



Ashmead Primary School



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

26th September 2016

Please put these dates in your diary so you don't miss any school events!

- 3rd Oct:** Open Art House classroom exhibitions - 3.30 - 4pm
- 10th - 14th Oct:** Y6 on school journey
- 10th Oct:** Thor visiting Y5!
- 12th Oct:** Y1 parent workshop - reading and phonics
- 13th Oct:** Y2 parent workshop - reading and phonics
- 14th Oct:** Y3 trip to Horniman Museum
- 18th Oct:** Y1 trip to Museum of Childhood
- 19th Oct:** 9.15am PTA AGM
- 20th Oct:** Nursery and Reception parent Cafe - Reading 9.00 - 9.30
- 20th Oct:** Y4 trip to Crofton Roman Villa
- 24th - 28th October- Half term break**
- 3rd Nov:** Parent-teacher meetings 3.50 - 6.00
- 8th Nov:** Parent-teacher meetings 3.50 - 7.30
- 17th Nov:** Nursery parent Cafe - Letters and Sounds
- 18th Nov:** Reception Parent cafe - Phonics
- 17th and 18th Nov:** Y6 performing Macbeth at The Albany
- 25th Nov:** Y6 out to Churchill War Rooms
- 2nd Dec:** Y2 trip to Science Museum
- Saturday 10th December - Christmas Fair**
- 14th Dec:** KS1 Production - 2.30pm
- 15th Dec:** EYFS Production - 2.30pm
- 21st Dec:** Last day of term
- 3rd Jan:** INSET day (school closed to children)

Meet the Teacher meetings

Thanks to everyone who came to our annual 'Meet the Teacher' meetings last week. If you couldn't make them or if you'd like a reminder of what we covered, we have put the slides from the meetings on the class pages on the website. The teacher's email addresses are also on the slides. *Please feel free to email within the working hours of 8am - 6pm.*

Thank you.



EYFS, KS1 and KS2

As a school we often refer to the phases by their collective name, e.g. EYFS or KS1 but we know that this is sometimes confusing for parents. Therefore this is a quick reminder about which year groups are in each phase/key stage.

EYFS (Early Year Foundation Stage) is Nursery and Reception
Key Stage 1 is Year 1 and Year 2
Key Stage 2 is Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

Health and Safety

As you will know from our talks within the Meet the Teacher meetings last week, we take safeguarding your children very seriously and we regularly review this commitment and our systems. As such we have noticed that many children are wearing jewellery to school. We encourage the children to be active both inside and out and jewellery (necklaces, bracelets, bangles, dangly or hooped earrings) can become caught and cause accidents and so should not be worn to school.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.



Parent and Teachers' Association (PTA)

We will be holding our annual PTA AGM on Wednesday 19th October so the new committee has plenty of time to start planning the Christmas fair! This year we have decided to hold the AGM during the day in the hope that more people might be able to attend. Don't forget that as a parent or carer at Ashmead **you are automatically a member of the PTA.**

It would be great to see lots of you at the AGM on 19th October.



Whole School Art and Literacy Project



As last year, we have again started our school year with a whole school art and literacy project. This year we have based our work on Shaun Tan's book, 'The Lost Thing'. We would like to invite all parents and carers into school for our 'Open Art House' on Monday 3rd October from 3.30 - 4pm to see your children's amazing work in their classrooms.

We look forward to seeing you here!

News from Nursery and Reception

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year over the last few weeks and have enjoyed meeting lots of new children and their families as well as welcoming back some familiar faces! Nursery have been settling well into their daily routines and are beginning to explore their environment, make new friendships and give us an insight into their personalities and interests. Reception have also settled nicely and are enjoying new changes such as lunchtime and exploring the big playground. They loved meeting their Year 6 buddies last week and look forward to many adventures with them over the year! If you are a new family to Ashmead then don't forget to fill in your 'Me, Me, Me' booklet (from your home visit) with your child and bring them in to school next week!

Ashleigh Mugridge

News from Y1, Y2 and Y3

The new school year has got off to a brilliant start with the children being really enthusiastic about their new year groups and teachers. Y2 have already launched their topic 'Festivals and Celebrations' with a trip to the Horniman Museum, Y1 will be off to the Museum of Childhood soon to enhance their topic about 'Toys' and Y3 have the exciting topic of 'Ancient Egyptians' to learn about! We are also really excited about the new additions to the playground as part of our OPAL project and we are finding that this is also easing the transition between EYFS and KS1 as the children spend more time in the 'big' playground.

