



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter

September 13th 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

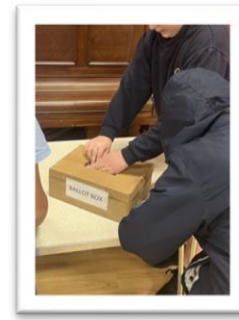
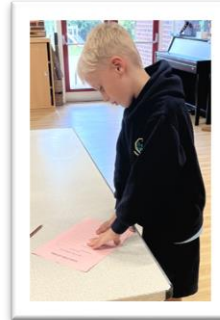
Another week has just flown by at Ashford Hill. The learning is now in full flow and I have seen several learning journeys begin with gusto. I was even lucky enough to have a visit from two little cave people from the stone age yesterday with a huge spear – it was quite frightening but fascinating listening to them tell me all about how life was in the stone age!



This week, Miss Hudson and I were lucky enough to look at a selection of the children's work in their new books. It is clear to see that they have such determination to be the best they can be and are living up to their teachers' high expectations of them. Three times during the year, we will invite you into school for them to share their books with you – I can promise you that you will be impressed with their attitudes to learning from what I have seen already this year.

This week we spoke about the meaning and importance of democracy as part of our British values and the way that we live our lives. Our student leadership elections have taken place today - the results will be out next week.

It was so pleasing to see so many of our children keen to take up a leadership position within our community; it is so important to us that our children understand that with their voices and actions, they can make a real difference to our school and ultimately our world!



I hope you have a wonderful weekend and that the weather is kind to us!

Kind regards

Kirsty Kingham

Attendance

Today Miss Hudson has sent out a letter regarding attendance and punctuality inline with the new guidance. Please have a good read as there have been some changes nationally. What a fantastic week we have had for attendance! Thank you to everyone for making such an effort to keep our children in school and learning.

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
99.7	100	99.3	100	98.8	100	100	100
What a fantastic Attendance for this week.							



Roadworks starting next week in Ashford Hill

Roadworks will start next Monday 16th September for 3 months in Ashford Hill from the new housing development through to Old Lane on the B3051. Please take extra caution during this time travelling to and from school. If your child walks to school on their own, please ensure they are aware of how to cross any roads safely whilst the roadworks are in place.

Harvest Festival

The date of the Harvest Festival has been confirmed as the Friday 18th October at 9.30am. All parents are welcome to come and join us in our Harvest celebrations at the church. Further information will be with you nearer the time.

Uniform, hair, jewellery and make up:

At Ashford Hill we have high expectations of our children and team and part of this is to take pride in our appearance to follow the school rules. Children should wear full school uniform daily and PE uniform on PE days. Shoes should be plain black for school uniform days. There are also many children that are wearing their hair down. If hair is longer than shoulder length it must be tied up. Hair can often get in the way of writing and learning; we will ask children to tie their hair back.

With the exception of one plain stud in each ear (which must be covered or removed for PE) jewellery is not permitted in school. Make up and nail polish is also not allowed. Thank you for your continued support of our high standards and expectations at Ashford Hill.

<https://www.ashfordhillprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=315&type=pdf>

Homework and Reading

Homework and reading books will come home this week. All children will be issued with a reading log - we ask that all children read for at least 10 minutes a day with an adult preferably but independently as they reach the higher year groups is also ok. Please log your child's reading in the book provided – teachers will take reading logs in every Friday to monitor reading at home.

Your child will also receive their Times Table Rock Star or Numbots log on this week and we suggest that little and often is the best way to learn. Spellings will follow the week after.

Homework will be:

Year R – Reading Daily (10 mins per day)
Year 1-6: Reading Daily (at least 10 mins per day);
Numbots or Timetable Rockstars (little and often- 5 mins per day) and spellings (sent home from next week).

After feedback from parents and children about the curriculum show case, we are looking at improving the way that we do project home work. As a staff team we

are meeting to think about the most effective way for our children to compete a project over the year and are currently considering one project per year that is based on a child's own interests. This is in the early stages of development and I will update you with our discussions and decision over the next few weeks.

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> .



Smart phones and smart watches

Smart phones and smart watches have become more popular over the last few years – however, we do not allow them in school. There are many reasons for this. They can distract from learning, there is access to the internet that is unsupervised and access to cameras that is not acceptable in primary schools due to many safeguarding issues. Please do not send children in with smartphones or smartwatches- we will ask them to remove them and for you to collect them at the end of the day from the school office. If your child does require a phone in school due to walking home alone (year 6), then please let us know; the phone must be handed in at the start of the day and will not be returned until the end of the school day. Thank you for your support on this matter.

Spare Clothes

Please do feel free to pack spare clothes for your children in their bags (or small clothes bags can be kept on their pegs). If your child is prone to accidents, or muddy slips/slides at lunchtime, please consider packing spare underwear/ socks/trousers/leggings. We would also appreciate any donations of grey socks/tights/PE trousers (boys and girls). We are happy to take any in any clothes that can be used as spares, and will send anything to charity that we don't use!

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 (**with their name in**) each day in this every changing weather.

Clubs

A letter has gone home regarding clubs this week. Please ensure that you sign up for the teacher led clubs before Monday. These clubs will begin next week.

Online Safety and Smartphone Education

I have had an email from a parent this week who has quite rightly expressed a concern regarding our children and their exposure to the internet and smartphones. As parents and schools, we are now navigating a world that is very different to the one that we grew up in.

Throughout out PSHE curriculum and personal development assemblies we often cover the dangers of smartphones and online platforms and how to use them responsibly. This is built into our safeguarding curriculum also and is revisited at regular intervals throughout the year. These sessions are very much designed to support children to see the dangers around posting online, using smartphones and social media. We are continuously adapting this curriculum to meet the needs of an ever-changing society and will often take part in many of the internet safety events throughout the year with our children.

As a parent of secondary school and college aged children, I have been shocked by some of the stories that I have heard and often wonder how is best to protect my own children and I attended a great workshop for parents regarding this recently. I am currently investigating a speaker to come into school and run an event for us as staff and parents to educate us further on the benefits and dangers and best way to parent in a world of social media and smart phones. I will update you with my progress in this next week and will hopefully have a date for us to meet together as a community and learn more.

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.




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.

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

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.

Dates for your diary

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 18th October – Harvest Festival 9.30am Confirmed 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)
