

Ashmead Primary School

<https://myashmead.org>

6th November 2023

Dates for the diary

8th - 10th Nov: Y6 school journey to Marchant's Hill

10th Nov: PTA gardening and Winter Fair planning - 9am

14th Nov: Open morning for prospective Reception parents

17th Nov: Y1 trip to Unicorn Theatre, PTA gardening and Winter Fair planning - 9am

22nd Nov: Open morning for prospective Reception parents

24th Nov: PTA coffee morning and Winter Fair planning - 9am

28th Nov: Y2 trip to Unicorn Theatre

29th Nov: Y5 trip to London Central Mosque

30th Nov: Open morning for prospective Reception parents

Saturday 2nd December:
PTA Winter Fair

7th Dec: 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day

8th Dec: Open morning for prospective Reception parents

11th Dec: Y5/6 Christmas songs performance - 3pm

12th Dec: Y2 Nativity - 2pm

13th Dec: Whole school Christmas lunch and Y3/4 Christmas songs performance - 3pm

14th Dec: Reception and Y1 Christmas songs performance - 3pm

20th Dec: Last day of autumn term

Attendance

Our overall attendance for Reception - Year 6 for the week before the half term break and the week after dipped a little bit to 95.38%. Now the children are all back at school we are looking forward to seeing this rising again!

The class attendance figures for last fortnight are:

- Oak (Y3): 99.07%
- Maple (Y2): 98.89%
- Fig (Y1): 98.35%
- Birch (Y3): 97.73%
- Elm (Y2): 97.06%
- Sycamore (YR): 96.85%
- Pine (Y4): 95.37%
- Juniper (Y5): 95.05%
- Lime (Y4): 94.44%
- Cypress (Y6): 93.36%
- Rowan (YR): 93.22%
- Aspen (Y5): 90.97%
- Holly (Y1): 89.51%

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

Safeguarding

Safety coming in to and leaving school

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



As you know we ask that parents work with us to keep children as safe as possible which includes the journey to and from school each day. Please do bear in mind the reminders below and support us in our efforts to keep all our children safe.

1. **PLEASE DO NOT walk or stand in the road** on the way to or from school! Yes, Ashmead Road is a 'School Street' but it is NOT closed to traffic and walking or standing in the street gives really poor road safety messages to your children. Children should also not scoot along Ashmead Road, again this gives mixed signals about what is 'safe'. Children that are competent enough to cycle on main roads (and are wearing a helmet) can cycle as they would on a 'normal' road, e.g. keeping to the left and being traffic aware.
2. **NOBODY (children or adults) should be on wheels** inside the school grounds (including before school and after enrichment or after school clubs!). If your child brings a scooter or bike to school, they should a) be able to park this by themselves (please do not carry it in to school for them!) and b) should only be on their scooter/bike once on the pavement on Ashmead Road/ Lewisham Way, not anywhere in the school grounds, including the car park.
3. **Ashmead Road entrance - We need your help** to allow all children a safe and clear passage into school. The area by the green gate is overcrowded as too many parents and carers gather here. This area must be reserved for children to safely and independently enter school. Please say goodbye to your children further down the car park slope. If you wish to watch them enter school please watch from the side, not the middle of the car park so that you don't block other families from entering the premises or from seeing their children enter safely. If you have a message for a member of staff please leave this at the office or wait until the gate is closed to pass it onto David, Jane or Sean. If your child needs additional assistance at drop off please wait until the majority of children are through the gate and then a member of staff will assist you/them. **Thanks for your cooperation!**

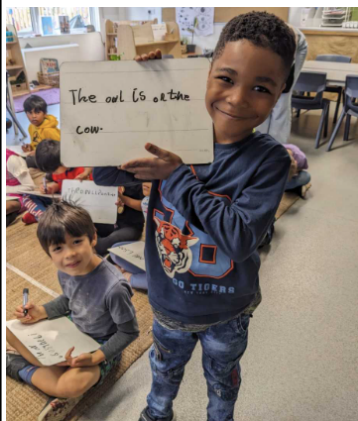
Lower School News (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Thank you so much for your old flowers and no longer needed wallpaper rolls in EYFS. We are using the wallpaper rolls for large-scale drawing and the petals for potions. We are now pleading for any outgrown trousers – jogging bottoms or stretchy jeans – for our spare school clothes for children in Reception and Year 1 (ages 5-7)- thank you in advance.

It's been a busy first week - Reception have started their daily phase 2 phonics sessions. Please do check Tapestry to see what sounds they are learning each week. Learning these sounds has kickstarted some wonderful independent writing in their play! Reception will also begin reading books linking to the sounds they are learning in school. These are sets of phonetically decodable books that will be swapped each Monday so please look after them so another group can use them next. Nursery have been fascinated with non-fiction books.

Year 1 are going from strength to strength with their reading and phonics and published their first book for our corridor display inspired by 'Do you like ketchup on your cornflakes?' by Nick Sharratt. Year 1's new topic, 'The Enchanted Wood' will see them explore seasonal changes and British wildlife.

Year 2's topic of Stories over time will be focusing on aspects of Christianity and Hinduism and some of the stories associated with each religion as well as key festivals and celebrations for this time of year like Diwali and Christmas. If you'd like to know more, our Knowledge Organisers and Curriculum Overviews give more details about what we will be covering.



