

**Dates for the diary**

**3rd Dec:** Y5 cooking workshop with Babur chef

**3rd Dec:** Y2 trip to St John's Church

**4th Dec:** Reception trip to The Albany

**6th Dec:** Y3 trip to The Chocolate Museum

**Saturday 8th December**  
**Winter Fair: 11am - 2pm**

**11th Dec:** 2.30pm: Y2 Christmas Production - all Y2 parents welcome

**14th Dec:** Last Parent Gym session - 9am - 11am

**14th Dec:** Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children

**18th Dec:** 2.30pm: Reception Winter Show - all Reception parents welcome

**19th Dec:** Whole school Christmas dinner

**21st Dec:** 9am: KS2 Sing-a-long - all KS2 parents welcome

**21st Dec:** Last day of term - normal finish time - 3.30pm

**Christmas break**  
**24th Dec - 4th Jan (inc.)**

**7th Jan: INSET day**  
**(school closed to children)**

**8th Jan:** Children back to school

**From 8th Jan:** New Nursery children settling in procedure starts


**Half term break**  
**18th - 22nd February (inc)**

**Attendance**

We have had a significant drop in our attendance figures over the last two weeks and we are a long way off our whole school target of 96% attendance. Our latest attendance for children from Reception to Y6 was 93.46%. We are looking forward to seeing this figure rise over the next few weeks.

The latest class attendance figures are:

Year 3:	97.93%
Year 6L:	96.55%
Year 1E:	94.63%
Year 5:	94.17%
Year 2:	93.5%
Year 4:	93.28%
Year 1A:	93%
Year 6J:	91.72%
Reception D:	91.38%
Reception R:	88.5%



**Every day  
COUNTS!**

School success starts  
with attendance

**Helping others**




We often speak to the children about the type of things they can do to help others who are less fortunate than themselves. This often involves talking about and supporting different charities. This term we have collected lots of food items for our 'Big Red Box' project to give food to those who need it over the Christmas period - thank you for your fantastic support with this. We will also be raising awareness of the charity work by 'Save the Children' when we do our Christmas Jumper day on 14th December. We encourage the children to come in a festive jumper (no need to buy a special jumper, just decorate one you already have!) and bring in a donation of at least a pound to add to the collection box. Thanks!



**Safeguarding**

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



As November drew to a close last week we concluded our month long focus on the value of Kindness and our related work on anti-bullying. At Ashmead, we understand bullying as hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. We believe that those who bully others are themselves often experiencing difficulties and they are not aware of this, this sometimes being the reason why they take their anger and frustration out on others.

We teach the children to always report bullying to an adult and we also talk about bullying, its consequences and how to prevent it in our assemblies, PSHE sessions and circle times. Discriminatory language is also often discussed in assemblies and anyone who hears it is encouraged to report it. The most important message we say to the children is to TELL. Please do encourage your child to talk to an adult at school if they are worried about anything, particularly bullying.

*Thanks for your ongoing support.*

## Our current value

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

### News from Nursery and Reception

With rehearsals for the Winter Production well underway and tree decorations being made, it has been a busy few weeks in EYFS. Nursery have been focusing on Jack and the Beanstalk; take a look at their giant and beanstalk in the class! They have loved learning all about this story. Reception have developed a love for singing and performing and are eager to show everyone their moves. In the outdoor classroom we have redeveloped the garden area to make more space for digging and mini beast hunting, last week we found a frog! We have also experimented with a 'water wall' by tying tubes to the fence; this has been a great hit! We are currently working on turning the shed into a mini classroom as so many children want to play 'schools'! We are still collecting Jolly Jars for the Winter Fair and nonperishable food donations for the Big Red Box. Thank you so much for your ongoing support and enthusiasm.

**Danielle Sanniti**

### News from Y1, Y2 and Y3

December is here and the busy few weeks until the end of term have begun!

Y1 have finished their fairytale stories this week and have been recalling their number bonds to 10 and the related subtraction facts. We're continuing with our 'Seasons' topic in science and are excited to observe the changes from autumn to winter as we enter into December.

