



Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



October 11th 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is unbelievable that it is very nearly the end of the half term already. The weather has certainly taken a turn and Autumn is well and truly underway.

The newsletter is a little late this week due to a very busy week at Ashford Hill. On Friday we had an external inspection on our safeguarding systems, processes and culture. Over the course of the eight-hour inspection, the inspector was pleased with what he saw. The overall report was glowing and there were some areas of excellence of which we are extremely proud. Safeguarding really is the responsibility of all of us and this was evident to the inspector throughout the day with the evidence of our culture that we provided. I have included the summary of the twenty-page report here for you to celebrate as well.

Summary: *This school cultivates an open and supportive culture in which its values of integrity, determination and community are lived out. Children feel safe at the school and are confident that their teachers look after them. Children are well behaved, polite and friendly.*

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is dynamic. CPOMS provides evidence of her being tenacious with external agencies on behalf of children. Staff are well trained and able to recognise, report and record concerns, including about colleagues.

Appropriate pre-employment checks are carried out and a Single Central Record maintained. The Trust is supportive and exercises good oversight of the school's safeguarding arrangements.

The school knows its pupils well and has plans to develop its mental health offer further. The site is safe.

The school has many strengths, including attendance, the safeguarding curriculum and the involvement/voice of its pupils.

Thank you also to those of you who have completed the parent questionnaire. We are just collating and analysing all of the results and I will let you know about this at the end of the week in my newsletter (which will arrive on Friday!). It is important for us to understand your views as parents to know what we are doing well

and to listen to how we can make beneficial improvements or tweaks to what we are doing already. It will take all of us to make our school the best that it can be for our children.

We look forward to meeting with you this week during the parents' evening sessions and updating you on how your child is progressing at school. If you are still planning to book an appointment, please do so as soon as possible.

Another busy week ahead for us in school getting ready for Harvest Festival on Friday morning. Please do send in any harvest goods ready for us to take to the food bank in the afternoon.

Kirsty Kingham

Principal

Attendance

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
98.1	100	100	96	100	97.5	100	93.3
What a fantastic Attendance for YR, Y1, Y3 and Y5 this week.							

This year we have the ability to look at our ranking within the local authority. This comparison is over the whole of Hampshire. As you can see we are doing well overall – however, I would love for us to be within the top 3 (or ideally in 1st place!). Our current ranking is already showing how much we value learning as a community. We will keep you updated with these comparison figures throughout the year.

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking
Overall attendance	98.4%	You are ranked 8 out of 412 schools
Overall absence	1.6%	You are ranked 8 out of 412 schools
Authorised absence	1.4%	You are ranked 21 out of 412 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.1%	You are ranked 11 out of 412 schools
Persistently absent	6.1%	You are ranked 15 out of 412 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1 out of 412 schools

Authorised absences are events such as medical appointments and illness that we have been made aware of in line with our attendance policy.

Unauthorised absence is usually holiday requests or illness of which we have not been made aware of.

Our safeguarding policy states that if we have not been informed of a child being ill via the attendance procedures, then we have to follow through with phone calls, a home visit if we can not get hold of the contacts that we have for your child and if we are still unable to get hold of parents, then we have to contact the police to ensure the safety of children and families.

Persistent Absence is a term given to children who have an attendance figure of below 90%.

If you have any questions regarding attendance please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will arrange for a meeting with Miss Hudson (Our Attendance Lead).

Parents' Evening

Tues 15th October and Thurs 17th October

We are looking forward to meeting with you this week. Please log on around 5 mins early so that we can see you in your allotted time slot. We are looking forward to sharing how well your children have settled in and update you with how well they are doing.

An email with details of the video conferencing will be sent out tomorrow.

Frozen Photo Books

We are still awaiting delivery of these stunning books. We will let you know as soon as they arrive- fingers crossed that it will be this week. We will send payment details as soon as they are here.

Christmas Artwork Project

Thank you to everyone who ordered items from the Christmas Artwork Project. So far, we have raised £171 for the school. If you would still like to make an order, it is possible – please contact the school office for more details.

Scholastic Book Fair – 6, 7 & 8 November



Following the great success of the book fair last year, we will be running it again.

The book fair will be open on:
Wednesday 6, Thursday 7 and Friday 8 October
08:30 – 08:55, 12:30 – 13:00 and 15:15 – 16:00
Classes will also be allocated a set time during the 3

days in which to visit the fair. During this time, children will be able to write the names of the books they would like on a wish list so parents/carers can buy them during the times above. We will have a card reader so can accept card payments and you are also able to pay online by scanning the QR codes and searching for Ashford Hill Primary School. Please remember we are a cashless school so are unable to accept payments via cash.

We look forward to welcoming you to school to browse and buy some books, and hope the fair is as successful as last year.

Harvest Festival Friday 18th 9.30am:

It is Harvest Festival time again - we are looking forward to seeing you at the church on Friday morning. The service should be around 45 minutes. As you enter the church, please leave the first 10 rows for our children. There will be somebody to direct you as you arrive.