Emma Dodsworth - Assistant Head and Lower School Lead



Upper School News (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)

It's been lovely being back at school and seeing the children settle back so quickly. The routines and expectations established in the first half term are really clear to see and are so supportive in ensuring fantastic behaviour for learning.

In Key Stage 2 we're now in a geography focused half term. Do look out for the Knowledge Organisers and Curriculum Overviews so you can find out more about what your child/ren will be learning about.

The wet and cold weather has arrived and as we head towards winter it is vital that waterproof coats are worn every day. Please make sure these are named. We remind children at the 5 minute whistle to collect any belongings ready for lining up but if they don't do this their coats will be on the lost property rack at the end of the day.

Year 6 are off on school journey this week and excitement levels are high! Don't forget that, with the exception of school journey, there is one permission slip and one donation required for the whole year so please do this if you haven't done so yet. There are lots of exciting trips planned for all of KS2 so keep checking the newsletter calendar for important dates for your diary.

Nicole Cox - Upper School Lead

Inclusion Matters

It is week 2 and we are deep into the Autumn term, working hard to achieve the best outcomes for all children. At Ashmead, we have developed and are continuing to develop a sensory room on the first floor of the Ashmead Road building, which is used for children who need a quiet sensory space to be. Sometimes the busy space of a classroom can be overwhelming for some children and they need a quiet space at intervals during

the day to support them with their needs. Children in all key stages can access it if the adults feel it will be beneficial. It is a space we are continuously developing. *As always if there is something you would like to discuss, please email me at dfielding@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk and I will get back to you as soon as possible.*



David Fielding - Assistant Head and Inclusion Lead

Trip contributions

Thank you so much to the parents who have made a contribution to our new school trip fund. Around a third of families have done this so far and this is greatly appreciated.

If you have not yet managed to make the suggested £30 contribution you can still do this via parentmail.

Many parents have very kindly paid more than £30 and we very much appreciate their generosity.



Alternative pick-up arrangements

Sometimes families need to arrange for someone different to pick up their children. This is understandable but when we get very late messages it is too difficult to get these messages to teachers by the end of the day.

From tomorrow (Tuesday 7th November) we will have a slightly different system. Calls/messages received by 3.10pm **will** be passed on to teachers but calls after this will not. Adults collecting children where the message arrived too late will need to collect from the office from 3.40pm. We thank you in advance for your support with this.



Injuries and risk assessments



Sometimes a child will need extra support to be safe at school, e.g. where they have broken a bone, twisted ankles or are undergoing post-operative recovery.

Where this is the case we need to meet the child's parent/carer to assess the risks of them being at school. This is a quick process and will help us decide whether it is safe for the child to be in the playground, whether they need support in moving round the site and so on.

If your child is dealing with such an issue please contact us regarding the risk assessment before they return to school so we can arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. Thanks.

Our RSE (relationships and sex education) policy is on our website and this has lots of information about how we teach RSE as well as the broad outlines of the curriculum. If you would like to look at the lesson plans and resources used these are available for parents to look at. If you would like to make an appointment to look at these materials please speak to Sean.

Ashmead PTA Winter Fair - Saturday 2nd December 11:30am - 2:30pm

Come and eat, drink, play, shop and be merry at our PTA Winter Fair!

PLAY: Raffle, Games, Santa's Grotto, Lucky Dip, Face Painting, Craft Workshops

EAT & DRINK: Cafe & Cake Stall, Pizza & Prosecco, Mince Pies & Mulled Wine

BUY: Christmas Trees (TreeWiseMen), Home Crafts & Cultivations, Ashmead School Children's 2024 Calendar, New PTA Tote Bags, Nearly New Winter Wear & Christmas Jumpers, Secret Santa, Jolly Jars!

WATCH: Performance from the School Choir & School Orchestra

Donations please: Anything you can donate (including your time) makes all of this possible and of course the more donated the more we can raise. We are in need the following in time to prep for the fair;

LOOSE LEGO: Old or new, especially any figures, bits or full boxes

NEARLY NEW WINTER WEAR: Christmas jumpers, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, wellies

TOMBOLA GOODIES: Boxes of chocolates, bubble bath to a tin of beans - get creative!

JOLLY JARS/EMPTY JARS: Clean & empty jars please OR your own Jolly Jar creations

CRAFTS & CULTIVATIONS: Homemade & homegrown crafts/cards/gifts, treats/jam /chutney

GROWNUPS GIFTS: e.g. candles, socks, accessories, gadgets, homeware, books

TOYS & GAMES: Any nearly new or new toys & games for Santa's ToyShop

Donations box available daily in the school office!

Volunteers Needed: If you have time ahead of the fair OR if you can spare an hour (or more) on the day then please sign up here stating what time you have. <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JUVlyo6XuErLn6cTwEleTY>

Help us when you shop: Thanks to all that have signed up already! You can sign up at any time and once signed up, your everyday shopping at over 7000 online stores will generate donations for the Ashmead PTA, at no additional cost to you! <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashmeadprimaryschool/>

Thank You! PTA Committee

