



Ashmead Primary School

<http://ashmeadprimary.wordpress.com>

Dates for the diary

20th July: Last day of term and Y6 Leavers' open morning and assembly - from 9am

Summer break

Monday 23rd July - Friday 31st August

INSET Days - 3rd and 4th Sept 2018 (school closed to children)

5th Sept: Children return to school

10th Sept: Reception and Nursery to start/return to school (*staggered start*)

October half term break
Monday 22nd October - Friday 26th October 2018

29th Oct: Children return to school

Christmas break
Monday 24th December - Friday 4th January 2019

7th Jan: Children return to school

Spring half term break
Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February 2019

25th Feb: Children return to school

Easter break
Monday 8th April - Monday 22nd April 2019

23rd April: Children return to school

May half term break
Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2019

3rd June: Children return to school

Summer break from
Wednesday 24th July 2019

Governor news

As the school year draws to a close, I am writing as the Chair of Governors, to share some of the highlights of the past year. I summarise these under the four priorities that the school had in 2017-18:

Governors

Maximising teaching and learning

Ashmead achieves good results. However, governors are highly ambitious for all children and we know that we can achieve more. Governors challenged the school to bring about rapid improvements so that every child is achieving their potential. This year the school had an improved focus on children who were behind in their learning. Governors set the school the challenge of ensuring 'accelerated progress' for all of these children. We also improved our focus on children from poorer families as they are often behind other children. Ashmead aims to close these gaps. The school put in place new ways of monitoring pupil progress. To complement this, the school also implemented a new way of supporting teachers to improve their teaching by having more regular, but shorter, lesson observations. These steps alongside a range of adjustments on the way that writing, reading and maths are taught alongside more support for some families has shown increased learning across the school.

Increasing attendance

Attendance at Ashmead has improved but is still not as good as it should be. Governors challenged the leadership to improve attendance. Attendance relies on you as parents to support the school in ensuring that when your children are well, they are in school. Thank you to the parents who have made changes to ensure higher attendance. The school now tracks absences more rigorously and has a tiered system of responses, with regular sharing of data with the Attendance Welfare Officer at Lewisham Council. David, the Inclusion Lead appointed in September 2017, has a strong focus on attendance to ensure improvements.

Extending leadership across the school

As Ashmead grows into a two-form entry, we need to ensure that appropriate models of leadership exists. Governors challenged the school to extend leadership in light of this. The school has mapped out the leadership roles and responsibilities for all leadership positions and used this to inform staffing decisions. The leadership has had a particular focus on children from poorer families who could be doing better. Barriers to learning for each child have been identified and steps taken to remove these, with improved tracking of teaching and learning for these children. The school has also focused on ensuring quality teaching for all children with improved guidance.

Improved behaviour and safety

Ashmead has excellent behaviour and is a safe school. However, we know that some of our most vulnerable children struggle. Governors asked the school to ensure that all children are fully supported. The school has carefully considered a range of behaviour approaches, used by highly successful schools, to ensure that we were using the most effective policies and has started to make changes to how behaviour is managed for all children.

2017-18 has been a successful year for Ashmead – thank you for being a part of it. Have a super break.

Best wishes, Dean Johnstone, Chair of Governors

Our current value

We are currently looking at the value of **Freedom**

Attendance

Our whole school attendance (excluding nursery) was 96.87% over the last two weeks which is a real improvement so thank you so much for your support! it's great to go into the holidays with higher attendance figures, this bodes well for next year. Keep it up! The class attendance figures for the last fortnight were:

Year 4: 98.58%
 Year 2: 97.75%
 Year 5J: 97.75%
 Year 1: 97.06%
 Year 5O: 96.96%
 Year 6: 96.85%
 Year 3: 96.82%
 Reception 1: 96.22%
 Reception 2: 93.91%



School success starts
with attendance

News from Nursery and Reception

As we enter the last week of term EYFS are busier than ever, building dens and learning more about taking care of the garden in the heat! This week our tomatoes will be ready to pick and we can start writing recipes for a delicious tomato salad! The children have made an amazing amount of progress this year and we are keen to keep this thirst for learning going over the long holiday. Please make sure that you have a go at the summer reading challenge! Writing summer diaries, shopping lists and any other kind of purposeful writing will really help to keep children interested in literacy and it is essential that they have lots of practise with this in readiness for Reception and Year 1 as well as plenty of counting and number games. It has been such a joy to watch this cohort of children grow and change. The EYFS team feel so privileged to have played a part in this and look forward to seeing what these children can do as they move up through the school. We hope you have a wonderful summer.

