

Dates for the diary

8th - 11th May: KS2 SATs week

9th May: Wiggly Wild Company visiting Reception

11th May: Nursery trip to Deptford Library

12th May: PTA meeting about Summer Fair - 9am

**15th May: INSET day
(school closed to children)**

19th May: Y6 SATs parent workshop - 9am

23rd and 24th May: School Photo

24th May: Y4F class assembly - 9am

25th May: Y2 trip to Cutty Sark

26th May: Parent Gym taster session - 9am

26th May: Y6 trip to Greenwich Park

**29th May - 2nd June
May half term break**

5th June: Back to school (NO INSET)

**8th June: INSET day
(school closed to children)**

9th June: Nursery trip to Stepney Green City Farm

9th June: Parent Gym starts - 6 sessions

14th June: Y2 class assembly - 9.10am

14th June: Y5 trip to Planetarium

16th June: KS1 Sports Day (in school)

Saturday 17th June: Summer Fair

Attendance

Our whole school attendance has improved again since the Easter holiday and over the last fortnight it went up to 96.6%.

Keep it up please!

The attendance figures for the last fortnight were:

Year 6A:	98.8%
Year 2:	98.5%
Year 4F:	98.3%
Year 6N:	98.1%
Reception:	96.7%
Year 5:	96.6%
Year 3:	96.3%
Year 1:	96.2%
Year 4M:	96.2%



Every day
COUNTS!

School success starts
with attendance

INSET Day

Don't forget school is closed to children
on Thursday 8th June as we are a
Polling Station so we are taking the day as an INSET day.



Parent Gym

We have run two courses of Parent Gym at Ashmead previously and we will be starting a third course after May half term. The six week course will run on a Friday morning and aims to support parents and carers to feel calm more of the time, to make family time more fun and to help their children feel happy, confident and do well. We have had great feedback about the courses from all the parents who have attended previously and Parent Gym say that 98% of those surveyed would recommend the course to a friend. There is a 'taster session' on Friday 26th May at 9am. Why not come along and find out more, it's free, fun and informative!



Safeguarding update

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

You might have seen all the photos on the blog of our fantastic OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Project in the playground. The children are using the resources brilliantly and working together each day to risk assess how to use each piece of equipment and we are updating our risk assessments regularly to reflect how we see the children using the equipment.

To ensure the children don't have any additional hazards that could hinder their play we often remind children to tie shoelaces or make sure their coats are either on or hung to the side and not left on the floor! We have also noticed that some children are wearing jewellery which can be dangerous whilst they are playing, particularly necklaces or hooped earrings, that can be snagged and cause unnecessary injuries. If your child has their ears pierced, they should wear small studs and not hoops. Necklaces and bracelets are not appropriate for wearing in school time. Thanks you for your cooperation in keeping your children safe at school.

News from Nursery and Reception

What a busy couple of weeks we have had in EYFS. We have been busy rearranging the outdoor classroom and we now have a much bigger mud kitchen as well as a garden area. The children love making mixtures in the mud kitchen so remember to dress them in clothes suitable for digging, mixing and pouring. We are in need of extra resources for this area, so if you have any old cooking equipment lying around at home, please bring it in and we will add it to our kitchen. In Reception the children have been learning all about their new stick insects and this week have a visit from the 'Wiggly Wild Company' who will be bringing some unusual and exotic minibeasts to hold and observe. In Nursery our new starters have settled in brilliantly and are enjoying the learning, which is similarly all about growing and minibeasts. Have a look at the beautiful observational drawings that the children did when they went to explore Forest School. It is clear that they already know lots about living things.

Josie Hall

News from Y1, Y2 and Y3

Children in all year groups have loved the new OPAL equipment in the playground and we have seen lots of great examples of children working and playing cooperatively together. In class we have been busy too, with Y1 getting to grips with their 'Green Fingers' topic and planting seeds to watch them grow, Y2 have been doing some fantastic creative writing based on the book 'Rainbow Bear' and Y3 are all very enthusiastic about their exciting topic all about Ancient Greeks. The children have brought in some amazing home learning projects based on their class topics and this has really fuelled their interest in their class learning. Keep up the great work!

Jane Bickley

News from Y4, Y5 and Y6

Children in Years 4 - 6 have enjoyed a fabulous few weeks at school as the summer quickly approaches. Year 4 have been enjoying their new topic of 'Extreme Weather' and have already produced some fascinating writing. Year 5 have also begun their new topic about 'The World of Water' and enjoyed a fantastic day out to Deptford Creek with Leo last week. Year 6 will be completing their National SATs tests this week and the children have worked incredibly hard in their preparation. We all wish them the very best of luck. We would also like to wish Susi and Leonardo a huge congratulations on the arrival of their newborn son, Ruben. We're all looking forward to seeing them very soon.

Andy McPartland

The INCLUSION NEWS

Inclusion news by

Faye Howard - Inclusion Leader

In addition to our weekly meetings with Ian Hewison our AWO (Attendance and Welfare Officer) focusing on improving attendance, we also have a visit planned in the next fortnight from Jess Birnie, the lead teacher in the Specific Learning Difficulty team. She advises us on how to support children with dyslexic type difficulties. If any of you want me to discuss your child with her, please see me.

Our educational psychologist Siobhan Michael will also be in, her focus this time will be on how we can improve our support for children who have English as an additional language.

As always if you like to speak to me about your child's individual needs please catch me in the playground before school or email: fhoward@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk

Faye Howard

Governor visit - attendance focus Carolyn Mumby, Associate Governor

As part of a governor focus on attendance I visited Faye Howard to look at whether there were trends in terms of persistent absence amongst children who come into the category for pupil premium and to see what the school was doing to address this. Many families facing economic difficulty are doing well at getting children into school consistently but there are also a few families who find this more challenging for a variety of reasons. Faye explained how the school monitors attendance, the specific actions being taken to challenge persistent absence and the impact on attendance. Persistent absence within this group is also sometimes impacted by a lack of resources in the wider Local Authority context to support families who are struggling. The school are focusing on increasing 1:1 contact with families as much as possible to enable a shift in expectations, attitude and capacity to get children into school on a regular basis, something that will significantly impact their future life chances as evidenced by a Department for Education report in 2015 which found a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement.

Governors