

Dates for the diary

12th March: National Gallery Outreach working with Reception classes

15th March: Parent-Teacher meetings: 3.50 - 6.00

16th March: Y3 cake sale - 3.30pm

20th March: Parent-Teacher meetings: 3.50 - 7.30pm

23rd March: PTA Easter Egg raffle and cake sale - 3.30pm

26th March: Y1 and Y6 Home Learning Parent Workshops - 9am

27th March: Y4 Home Learning Parent Workshop - 9am and Y1 trip to St John's Church (afternoon only)

28th March: Y5 Home Learning Parent Workshops - 9am

29th March: Y2 and Y3 Home Learning Parent Workshops - 9am and Y4 trip to Central London Mosque

29th March: Last day of Spring term

30th March - 13th April
Easter break

16th April: Children back at school

17th April: Y1 trip to Greenwich Ecology Park

**3rd May: INSET Day/
School used as a Polling Station
(school closed to children)**

23rd May: Family Science workshop - 6pm

25th May: 2.30pm: Y6 Science showcase (all parents welcome!)

Attendance

Our whole school attendance took a bit of a hit over the last two weeks with quite a few absences on the days it snowed, despite us keeping the school open and kitchen running throughout the cold snap. Whole school attendance for the last fortnight (excluding nursery) was just 94.05% so we really need to make sure we have much better attendance between now and the end of term.

Remember: every day counts!

The class attendance figures for last week were:

Year 2:	98.63%
Year 4:	96.68%
Year 1:	96.6%
Year 5J:	96.06%
Year 3:	95.68%
Year 5O:	94.43%
Year 6:	92.52%
Reception 2:	89.03%
Reception 1:	86.86%



**Every day
COUNTS!**

School success starts
with attendance

Expansion

As you know the Local Authority are planning to expand Ashmead to become a fully two form entry Primary School. In the last 9 months we have had four information sessions for parents and carers to view plans and talk to representatives from the LA and the appointed architects and builders as well as sending out several Parentmails and writing updates in the newsletter. The plans are also on show for the children in the corridors which they are really interested in and are enjoying discussing all the different options for aspects like playground development and landscaping. The expansion is also being discussed in school council. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind all families that we have offered any parent who wishes to look at the plans the opportunity to do so. This offer stands and you only need to see Sean or Jane in the playground before or after school to make an appointment. We still do not have a date for the public meeting that Lewisham is planning but we will let you know about this as soon as we do. We will keep you up to date with any other developments too but do please come and see us if you have any other queries!

Safeguarding

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



As you will know, we regularly undertake checks and procedures like fire drills to keep the children safe should there be an emergency. We have been working on a procedure should there be a time when we wanted the children to remain in their classrooms for their safety. As with our regular fire drills, we will begin to practice this procedure in the coming weeks so you might hear your child talk about it. As with everything we do, we have your children's safety and best interests at heart and would like these procedures to become automatic so that, in the unlikely event of ever having to need them, the children will be practised, ready and able to respond appropriately. As with fire drills the emphasis will be on how extremely unlikely such an event would be but that, if something like this were to happen it would be important to know what to do.

Our current value

We are currently looking at the value of **Co-operation**



Governors

Pupil Premium Update - Harriet Becher, Vice Chair of Governors

At Ashmead we want to give every child the best possible opportunities to learn and achieve their potential, so that they can leave Ashmead feeling both loveable and capable.

Like all other state-funded schools in England, we receive Pupil Premium funding and decide how best to use this money in order to raise attainment and improve progress for everyone, with a particular aim being to close any gaps in outcomes between Pupil Premium funded children and others. This is something we have been working hard on for a number of years at Ashmead, but there are still some gaps between different groups that should not exist, e.g. the attendance of our Pupil Premium children is much lower than it should be.

Governors have an important role in working with the school leadership to make sure the Pupil Premium funding is spent in a way that reflects the particular barriers faced by children at Ashmead, and draws on wider research and learning about what works best. We work with school leaders to set the strategy for the Pupil Premium each year, and monitor what impact it is having.

We discussed this year's Pupil Premium strategy at our recent Governor review evening. As Pupil Premium 'link' governor I recently followed this up with a visit to the school to discuss it with Sean in more detail. We talked through what the school is currently doing to support Pupil Premium children. This includes our Achievement for All Project (a national project that includes a focus on supporting parenting and implementing job coaching for staff throughout the school), an investment in pastoral care support via a full-time HLTA and upcoming training on behaviour management to support children's self-regulation (being able to make good choices). There are lots of other things in the pipeline so watch out for future updates.

News from Nursery and Reception

What an exciting couple of weeks for EYFS with an abundance of snow to explore and a visit from Michael Rosen! We thoroughly enjoyed both. The snow provided an amazing opportunity to deepen our understanding of the world and I was so pleased to see children carefully observing changes in the landscape and experimenting independently with melting and freezing. Forest school looked particularly beautiful; we were able to spot animal tracks and think about how wildlife behaviour might change in the snow. Reception have been busy learning the story of The Three Little Pigs by heart whilst Nursery have been doing the same with the story Rosie's Walk. It is always great to see children being able to tell a whole story orally as it really builds literacy skills and creates a strong foundation for future story writing. This week Reception are lucky to have a visit from the National Gallery who will do a workshop based around a painting of George and the Dragon. This will be their first outreach visit and I can't wait to see what the children will produce!

Josie Hall

News from Y1, Y2 and Y3

It's been a great week in phase 1. We really enjoyed Michael Rosen's visit, the warmer weather, celebrating International Women's Day, and, of course, all our learning! As we come towards the end of our topics we will be trying to recall and store all the key facts we've been learning from our Knowledge Organisers. Now the snow has cleared, Y2 have been back outside enjoying our outdoor classroom – making potions, a mud kitchen café and washing the windows! Y1 would like to develop their outside area too so if you have any buckets, wooden spoons, big mixing bowls, pans, logs, wood offcuts, plastic crates or piping, please speak to Emma, Rachel or Maria. We look forward to seeing you either this week or next at the Parent-Teacher meetings.

Emma Dodsworth

News from Y4, Y5 and Y6

The children in Key Stage 2 have been working as hard as ever. Both Year 5 classes recently visited The Ragged Museum to begin to draw their topic on the Victorians to a close as Year 4 have been busy learning about the religion of Islam and the city of Baghdad in the 9th century. All of the children enjoyed a wonderful talk from Michael Rosen on Tuesday following the disruptive weather the week before. He was certainly worth the wait! We're looking forward to seeing you all over the next fortnight as part of our spring parent/teacher conferences.

Andy McPartland