

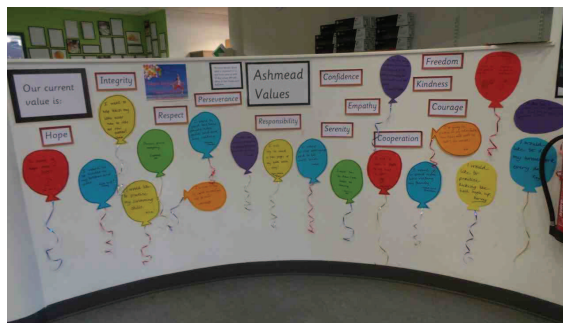


Dates for the diary

- 27th - 30th Jan:** 'Cloth of Gold' Art Project
- 30th Jan:** Y5 trip to the Painted Hall
- 2nd Feb:** Y5 trip to Greenwich Picturehouse
- 2nd Feb:** Y1 handwriting parent workshop 9.00 - 9.45 a.m.
- 3rd Feb:** Y2V spelling/handwriting parent workshop 9.00 - 9.45 a.m.
- 4th Feb:** Reception trip to Pizza Express
- 4th Feb:** Full Governing Body Meeting - 6pm
- 5th Feb:** Y1 hearing tests
- 5th Feb:** Nursery (am) trip to Deptford Lounge
- 6th Feb:** Y2J spelling/handwriting parent workshop 9.00 - 9.45 a.m.
- 10th Feb:** Y1 trip to London Zoo
- 11th Feb:** EYFS Reading Parents' Workshop: 9am
- 12th Feb:** Y2J class assembly: 9 am
- 12th Feb:** Nursery (pm) trip to Deptford Lounge
- 16th - 20th February**
February half term break
- 23rd Feb:** Children back to school
- 26th Feb:** Parent-Teacher meetings 3.50 - 6pm
- 2nd - 6th March:** Book Week
- 2nd March:** Chris Powling author visit
- 3rd March:** Big Foot KS1 drama workshops
- 4th March:** Parent-Teacher meetings 3.50 - 7.30pm
- 5th March:** World Book Day - book character dress up day!
- 6th March:** Big Foot KS2 drama workshops
- 6th March:** PTA Quiz Night (details soon!)

Our values at Ashmead

As you know we have created a list of 12 values and we are focusing on two every half-term. At the moment we are focusing on Hope:



These values were arrived at through consulting staff, governors and children. We thought hard about the values that were important to us and made a huge list that we whittled down to our current 12:

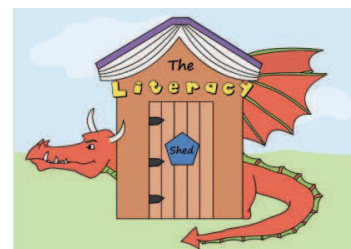
Respect, Perseverance, Kindness, Responsibility, Hope,
Empathy, Confidence, Integrity, Cooperation, Reflection,
Courage and Freedom

Next week each class will have the opportunity to work with an Arts Company 'Cloth of Gold' and contribute to a banner representing the values which will eventually hang in our stairwell.

Choosing only 12 values was very difficult and we are now giving strong consideration to having a second set of 12. The advantage of this would be that we could have a two-year programme which would help to keep our monthly approach fresh.

We will be consulting our 'long list' that our 12 values came from to think about what would be suitable values for the second year. We invite all families to email headteacher@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk with suggestions for values to include in this process.

New Literacy shed in Nursery and Reception Outdoor Area



We are currently converting one of our storage sheds in the EYFS outdoor area into a reading/writing cosy 'nook' and are on the look out for cushions, blankets or beanbags that might help make it feel more inviting. If you have any of these resources at home (spares, ones that you might be ready to upgrade/get rid of?) then please could you let any of the Nursery or Reception staff know. Thanks very much!

Calling all scientists... How do animals stay warm in winter?

It's cold outside. How do animals keep warm? When it's cold outside, some animals hibernate. Some hibernating animals don't move or eat for three months! How do they stay warm? Try this experiment and find out.

What you need:

Vaseline, two plastic bags, a bowl of water and ice cubes, a stopwatch, two large rubber bands and a willing volunteer

How to:

Put one hand inside one of the plastic bags.

Ask your helpful volunteer to spread a thick layer of Vaseline over your other hand.

Slide the second plastic bag over the hand with the Vaseline on.

Squeeze the air out of the bags.

Put a rubber band over the top of each of the plastic bags to stop them falling off. Make sure it's not too tight!

Stick your hands in the bowl of ice water. Don't let any water get inside the plastic bags.

Time how long you can keep each hand in the water for. Make sure you take each hand out when it starts to feel uncomfortable. Don't hurt yourself!

Did one of your hands start to feel uncomfortable before the other one?

What's happening?

Most people can keep the hand covered in Vaseline in the water for longer than the other hand. Vaseline is an insulator. It keeps the heat from your hand escaping into the water. The hand without Vaseline doesn't have this extra protection and it loses heat quickly to the water.

Animals grow a thick layer of fat before they hibernate. This fat acts just like Vaseline. It is an insulator. Fat helps to keep the animal's body heat inside the animal. It prevents the body heat being lost to the surroundings.



'My Maths' and 'Bug Club'

Don't forget to sign on with your child to their Bug Club and My Maths accounts.



MyMaths.co.uk

Governor News - New Governors Wanted!



Are you, a friend, colleague or neighbour interested in volunteering as an Ashmead governor?

One of our long-standing community governors will soon start to wind down their involvement in the governing body. This means we will need to find another governor who would like to give something back to their community.

Governors have a really important role in the long-term development of the school. Their input on issues like finance, site management and curriculum development helps to influence and improve school performance. There is free training available and it is a great opportunity to use and improve transferrable skills.

The main things required are enthusiasm, common sense and a desire to make a difference, as well as a commitment to some meetings, and school visits usually based around a particular focus that you might have as a link governor. We are particularly interested in hearing from prospective governors with knowledge of financial management/accounting, or communications (including web and digital). We would also like to ensure that we are as representative as possible of our diverse community.

Governors can make a huge difference to the success of the school by giving just a few hours of their time each month (we spend about 6-8 hours per month during term time, including attending meetings, doing background reading, undertaking training and making school visits).

To find out more, please contact Harriet Becher (Vice Chair) on harriet_becher@yahoo.co.uk.