Jane Bickley

News from Y4, Y5 and Y6

It's been a fantastic start to the new school year in Key Stage 2 with lots of exciting learning taking place already. Whilst meeting their new teachers, all of the children enjoyed taking part in the whole school art and literacy project which focused upon the book 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan. All of the teachers have hosted meet the teacher meetings and it was so lovely to get to meet so many of you. The children have now begun working on their first cross-curricular topics of the term with Year 4 learning about life in the Roman era, Year 5 considering the legacy and reputation of the Vikings and Year 6 beginning with Shakespeare's tragedy Macbeth. All of the children in Year 6 will perform their version of Macbeth at The Albany Theatre in Deptford in November as part of this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival. Stay tuned for more information about tickets and performance dates!

Andy McPartland

School Councillors 2016-17

One of the 'fundamental British values' that we think about in school is 'Democracy' and over the last couple of weeks, the children have been exercising their democratic rights by voting in classes for new School Councillors to represent each class from Y2 - Y6.

We'd like to congratulate all the children who have been voted in as a school council representative.

Sean has already held the first school council meeting of the year and we are looking forward to hearing the children's views on school developments.



Please park considerately!

As we slip back in to the routine of school drop off and pick ups, can we please remind parents and carers that if you drive to school, please be considerate of others. Please do not park, stop or drop off on or near the yellow lines outside school, this includes double parking opposite the yellow lines as this too blocks the road and makes it unsafe for our children to get to school. Please also watch out for children as you open car doors as they can easily be knocked if people are not vigilant. *As ever, your children's safety is paramount so do please support us with this.*

Inclusion News

Faye Howard - Inclusion Leader and SENCo

We work very hard at Ashmead to ensure that the needs of all our learners are met. For the most part, children's needs will be met in the classroom by their class teacher and support staff. However, there will be times where additional support may be needed. For some of our children, this will be for a short time; an intervention such as 'Catch up Maths', 'Catch up Literacy', a language booster group or one to one reading. For others, it may be more long-term support where pastoral support, advice from outside services (educational psychologist, speech and language therapist, behavioural support) may be sought. For a few children, usually about 1-2% of a school population, where needs are more complex they might require the support of an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan - formally known as Statements), in these cases we will look carefully at the support that has been provided already and gather evidence for a SEN panel in Lewisham.

The first port of call if you are concerned about your child's progress is to talk to their class teacher. Often this results in the class teacher then discussing your child's needs with me. As the Inclusion Leader, I will then offer further advice and suggest strategies that may be employed in the classroom. I also look at the needs of the child or sometimes at the class as a whole and use this information to plan further training or support from other services. Sometimes parents or carers wish to speak to me about their child. I am always happy to speak to you about any concerns you might have about your child.

It may be that I approach you to discuss concerns with you - the best way for your child to make progress is when the school and parents work together. When we work together we can discuss and decide what we can all do to support your child in all aspects of their learning.

This year, I will be writing regular slots in the newsletter so you are aware of what has been happening in the school in terms of inclusion - our training, interventions and to let you know of any borough support that you may wish to access.

The start of the term has already been hugely busy, looking at each child in the school and deciding whether they need to have an intervention, this is usually a small group run by either a teacher or a teaching assistant. We have also had Jess Birnie, the lead Specific Learning Difficulty teacher for the LA, come in and train all our staff on dyslexia to help us further support children with dyslexic type needs. She will also be running a parent work shop during the school year.

Our school Speech Therapist, Lucy Rowland, is in every Tuesday and she works with small groups of children and 1:1. She also oversees the running of our language booster groups in Reception and Year 1 class which are run by two of our TAs who qualified in running language groups last year. You can always speak to me to arrange to see Lucy if you have concerns about your child's speech and language.

If you wish to discuss your child's needs with me, you can email me at fhoward@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk or find me in the playground before school from Tuesday – Friday.

Volunteer Reading Help

Last year we had some fantastic, dedicated parents who gave up their time to come into school on a regular basis to hear children read. We are always grateful to parents who come in and support us and would like to welcome any new volunteers!

If you are keen to be a reading volunteer, please could you email me at fhoward@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk outlining what days/times suit you best.



Many thanks, Faye - Inclusion Leader

Volunteer Reading Help