If you would like to donate any store cupboard gifts to the food bank, please send these in before Friday so that we can use them during the festival and take them to the donation bank in the afternoon. Last year, we donated 79kg of food to the Basingstoke Food Bank.

The foodbank have shared the need for the following items:

MOST NEEDED (please avoid donating out of date items)

- Powdered Milk 🍼
- Cooking Sauces 🍲
- Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli 🍝
- Tinned Tomatoes 🍅
- UHT Milk 🍼
- Sweet Snacks/Kids Treats 🍪
- Custard 🍮

Running Low

- Tinned Fruit 🍎
- Tinned Veg 🥕
- Rice Pudding 🍡
- Nappies size 5 and above 🍼
- Instant Coffee ☕
- Marmite 🍷
- Small Packs of Tea 🍵
- Tinned Meat 🍖
- Sweet Spreads 🍯 (Jam, Marmalade etc.)
- Savoury Snacks/Crisps 🍟
- Squash 🍊
- Hot and Cold Desserts 🍰 (e.g. jelly, sponge pudding, angel delight)

PTA AGM:

The PTA are having their AGM next week in the school hall. Please see the information below; everyone is welcome and we would love you to play a part whether

big or small – everyone counts. This is an excellent opportunity to come together and continue to work together to build a community where every child thrives.

Dear Parents, Carers and School Staff

A very warm welcome from our school PTA. The PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school. It is a fun way to bring staff, parents and children together in support of a common goal. Our efforts are focused on raising money to purchase extra resources that the school needs to support our children’s education.

All parents and members of the school community can get involved in the PTA. Every year we hold an AGM. The AGM includes a report from The Chair/s & Treasurer, where you will see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used to benefit the children at our school. It is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTA Committee for the forthcoming academic year. This year the meeting will be held on Mon 21st October at 6.30pm in the school hall. Formal committee positions are Chair (or Co-Chair), Vice Chair, Treasurer & Secretary. All these positions are available to be filled plus ‘happy helper’ roles.

If you would like to stand for election or propose a candidate, please send your nominations via email to ah.pta.chair@gmail.com by the morning of Monday 21st October. Please state their name, position you are nominating them for, your name, and name of a second person who also supports the nomination.

If you would like to attend the meeting, please do come along. [Everyone is welcome](#). We look forward to seeing you on Monday 21st October. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ashford Hill PTA




Halloween Disco – 23rd October 3.30pm – 5pm (all year groups):

Next week brings the Halloween Disco. Please keep a look out for information coming this week about the event from the PTA.

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

Dates for your diary

- Friday 18th October – Harvest Festival 9.30am
- 15th and 17th October – Virtual Parents Evening
- 21st October – PTA AGM – School Hall at 6.30pm
- 23rd October – Halloween Disco 3.30pm – 5pm
- 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 December AM – iRock concerts
- 20th June- Sports’ Day
- Summer Fayre and Car Show - TBC
- 3rd July – Oliver! Jr Performance at the Haymarket Theatre (year 2-6)

Sporting Events this year – many times and dates to be confirmed – we will update these for you over the coming weeks.

Date	Event	Location	Years	Timings
19 th September	Cheam Football Festival	Cheam School	2	1:30 - 3:45
14 th October	Table Tennis	Blue Coat School	5 and 6	11am - 1:30pm
TBC October	Boys’ Football League v Kingsclere	TBC	5 and 6	TBC
TBC November	Girls’ Football League v Kingsclere	TBC	5 and 6	TBC
TBC November	Boys’ Football League v Whitchurch	TBC	5 and 6	TBC
26 th November	Netball League v St Martin’s	Ashford Hill	5 and 6	3pm
5 th December	KS1 Skipping	Costello School	1 and 2	1:30 - 3pm
TBC December	Girls’ Football League v Whitchurch	TBC	5 and 6	TBC
TBC December	Netball League v Kingsclere	TBC	5 and 6	TBC
14 th January	Girls’ Football League v Bishopswood	Bishopswood	5 and 6	2:30pm
TBC January	Boys’ Football League v Burghclere	TBC	5 and 6	TBC
5 th February	KS1 Gymnastics	Active Life Centre	1 and 2	1 - 3pm
11 th February	Cross Country	Down Grange	3, 4, 5 and 6	2pm - TBC
6 th February	Boys’ Football League v St Martins	Ashford Hill	5 and 6	3:30-4pm
TBC February	Netball League v Burghclere	TBC	5 and 6	TBC
27 th Feb	Hockey	Down Grange	5 and 6	1 - 4pm
2 nd April	Athletics Festival	Active Life Centre	3 and 4	1 - 3pm
24 th June	KS1 Quad Kids Athletics	The Priory	1 and 2	1 - 3pm
14 th July	KS1 Scatterball	Park View	1 and 2	1 - 3pm