

**Dates for the diary**

**14th March:** Author visit - Cliff McNish - book signing from 3.30pm

**14th March:** Parent-Teacher meetings 3.50 - 7.30

**21st March:** Reception 'Books for Breakfast' - 8.15am

**22nd March:** Nursery 'Books for Breakfast' - 8.15am and Y4M class assembly - 9am

**23rd March:** Y3 'Books for Breakfast' - 8.15am and Y1 trip to St John's church

**24th March:** Y3 'Books for Breakfast' - 8.15am and PTA Spring Festival - 3.30pm

**28th March:** Y4 'Books for Breakfast' - 8.15am

**29th March:** Y1 'Books for Breakfast' - 8.15am

**30th March:** Y5 'Books for Breakfast' - 8.15am

**31st March:** Y6 'Books for Breakfast' - 8.15am, e-safety parents workshop - 9am and 'Keeping it cool' show in school for Y4, Y5 and Y6

**31st March:** Last day of term.

**3rd - 17th April:**  
**Easter break**

**18th April:** Children back at school

**18th April:** Y1 trip to Greenwich Ecology Park

**1st May:** May Day (Bank Holiday) School closed.

**Attendance**

In the last fortnight our overall school attendance was 95.6%% which is much better than the attendance for the fortnight before which was 93.3% so keep it up! The attendance figures for the last fortnight were:

- Year 3: 99.5%
- Year 4M: 99.3%
- Year 1: 98.6%
- Year 6N: 98%
- Reception: 96.5%
- Year 4F: 96.4%
- Year 6A: 95.6%
- Year 2: 94.2%
- Year 5: 92.9 %



School success starts with attendance



**Books for breakfast!**

In addition to all our book activities we did last week as part of book week, we are carrying on our book and reading focus by inviting all parents to attend a 'Books for Breakfast' session in their child's class. Have a look at the 'Dates for the diary' section opposite for the date for your child's class.

The drop in sessions will start at 8.15 am and are a chance to read or browse a variety of books with your child and to maybe learn about a few new books or genres that you haven't come across yet. See you there!

**Safeguarding update**

*Safeguard - to protect from harm or damage with an appropriate measure*



Keeping children safe online is a growing issue for parents and schools. At parents' evening we have some information for you to look at and we are looking to gather your views on what the school can most usefully do to keep your children safe online and get them into good habits when using computers, phones and tablets. We will also be running a parents' workshop on e-safety that we would like someone from each family in Y5/6 to attend. This will take place on 31st March at 9am. Parents from all other year groups are more than welcome to come but we will be targeting parents of our older children as most of our examples of unsafe online behaviour has come from these two year groups.

**INSET days**

You will have seen from the list of term dates sent out last month that we have two remaining INSET days this academic year. These will be: Monday 15th May and Monday 5th June. **The school will be closed to children on those days.**

**The first day of school for the children in September will be Monday 4th September.**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

As many of you know, Ashleigh (Nursery) and Susi (Y5) are both expecting babies. They will be going on maternity leave at the end of this term. Nursery will be covered by Christy Smith who will be working alongside Ashleigh from next week and Leo Wallace will be covering Susi. As many of you know, Leo was the Y4 class teacher last year so knows the children really well and is already in school working with them this term.

## News from Nursery and Reception

Well done to everyone who came dressed up for Book Day on Friday - we loved seeing your costumes and it certainly inspired many conversations about our favourite books and characters! EYFS enjoyed sessions with the author Nick Butterworth this week and loved observing him at work drawing large scale illustrations of his favourite characters and animals! On Friday we got together with Year 6 for some buddy reading and den making, which the children enjoyed thoroughly. Over the next couple of weeks we will be hosting book sharing sessions before school called 'Books for Breakfast' (see 'Dates for the diary' for the dates)- we hope to see you all there, younger siblings welcome too!

**Ashleigh Mugridge**

### News from Y1, Y2 and Y3

I can't believe we are half way through this term already, time flies when you're having fun! The children enjoyed a jam packed book week last week. We all were inspired by the children's author/illustrator Nick Butterworth when he came to visit on Tuesday. We also enjoyed dressing up on Friday in some great costumes and had a great time making dens and sharing book with our book buddies from further up the school. We will be having some 'Books for Breakfast' session before the end of term so keep a look out for the dates!

**Jane Bickley**

### News from Y4, Y5 and Y6

It's been another busy fortnight for Key Stage 2. Year 6 have begun their new topic of Everyday Heroes: Black History and enjoyed a learning walk around the city of London to learn about the history of our capital city. On Friday, all of the children looked incredible in their costumes for World Book Day and we look forward to welcoming author Cliff McNish on Tuesday. Thursday evening also saw the first of our spring term parents' meetings. We had a fabulous attendance and are all looking forward to the second evening this Tuesday.

**Andy McPartland**

### Inclusion news by Faye Howard - Inclusion Leader

### *The* INCLUSION NEWS

It was great seeing a number of parents on Thursday evening, I look forward to seeing more of you on Tuesday. If you have not requested me in one of your meetings, please feel free to pop into my room for a chat. Also if you have any concerns following your meetings with a teacher and you wish to chat to me further, please email me: [fhoward@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:fhoward@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk)

I am responsible for the planning of interventions and the management of additional needs within the school. I can also access support from outside agencies if we both (parents and school) feel that this is necessary, we can access the Specific Learning Difficulty Team (dyslexia), Educational Psychologist, Drumbeat Outreach (ASD support) and we have a Speech and Language Therapist in school every Tuesday.

Emma (Year 2 teacher and ICT Co-ordinator) and I went to an interesting course on Friday morning to find out how we can use our iPads in the classroom more effectively and the ways in which they can support children with their learning and we are looking forward to implementing what we learnt.

**Faye Howard**

### Governors

### Tackling attendance at Ashmead - Harriet Knight, governor

One of the key focus areas for Ashmead this year is attendance. Whilst the school worked hard on this last year and saw the overall figure improving, we still have work to do (Ashmead still sits below the national average of 96% average attendance.)

One problem is the fact that 11% of the children at the school would be classed as having 'persistent absence'. The term 'persistent absence' was actually reclassified last year as meaning children having less than 90% attendance (previously it was less than 85%). So needless to say the parameters have got a lot tougher, but for good reason! Putting that in context, a child with 90% attendance would be missing 1 day of school every two weeks. That doesn't sound like a huge amount, but when you do the maths, over the course of 10 years of school this would accumulate to a whole year missed. Key contributors to this are what we call 'unauthorised absences', with half of these being for holidays during term time but it is also crucial for us to reduce time off for illness wherever possible. There will, of course, be times when children are unavoidably at home due to illness but we are keen to work with families to minimise this, e.g. children coming to school if they are 'under the weather' with the school being informed so we can keep an eye on them and let you know if they will struggle to get through the day. In the school's experience most children who are encouraged to come to school like this will have a good day once they are here.

During the Children, Families and Communities meeting held last week, the Governors reviewed the schools robust action plan for improving attendance, specifically focusing on reducing persistent absence over the coming months. This included; relaunching the reward system for children with strong attendance e.g. a cinema treat for children with over 97% attendance, weekly support from Lewisham's Attendance and Welfare Officer, closer monitoring by staff and closer working with parents through dedicated attendance support, children tracking attendance progress in class and reviews against class/school targets, a focus on ensuring that even from EYFS the right ethos and habits around attendance are established and raising the profile of attendance amongst parents to ensure it's firmly on the agenda. So please do keep an eye out for further communication from the school on this matter.