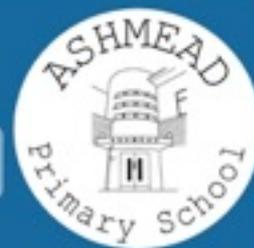




Ashmead  
Primary School



<http://ashmeadprimary.wordpress.com/>

18th December 2015

### Dates for the diary

**21st Dec - 1st Jan (inc.) Christmas break**

**4th Jan: INSET day (no children in school)**

**5th Jan:** Children return to school

**7th Jan:** Open Morning for prospective Reception parents - 9.30 am

**15th - 19th Feb (inc): Half term break**

If you have a child in KS2, then next term's dinner money is **£55.10** (5th Jan- 12th Feb).

Remember, if your child is in Reception, Y1 or Y2, your child is entitled to FREE school meals so do consider this as an option if you don't already.

### Attendance

Our attendance target for this year is 97%

In the last fortnight, our overall attendance was just 95.8%

Each classes attendance figures are as follows:

Year 4: 98.5%  
Year 5J: 98.5%  
Year 6: 98.3%  
Year 2: 97.5%  
Year 5E: 97.4%  
Year 3V: 96.2%  
Year 3U: 93.4%  
Reception: 91%  
Year 1: 90.8%

We are looking forward to seeing better overall attendance next year and we thank you for your co-operation with this.

### News from the phases

It's been a busy couple of weeks in EYFS! We have been really busy creating the props and costumes for our Christmas play - we really hope you enjoyed our unique version of 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'! Thank you to all the parents and carers who came yesterday to watch the EYFS play - it has definitely got us all in the Christmassy mood!

Thank you also to the parents and carers who accompanied Nursery on their trip to The Albany theatre on Wednesday. The children (and adults!) thoroughly enjoyed the production of 'The Bear' - the puppet was just incredible! Take a look at the photos on the blog!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas from all the EYFS team.  
**Ashleigh Mugridge**

What an exciting week we have had in KS1! The children worked so hard in the build up to their Nativity and it really did pay off. Their fantastic singing, dancing and acting skills made for a very special performance. Thank you to everyone who made it to the performance and to the KS1 staff for all of their hard work.

Please look out for your child's topic homework in their book bags today. Whilst this is an optional task, it is a really great way to build your child's interest in their next topic.

**Lauren Duncan**

This week in Key Stage 2 has been incredibly festive and the children and staff have been working hard to create such a fantastic atmosphere around school.

Firstly we enjoyed another successful Christmas fair last Saturday before thoroughly enjoying our annual Christmas sing along. This year we had a record number of parents so thank you all again for your continued support.

This afternoon sees us all enjoying our class Christmas parties during which we will reflect on all of our successes during the autumn term whilst begin to consider the new challenges that Spring will host.

From all of the staff in Key Stage 2 we wish you a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

**Andy McPartland**

**Dear parents and carers,**

It has been so lovely at school over these last couple of weeks watching class assemblies and Christmas performances that show off your children's many talents (ably supported by our brilliant staff of course).

These shows are a great way of communicating to you all how confident the children have become and it has been lovely talking to lots of you at the end of these assemblies and shows. However, I wanted to write to you briefly before the holidays regarding communications in a broader sense.

As you will know, the governors are at the moment running a project aimed at improving communications between parents and the school. Lots of you filled in the green forms to do with this at our recent parents' evenings - thank you.

The green forms haven't been fully analysed yet but a quick look through shows an issue we hope we can get better at very quickly. And that is letting parents know in good time if they are needed for a trip. It is understandably frustrating to not hear about this, especially if you have to make work arrangements. Thanks to the parents who alerted us to this issue.

The actions arising from the project will be decided later in the year but that doesn't stop us making improvements on the go. For example, we have started copying the contents of letters into the body of parentmails where possible so that you don't have to open an attachment. A small change, I know, but some parents have told us this helps the emails seem less formal.

Communicating effectively is very important to me and it's something we strive to do well. I think you should expect high quality communications from us. However, communication is a two-way process of course and, in the spirit of making improvements on the go I would like to request the following:

Firstly, please remember that if you have concerns about another child's behaviour (e.g. before and after the school day) then you need to speak to a member of staff about this - it is not helpful to speak directly to the child.

Secondly, if you would like to discuss the impact of staff absence on the children then please contact me directly. It can be worrying if staff are away and I'm always happy to discuss how we try to minimise the impact of this. However, if a member of staff is off sick they are entitled to confidentiality regarding the illness so we cannot answer queries as to why they are ill and, of course, it certainly isn't appropriate to ask the member of staff themselves.

Finally, from January, if you would like to request a term-time absence for your child you will need to meet with me to communicate this rather than just filling in the form.

I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas holiday and I look forward to seeing you all on January 5th.

Best wishes,

Sean