



# Ashford Hill Primary School Newsletter



January 31st 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are already four weeks into this half term and the school is a real hive of learning. Children are deep into their learning journeys and the work that they are producing is fantastic. It is wonderful to have discussions with them regarding their new knowledge and their favourite facts. One thing that has blown me away this week is just how much our children are enjoying their English lessons. This year, we have started to investigate and implement a new approach to the teaching of writing and it seems to be inspiring children across the whole school. We are looking forward to sharing the outcomes of their work with you later this term.

On Tuesday this week we were visited by Jason Ewell, our PE school Improvement partner. He spent the day working with Mr Walker (our PE leader) and the rest of the team to continue to embed the Real PE programme. He was hugely impressed with the progress that we have made as a team and the quality of teaching and learning that he saw. He commented on the positivity and learning behaviours that our children have and that they are a real credit to us. We were very proud to hear this.

Wednesday saw the Multiplication Tables Check meeting for our year 4 parents. If you were unable to make this meeting, we have sent out an email today with the PowerPoint presentation and information that you will need regarding the test. If you do have any further questions regarding this, please get in touch with the admin office.

Yesterday saw our Year 5/6 Boy's Football team secure a 3-1 win to Burclere Primary School. They showed both determination and integrity during the match. Thank you to Mr Walker for arranging these opportunities for our children. Thank you also to Mrs Liddeatt and her car, who were our last-minute saviours of the day due to the mini bus breaking down.

Yesterday I also had the privilege of speaking at a Regional Maths Hub event regarding our school improvement journey. I was so proud to talk through everything that we have achieved as a team and as a community over the past three years. It really has flown by and now we are seeing the fruition of our big ideas, hard work and determination. It is always inspiring to be in a room with the curriculum writers and like-minded people to reflect and to consider our next steps. As a result, I am sat here today revisiting our maths curriculum coverage and development to ensure that it is the best it can be. This is a part of my job that I particularly love and look forward to sharing it with the team next week.

This evening, Film Club will be in full flow, with the smell of popcorn filling the halls. These events are fantastic for our fundraising. Thank you to the PTA for making this possible for our children and for the amount of time that you dedicate to our school.

Next week sees just as busy a week – the choir are off the O2 on Monday to sing in a choir of 8000! We are very much looking forward to this. I understand that there has been some problem with the Axis Ticket app – Mrs Marchetti will sort these issues on Monday with parents prior to the start of the event. I look forward to sharing some pictures of the event with you next week.

I hope that you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you next week.

Kirsty Kingham  
Principal

## Attendance

Attendance % (whole school target 97%)							
Whole School	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
99.3	100	99	100	100	100	98.8	97.3
Well, done YR, Y2, Y3 and Y4							

## Learning Support Assistant Vacancy at Ashford Hill Primary – Closing Date 3<sup>rd</sup> February

The job description and application forms for this role can be found on our school website. Please share far and wide.

<https://www.ashfordhillprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=44>

## Request for Jogging Bottoms (spare uniform)

If you have any spare navy jogging bottoms that could be donated to our spare uniform pile it would be greatly appreciated- all ages.

## Children's Gate

Please ensure that any of the gates to the school grounds are not propped open. This is due to safeguarding. If gates are left propped open this makes the site unsecured and it may be a few minutes before we can close it.

## Statutory Testing for this Academic Year

Every year there are statutory assessments that take place in all Primary Schools across the country; the results of these assessments are shared with the department of education so that we have a national

picture of where are children are in their levels of attainment. The following assessments will take place this year:

Early Years Baseline Assessment – this is an assessment that took place in September and reports on children's starting points. This information is then used to track their progress throughout their schooling career.

Early Years (Early Learning Goals/Good Level of Development) Assessment – this is completed by Miss Hudson and her year R team at the end of the year. This is teacher judgement and the children will not sit any formal assessments.

Multiplication Tables Check - Year 4 only. This assessment is administered in June of this year. Children will be assessed online by completing 25 multiplication questions. This data will then be shared and compared nationally. This is a relatively new assessment as there is much research to show that if children are secure in their times table knowledge, they will be much more successful as they move through their schooling at all stages.

Key Stage 2 SATS – Year 6 will sit these in May this year. They will complete written assessments in the following subjects (under test conditions):

Reading

Spelling

Grammar and Punctuation

Mathematics (arithmetic and reasoning).

They will also be assessed by their teacher on their attainment in writing.

Previously Year 2 would also sit end of key stage assessments. These are no longer statutory, however, we will still complete these papers with our children in a very informal way as they support our teacher assessment to record their progress during Key Stage 1. This is not reported to the department of education and is just stored at school level.

At all stages we ensure that our children are ready for these assessments and that they are supported to be the best they can be without anxiety. Our children enjoy the challenge of finding their personal best due to our nurturing approach to these assessments.

If you do have any further questions regarding Statutory Assessment, please let the office know and we will get back to you.

### Year 6 Parents' Evening

Mrs Lang and I will be holding a year 6 virtual parents evening on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> for our year 6 parents. This will be an opportunity for us to update you on the current progress of your children prior to the SATs and offer any support that may be necessary at this point in time for them to aid their transition to secondary school. Mrs Marchetti will send out the available slots via our parents' evening booking system on Monday.




## Holiday Camp at St Gabriel's School this Easter and Summer

Please find below link for Holiday Camp  
<https://docsend.com/view/s/483hh4fd5xdkmifm>

### 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.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads 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)

### Dates for your diary

31<sup>st</sup> January – Junior Road Safety – Be Bright Be Seen Day -Dress Brightly

29<sup>th</sup> January – Times Table Parent Meeting on Zoom

3<sup>rd</sup> February – Young Voices Concert

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

Summer Fayre and Car Show - TBC

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

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