Josie Hall

News from Y1, Y2 and Y3

The last few weeks of the summer term have been as packed as ever! Y1, 2 and 3 had a fantastic time at the annual summer disco - thank you to the PTA for organising this - and the parent-teacher meetings were a great opportunity to discuss the children's many successes and reflect on the year. Over the summer we would love all children to have a go at the Summer Reading Challenge and to continue to use their number bond or times table booklets. All the phase 1 staff would like to take the opportunity to say how much they have enjoyed working with your children this academic year and we can't wait to see how they continue to grow in their next chapter at Ashmead. As always, thank you for your continued support and have a fantastic (and hopefully still sunny) summer!

Emma Dodsworth

News from Y4, Y5 and Y6

As we complete the final week of the school year, the children and staff are as busy as ever.

Year 4 visited the Wellcome Gallery in London last week for a private tour of a new exhibition all about teeth. The children in Year 5 have been producing some stunning writing whilst the children in Year 6 have been working tirelessly on the production of Aladdin and did a fantastic final performance for all parents last night.

It was wonderful to see all of you over the last two weeks for our final parents evenings of the school year. From everyone in Key Stage 2 we wish you a wonderful summer break and we're all looking forward to seeing you in September.

Please remember to read every single day!

Andy McPartland

Inclusion News

The INCLUSION NEWS

The end of a very hard working year is almost here, where we have been very busy meeting parents, informing them of their children's progress and making plans for September and the new year ahead.

Ashmead has grown and strengthened its provision for Inclusion over the last 11 months and I look forward to ensuring this continues in September. As always, if you have anything Inclusion related you would like to discuss, then please do let me know in the playground or email me at dfielding@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk. Have a wonderful and safe summer holiday.

David Fielding

Next year

The children were told on Monday who their new class teachers will be next year and had the opportunity to spend some time with their new teachers in their new classrooms. We will have our usual 'Meet the Teacher' meetings for parents and carers in September – we will aim to get these dates out before the end of this term.

The table below shows which teachers will be in each class.

2017 – 2018 teachers		2018 – 2019 teachers	
Nursery	Sophia Martin and Sophia Wells	Nursery	Rhea Harris
Reception 1	Josie Hall	Reception D	Danielle Sanniti
Reception 2	Jess Berry and Lauren Duncan	Reception R	Ruth Keeble
Y1	Rachel Booth and Maria Wilson	Y1A	Aisling Deasy
Y2	Emma Dodsworth	Y1E	Emma Dodsworth
Y3	Nicole Cox	Y2	Nicole Cox
Y4	Andy McPartland	Y3	Jodie Farrar
Y5J	Jodie Farrar	Y4	Maria Wilson and Josie Hall (until October)
Y5O	Oscar Jenkins	Y5	Susi Almond and Isabella Warren
Y6	Jack Molyneux and Leo Wallace	Y6L	Leo Wallace
		Y6J	Jack Molyneux
			Andy McPartland

Goodbyes and Hellos

This year we are sorry to say goodbye to teachers Oscar Jenkins, Jess Berry, Josie Hall and Rachel Booth. Oscar has secured a teaching job outside London and Jess, who is pregnant, is also moving out of London. Josie will be moving to York in October but will teach Y4 at Ashmead in September. Rachel, who has been at Ashmead for 16 years, is moving on to pastures new. We are also saying a sad farewell to TAs Sophie Martin, who is leaving to take up a place on a local teacher training course and Lauren Vickers who is moving to another local school. Lauren Duncan will be going on maternity leave from September. As many of you know, Ashleigh Mugridge left earlier this year, after her maternity leave, to be a full time mum, she is also planning to move out of London. Feride Nidai retired earlier this year after many years at Ashmead.

We wish all leaving staff the very best and every success for the future.

We thank them for the contributions they have made to Ashmead - they will all be missed.

Next year we are delighted to welcome Danielle Sanniti as our EYFS leader and one of our Reception teachers, Ruth Keeble as our other Reception teacher and Rhea Harris as our Nursery teacher. Aisling Deasy also joins us in Y1. We have also appointed Rachel Azra, an experienced dance and PE teacher who will be joining us full time in September.

As you might already know, Susi Almond has returned from maternity leave and will be teaching next year in Y5 with Isabella Warren who has been teaching in Reception 2 this term.

We know you will join with us to welcome or welcome back all staff to Ashmead.

Have a great summer.