initial training: Tuesday Lunchtime and two afternoon sessions	Year 5 and 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with the Sports Ambassador to provide support to sports across the school • Playground games organisation at breaks and lunchtimes • Motivate other children to engage in activities during their break times • Work with the school council to ensure that 	Mr Walker	Letter addressed to Mr Walker to include why they would like to be a Young Leader and how they can support the school. Children will be selected on the power of their letter.
Librarians 10 spaces (KS2)	Years 3 – 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To complete a weekly shift in the library ensuring that it is tidy and organised ready for borrowers. • To add and remove books from computer systems • To recommend books to other children and help them to make great choices about their borrowing • Help staff to design and create library displays • Be a reading role model 	Miss Hudson	Miss Hudson would like you to create a library poster that will encourage children to borrow books. Children will be selected on the power of their poster.

All applications must be received by the class teachers on Thursday 12th September at 3.25pm. Posters for school council can be displayed from Monday 9th September.

Good luck to all children who would like to apply and we look forward to seeing your applications.

Clubs

A club's letter will be sent out by Mrs Marchetti early next week and teacher led clubs will begin from week commencing 16th September. GOL and Breaking Barriers will begin from Monday and these are bookable via the provider's website.

Homework and Reading

Now that the children have settled in this week, Phonics sessions will begin on Monday. By Friday next week all children will have their reading book and reading log sent home with them. Learning to read is the most important thing for our children to do in order to be

successful in their education and their future lives. Reading at home with your children is not only rewarding and special time together but also fundamental to their development and engagement as a learner. This year we are providing reading logs for all of our children and will send out information next week on how to use them at home. These logs will need to be sent into school everyday along with their reading book in their clear reading bag (provided by the class teacher).

Next Friday I will send home information regarding homework expectations and reading at home.

Art Aprons

At Ashford Hill we love all things art and we can sometimes get a little messy due to our splendid creativity and passion for the subject. Please can you provide an old shirt (oversized) if possible, for your child to have in school for their art lessons. It would be helpful if these could be in school before the end of next week. Class teachers will store these in the classroom.

Wednesday 25th Sept – 6.30pm Parent Volunteer Meeting

Now that we are securely part of the trust and we are on track, it is a great time to think about volunteering in school. If you have any spare time in the week and would like to join us to help with readers, support classrooms, work in the grounds on projects or if you have a special talent for the library or displays, please do come along to the meeting. This meeting will take place in the hall prior to the meet the teacher evening to make it easier to attend. We look forward to welcoming you into the school. There will be an application to complete after the event unless you have already done so.

Wednesday 25th Sept – 7pm Meet the Teacher Evening

Teachers will invite you into their classrooms on this evening to talk to you about the curriculum that your children will be covering this year, homework and classroom routines. They will also share with you how to help your children at home and the opportunities that are open to our students this year. This is also a great opportunity to meet your teacher and ask any questions that you may have. Each meeting will be approx 30 mins so if you have a child in two classes, you will be able to visit each teacher.

Frozen Photos and Brochures:

A huge thank you to our photographers - we are currently selecting images and then sending them off to print in our photobook like last year. We are hoping that this will be completed and delivered in the next month. There are thousands of fantastic photos and it is proving difficult to pick from such a beautiful array of shots. We are so lucky to have such a talented group of

parents and grandparents within our community! Thank you again to all involved.

School Photos: 30th September

School photos have been booked for Monday 30th September. We will remind you nearer the time in order to give you some warning for hair gel and buns! Please ensure that your child wears full school uniform and not PE kit on this day - PE kit can be brought to school in a bag on this day.

Outstanding Dinner Money:

If you have any outstanding dinner money or trip money from last term, please can you clear this as soon as possible. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Mrs Marchetti in the admin office and she will be able to help you.

Y6 Walking Home

In order to ensure your children safety, we will only allow Year 6 to walk home on their own. If you wish for your year 6 child to walk home, we require written consent from a parent/carer confirming that your child can walk home alone and that you have discussed all necessary safety aspects of walking home to them.

Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers and not the school, once your child has left the school premises. A form has been sent via Teacher to Parents today – please fill this in. Children will not be dismissed without the completion of this form.

Colour Run- Friday 20th September 2024 – 4pm

The Ashford Hill Primary School & Jiminy Cricket's Pre School Colour Run

The PTA are kicking off the term with a big community event – The Colour Run! Tickets are available to buy online at: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ashfordhillprimaryschool/?event=event&eventid=84262> .

A letter has been sent home today via teacher to parents to explain more about this fun event. This will be a great start to the year and we can not wait to join in the fun!



Dates for your diary

13th September – School Council Elections and Head Student Interviews

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

30th September - School Photographs (school Uniform)

Friday 4th October – Harvest Festival 9.30am (provisional date)

15th and 17th October – Virtual Parents Evening

24th and 25th October – Inset Days

28th – 1st November - Half Term

10th December – Whole school trip to Pantomime

11th pm and 12th am December - Nativity Performance

18th December – Christmas Lunch and Parties

19th December – 2.45pm Curriculum Showcase for Parents

20th June- Sports' Day

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