



Ashmead
Primary School



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

18th January 2016

Dates for the diary

- 21st Jan:** Y4 trip to Butser Ancient Farm
- 22nd Jan:** Y2 trip to The Science Museum
- 22nd Jan:** Y1 after school cake sale - 3.30pm
- 26th Jan:** Nursery trip to The Painted Hall
- 27th Jan:** Kidscape workshop for parents - 9am in the small hall
- 28th Jan:** Y3V trip to The Chocolate Museum
- 29th Jan:** Y1 trip to London Zoo
- 8th Feb:** Y3U trip to The Chocolate Museum
- 8th Feb:** E-safety workshop for parents - 6pm
- 9th Feb:** Reception trip to Discover Centre
- 12th Feb:** Thor visiting Y6!
- 15th - 19th Feb (inc):** Half term break
- 23rd Feb:** Parent-Teacher meetings 3.50 - 7.30pm
- 24th - 26th Feb:** Y4 School Journey
- 25th Feb:** Parent-Teacher meetings 3.50 - 6.00pm (except Y4)
- 26th Feb:** Y6 on Black History walk
- 29th Feb - 4th March:** Book Week
- 3rd March:** Y2 trip to Maritime Museum
- 4th March:** Dressing Up Day!
- 24th March:** Y1 trip to Discovery Recycling Centre
- 25th March - 8th April (inc)**
Easter break
- 18th - 22nd April:** Science Week
- 20th April:** Family Science workshop - 6pm
- 5th May: INSET Day**
(school being used as a polling station)
School closed to children

Attendance and Punctuality

As you know, our attendance target for this year is 97%

In the last fortnight, the first two weeks of this term, our overall attendance was 96.2%, up a little on last fortnight's attendance.

Each classes attendance figures are as follows:

- Year 3V: 98.4%
- Year 5J: 98.4%
- Year 6: 98.1%
- Year 5J: 97.4%
- Year 2: 97.3%
- Reception : 97.5%
- Year 3U: 95%
- Year 1: 94.8%
- Year 4: 93.4%



We are also having a focus on punctuality.

The playground is open from 8.45 and **we recommend that all children are in the playground by 8.55 am** so they are able to start their day calmly and promptly at 9.00 am.

Please do aim to get your child to school on time (e.g. before 9am). All children should be in the playground BEFORE the bell rings!

Your help with this will really support your child to have the best start they can have. Thank you.

Spelling focus

You will have noticed on Friday, if you have a child in Y1 - Y6, that they brought home a new home spelling book to practise words and spelling patterns in at home.

All the children have had a practice at school about how to use the books at home and there is also a handy 'how to' guide in the front of every book giving ideas of how you can support your child's spelling learning at home.

Books will be coming home every Friday and should be returned to school every Wednesday.

We think this will have a really positive impact on each child's spelling and we thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

If you have any questions about this new spelling book, see your child's class teacher. Thank you!

Spelling



News from Key Stage 1

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of a new term at Ashmead. Year 1 and 2 have had a fantastic start to 2016, with lots of fantastic learning linked to their new topics already underway. They are looking forward to trips to London Zoo and the Science Museum this half term.

Every morning children take part in an early work activity such as handwriting or mental maths. When children arrive late they miss out on this activity completely. This obviously has a big impact on their learning so please make sure you are on time every day. Thank you for your co-operation.

Lauren Duncan

News from Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 have made a fantastic start to 2016. During our daily assemblies, we have been thinking about and setting ourselves very specific New Year's resolutions. You can see some of these on the Ashmead blog. We have been thinking about how to improve as learners as well as developing our wellbeing.

There are plenty more trips coming up for all of our classes- these even include a visit from Thor himself! This half term we are continue to focus on our individual targets and it is so important that you continue to read daily and practice spellings and times tables at home.

Andy McPartland

News from EYFS

Happy New Year! Its been great for us to see all of the children return back from a long break feeling completely settled in the Nursery and Reception environments! In Nursery, we have thoroughly enjoyed talking about and sharing toys that are really special to us and were really interested in sharing our feelings about losing a special toy after reading the story 'Dogger'. We have also been working on our hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills this week by sewing our own felt illustrations - come and take a look at our gallery wall! Reception have been extremely motivated and engaged by dinosaurs over the last two weeks and have been completely absorbed by the mysterious egg that appeared in Reception! They have been very busy making signs, labels and information posters about the egg and different dinosaur types - they are now experts! Watch this space to find out what they discover inside when it hatches!

Ashleigh Mugridge

Curriculum and Achievement Sharon Shrubsall, parent governor

Governors

Dean Johnstone and I met with Jane Bickley last month to discuss how, in Y1 – Y6, children's progress is being assessed using the school's new 'Compass' assessment system in line with the New National Curriculum. This is a system that has been developed by a group of schools across Greenwich and Lewisham and that Ashmead piloted last year in Y1 and Y5.

The Compass system has targets for Reading, Maths and English, which children work towards and it works on the basis of children achieving a series of targets applicable to their age and end of year expectations.

We talked about how each child at Ashmead is closely monitored, as each class teacher, Jane and Sean have regular pupil progress meetings, as well as twice termly assessments to monitor how they are progressing. In terms of progress it was clear teachers are very ambitious for the children. During the Pupil Progress meetings, predicted progress is estimated for the following term, gaps in learning are identified and children's progress is tracked.

Dean and I found the meeting very useful as it provided clarity about how the children at Ashmead are being assessed and how progress is tracked within the school. It illustrated how thorough the school is when tracking children's progress and showed how gaps for particular groups of children are swiftly identified and measures are put in place to close those gaps.

Anti-Bullying Workshop for Parents and Carers

A workshop for parents and carers delivered by the charity Kidscape about bullying will take place on Wednesday 27th January at 9.00am in the Small Hall.

Kidscape are an anti-bullying charity that we have been working with this year and we have been implementing their strategies during circle times with our Year 5 classes. As part of this work, they are offering this workshop to **all** of our parents and carers. It will cover the following areas:

- To find out about some of the anti-bullying work that the school has been doing.
- To find out what bullying is and how it differs from teasing.
- To look at the types of bullying that people experience.
- To learn to read some of the signs that a child is being bullied.
- How to support a bullied child.
- What not to do if your child confides in you about bullying.
- How to report bullying.
- How to help your child when a situation arises.
- How to deal with cyber bullying.
- How to protect your child online.



If you require further information, please could you contact Faye Howard, our Inclusion Leader:
fhoward@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk

OPAL Programme

... supporting better, healthier play & learning in school

This year, we have invested in developing a new approach to play developed by OPAL, the 'Outdoor Play and Learning' Project.

Children in British primary schools spend 20% or 1.4 years of their school attendance in play and research shows that play contributes to children's physical and emotional health, well-being, approach to learning and enjoyment of school. Given the importance of play in children's lives and current concerns about children's health and opportunity to access time and space to initiate their own play outdoors, there are considerable benefits for children, parents, school and the wider community from participating in the OPAL programme.

To make the programme really take off at Ashmead we are having regular planning meetings about how to develop our playground play opportunities and this is where you can help! We will be collecting a variety of 'loose parts' for the children to play and interact with during their time outside. We are starting with developing collections of soft toys, bags (handbag type bags, not plastic carrier bags) and large cardboard boxes. If you have any of these materials that you are happy to donate to school then do let us know. We will be taking donations the week after next (week beginning 1st February) so if you are having a sort out or early spring clean do keep any useful bits for our play project!



Thanks for your help!