Y2 started their nativity rehearsals last week and have been writing descriptive extracts about the Christmas Story alongside this. They visited St Johns Church today to enhance their topic learning; they would like to thank Rev Peter Farley-Moore for his kindness and for hosting such an enjoyable afternoon.

In science, Y3 have been learning about the right types and amounts of nutrition and in R.E they have been thinking about why The Bible is important to Christians and how they use it.

Finally, a plea... please remember to send your child in with a P.E kit on their P.E days or leave the kit at school for the rest of the term. They need trainers, long comfortable trousers, a t-shirt and a jumper/hoody. In addition, Y1 visit Forest School each week: 1A on Mondays and 1E on Tuesdays. Please could you send your child in with a pair of wellies on these days or a spare pair of wellies that we can keep at school. Thank you!

**Emma Dodsworth**

### News from Y4, Y5 and Y6

It's been another fantastic few weeks in Key Stage 2. The children in Year 4 have been thoroughly enjoying their weekly swimming lessons (even now the weather is less fun to walk home in!) as well as weekly ukulele sessions every Friday.

The children in Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in Woolwich last Thursday where they displayed an excellent understanding of Hinduism and had an excellent time sketching some of the statues inside the temple itself.

The Year 6 children have also enjoyed a fresh start following their amazing performance of Macbeth. The children are now learning about the Second World War and paying particular attention to how the war affected the lives of children across Europe.

**Andy McPartland**

### Sports News

**Saturday League Football:** A great start to the Saturday Lewisham schools league for Ashmead. The team, led by captain Gruffyd and vice captain Eddie, went into the league by beating one of the league favourites Edmund Waller 3-1, goals coming from Eddie, Donte & Noah. With some great one on one saves by goalkeeper Amber proving crucial in the victory! This gave the team a boost going into the second game of the day. With the players in high spirits, the team went out and equalled the energy levels and quality shown in the first game, coming out as 4-2 winners against a physical Rangefield team. Again Amber proving her quality in goal, making some great saves. Goals in the second game came from Eddie scoring two and a goal a piece for Donte and Noah. Well done to everyone.

**Sportshall Athletics:** On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 18 children from years 5&6 competed in the Lewisham Borough Sportshall Athletics Competition. Ashmead were awarded the "Respect The Games" award after being nominated by the event organisers on the day and placing 9<sup>th</sup> out of the 18 schools who took part in their second tournament of the year. A great show of team spirit, a huge well done to all of the children who took part.

**Rachel Azra**

## The INCLUSION NEWS

### Inclusion News

This week in addition to meeting more parents that missed Parents' evening, the inclusion team have been working with our Speech and Language therapist and Occupational Therapist. We have been busy reviewing our interventions to support these respective needs across the school. We have also been working with the Attendance Officer to support us with improving the attendance figures of children across the school. As always, if you have any inclusion related questions you can reach me on [dfielding@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:dfielding@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk) or alternatively catch me in the playground.

**David Fielding**

## PTA News

Dear all

The PTA committee and the school would like to say a big thank you to all previous PTA committees and parents for a magnificent donation pot which has accumulated over the past few years.

At the PTA meeting on 23rd November 2018, it was agreed by unanimous vote to release £8700 of PTA funds to the school for:

- purchasing additional percussion instruments
- a 'Punchdrunk' immersive theatre event held at the school for all pupils
- art resources for a school wide art project and exhibition called Take One Picture
- a one-off extra trip subsidy for all classes.

The committee have also agreed to continue with its commitment to provide on-going yearly funds to:

- subsidise school trips for all pupils
- pay for magazine subscriptions for all classes Reception - Year 6

### Fundraising targets for the coming year

This year's fundraising objectives are to provide funds to enhance the playground space and to supplement sports activities/equipment, the areas under discussion are:

- improving the climbing and playground equipment with monkey bars and other climbing facilities
- movable plants to create quiet communication spaces. This will enhance speaking and listening opportunities for adults and children in the outdoor learning environment/playground,
- additional sporting activities and facilities.

Please come and support the school and the PTA at this year's Winter Fair on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December between 11am and 2.00pm.

Many thanks

PTA Committee

