



# Ashmead Primary School

<http://ashmeadprimary.wordpress.com>

4th December 2017

### Dates for the diary

- 4th Dec:** Y1 singing at Blackheath Halls - evening performance 6.30pm
- 5th Dec:** Y2 visiting St John's church
- 6th Dec:** Expansion information sessions for parents - 9am and 6pm
- 6th Dec:** Reception Winter Show - 2.30pm
- 8th Dec:** Y3 trip to The Chocolate Museum
- 9th Dec:** Winter Fair 11am - 2pm
- 12th Dec:** St John's church nativity show at school for Y1 - Y6
- 12th Dec:** Reception trip to The Albany
- 12th Dec:** Y2 Christmas production - 2.30pm
- 13th Dec:** Nursery trip to The Albany
- 14th Dec:** Christmas lunch
- 15th Dec:** 9am - KS2 (Y3 - Y6) Christmas 'sing-a-long' with parents
- 15th Dec:** Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children and last day of Autumn term.
- 18th and 19th Dec - INSET days**  
School closed to children
- 20th Dec- 1st Jan (inc)**  
Christmas Break
- 2nd Jan: INSET day (staff only)**
- 3rd Jan:** Start of Spring term - children back to school
- 7th - 9th Feb:** Y4 School Journey

### Attendance

Our attendance figures have taken a dip due to some winter illnesses and our whole school attendance (excluding nursery) was just 94.87% in the last fortnight. We are hoping to see a rise in the last two weeks of this term, do see David's message about attendance and punctuality in 'Inclusion News'

The class attendance figures for last week were:

- Year 6: 97.5%
- Year 2: 96.83%
- Year 3: 96.46%
- Year 5J: 95.69%
- Year 1: 95%
- Year 5O: 94.67%
- Reception 2: 93.89
- Year 4: 93.5%
- Reception 1: 90.36%



### Games and resources for

#### Quiet Club

At lunchtime we operate a club/nurture group for children that find the playground a little noisy or overwhelming. This is an opportunity for children to play inside with their friends in a quieter environment. However, some of our games and resources are reaching the end of their life span, so if you are having a clear out before Christmas we would love to have any of your good quality toys and games - the children particularly enjoy building, so Lego or Duplo is always popular. Board games are handy too and any cushions or rugs would also help to soften the space. Thank you!



### ParentGym



Our very well-received ParentGym sessions are starting again after Christmas. The first session is on Tuesday 23rd January from 9.00 - 11.00 am and there are six sessions in total.

**There is a 'taster' session on Tuesday 16th January from 9.00 - 9.45am.**  
**All welcome.**

The sessions are a brilliant way to revisit the fundamentals of parenting, something that is really useful no matter how well you are doing or how confident you are feeling in your parenting.

### Safeguarding

*To safeguard - to protect from harm or damage with an appropriate measure*

With the short winter days and long evenings upon us, we are taking the opportunity to remind children to be safe and be seen when they are making their way to and from school. Please do remind your child to cross at a crossing where possible, for example if crossing Lewisham Way, and to be aware of traffic when crossing smaller roads. There are reflective stripes on the school book bags so do encourage your child to carry their own bag as this helps them be seen and stay safe (as well as encouraging independence!)



**Governor news: Loveable Child work with staff by Carolyn Mumby**

At the beginning of term I was really pleased to attend a staff meeting to share with the staff team how research has shown that children's self esteem, well-being and resilience supports them now and later in life, and can impact directly on their achievement and capability.

You will know that our vision at Ashmead is that children leave us feeling both Loveable and Capable. You may remember from previous newsletters that we have developed three colourful wheel diagrams, each with 6 sections supported by some solution focused coaching questions, which focus on what we mean by the 'loveable' part of this vision. The tools are designed to help the children reflect on what they have in place to support them at Ashmead and also provide a way to invite the children to think about how they could build on where they are now and develop further in these and other respects.

Staff gave some very positive feedback about how useful the materials are, and also some ideas about how we can improve them, and what we need to think about more to ensure that we can be clearer and more effective when using them with the children.

I really enjoyed working with the staff team who were very thoughtful and insightful about the children's needs and their wellbeing. We will be continuing to work with them as they pilot these materials over the next year.

**News from Nursery and Reception**

With rehearsals for the Christmas production well underway and tree decorations to be made, it has been a busy couple of weeks for EYFS. Have a look at our 'winter sticks' and pinecones in the hall; they were lots of fun to make. Reception have discovered a love of singing and have been so excited about practising their Christmas songs with Anwen. We hope you enjoy singing along with us on Wednesday. In the outdoor classroom we have a new gravel pit, which is great for tipping and pouring as well as construction role-play, Nursery in particular have enjoyed exploring it. Next we plan on developing the willow as a music area. Kitchen utensils make really good chimes so any donations of these would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for all of your generous donations for both the Winter fair hamper and the Big Red Box, both of which were overflowing! We hope you have a happy and restful break.

**Josie Hall**

**News from Y1, Y2 and Y3**

The Christmas celebrations have begun with all classes making their own decorations for the hall, which you can see at the Winter Fair this Saturday. Y1 and Y2 have been working extremely hard rehearsing for their concert and production. Y1 will be performing tonight (Monday 4<sup>th</sup>) at the 'Turning of the year' concert at Blackheath Halls and Y2 will perform their Christmas production on the 12th December at school. Y2 and Y3 have their trips coming up this week; Y2 are visiting St John's Church on Tuesday to make Christingles and Y3 are really excited to visit The Chocolate Museum this Friday to make their own chocolates.

**Emma Dodsworth**

**News from Y4, Y5 and Y6**

It's been yet another busy fortnight for everyone in Key Stage 2. Year 4 have been learning lots about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain and considering how this had changed following the Roman occupation. Year 5 have also been working hard on their topic of India and this was displayed in great detail during a fabulous class assembly from 5J. Year 6 have begun a new topic following their success with Shakespeare and will now focus on 'Children in War' studying how the Second World War impacted life for children across Europe.

**Andy McPartland**

**Inclusion News****The INCLUSION NEWS**

Attendance is very important to us at Ashmead. It is a huge contributing factor to your child achieving their full potential each academic year and along with punctuality plays a significant role in setting good habits for life for them also. It is our expectation that every child arrives on time so that they do not miss out on any crucial learning that happens first thing in the day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have been getting your children to school every day and on time. Our expectation is that your child has 'good' attendance of at least 96% or above. If, for any reason, your child's attendance falls below 90%, then the school will contact you to see if we can support you with this matter. If your child is absent due to illness, please let the school know by giving us a call. If you are experiencing difficulties with getting your child to school on time, please do let us know to see if we can help.

If you have questions about anything related to inclusion or special needs please feel free to email me [dfielding@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:dfielding@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk)

**David Fielding - Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion**