



Ashmead Primary School

<https://myashmead.org>

29th January 2024

Dates for the diary

1st Feb: Y6 Cypress class assembly - 9.10am in school hall

2nd Feb: Y6 trip to Kagyu Samye Dzong London Buddhist Centre

2nd Feb: PTA Disco (6.00 - 7.00 for Y1-Y2, 7.00 - 8.00 for Y3-Y6)

6th Feb: Shakespeare Schools Festival (rehearsal during day plus evening performance)

7th Feb: Y3 trip to V&A Museum

8th Feb: Y3 Oak class assembly - 9.10am in school hall

9th Feb: Y2 on Great Fire of London trip

**12th - 16th Feb (inc)
Half term break**

19th Feb: Children back at school

23rd Feb: PTA coffee morning (9am in school)

29th Feb: Y2 Elm class assembly - 9.10am in school hall

7th March: World Book Day - Valerie Bloom visiting

11th - 13th March: Parent-Teacher meetings from 3.50pm

14th March: Y1 Holly class assembly - 9.10am in school hall

21st March: Y4 Lime class assembly - 9.10am in school hall and Y1 boat trip

22nd March: PTA playground planting 9am

25th March: Y3 trip to Natural History Museum

**29th March - 12th April (inc)
Easter break**

Attendance

We want children to establish good attendance habits at Ashmead which will help them through their lives. Good punctuality and attendance doesn't just help children achieve well, it also helps them to feel happy and secure at school. Of course there will be times when children should not attend, especially if they are vomiting or have diarrhoea (when they need to be off for 48 hours) or if they have a fever, but often it is best to bring them in and let us know if they are feeling a bit under the weather at drop-off; they usually are fine once they start the school day. As we are approaching the half-way point of the year if your child's overall attendance is lower than it should be we will be writing to you so we can work together to improve things. If you would like to discuss specific ways forward please contact Sean.

Below are the overall attendance figures for Reception - Year 6 for the last fortnight. Overall attendance was 93.83% so we're looking forward to seeing that rise!

The class attendance figures for last fortnight are:

- Elm (Y2): 97.32%
- Juniper (Y5): 97.29%
- Pine (Y4): 97.08%
- Oak (Y3): 95.63%
- Sycamore (YR): 95.5%
- Birch (Y3): 95.45%
- Aspen (Y5): 95%
- Rowan (YR): 94.83%
- Cypress (Y6): 94.53%
- Maple (Y2): 94.5%
- Lime (Y4): 88.48%
- Fig (Y1): 87.78%
- Holly (Y1): 86.48%

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

PTA News

Thanks to all who attended our new look Talk & Coffee Morning session last Friday. In this meeting Dan our PTA Sustainability Officer gave a 15-minute talk on sustainability and specifically the air monitor installed on Lewisham Way. Look out for our next talk and coffee session on Friday 23rd February - details to follow on our talk topic!

Y1 - Y6 Kids' Disco this Friday 2nd February in the School Hall

Y1-Y2: 6-7pm

Y3-Y6: 7-8pm

The much anticipated Y1 and above disco is this Friday so make sure you've got your tickets! DJ Sonic will be hitting the decks again with popular tunes and games, but don't worry we have a chill out room with some quiet space to do some crafts or enjoy a movie if that's too much excitement for some! We also have a face painting station and will be handing out plenty of much needed water along with some fresh fruit, all included within the ticket price. Our tuckshop will be back with crisps, popcorn and sweets so a small amount of loose change (no more than £1) will be needed for that. Allergy options will be available.

Tickets available daily - £2:

Everyday @ 3:30pm, Playground

Thu & Fri @ 8:45am, Ashmead Road entrance

On the night @ 5:45pm for Y1-Y2 and @ 6:45pm for Y3-Y6

Drop off and pick up:

Drop off and pick up at the Ashmead Road entrance (no entry/exit via the Lewisham Way entrance). Please remember ALL children must be collected.

No child will be allowed to go home on their own.

Thank You! PTA Committee AshmeadschoolPTA@gmail.com



School Dinners and Packed Lunches

As many parents know children from Reception to Year 6 are now entitled to a free meal at lunchtime. What parents might not know is that the funding offered for this doesn't yet match the cost of the meals so this is something we are working on in terms of budgeting and future planning. As Chartwells (our school meals provider) charge us for the number of meals made/served each day it is important that those numbers are as accurate as possible to avoid the school being overcharged and incurring more expenditure.

Therefore to tighten this system, after February half term we will be asking parents to choose **either** school dinners **or** packed lunch for the whole half term. Whatever choice is made cannot be changed day-to-day or week to week as neither the school nor Chartwells has the admin capacity for this. Allowing this to happen has resulted in us being overcharged for meals so unfortunately it is necessary to refine our systems. If parents want to change from school dinner to packed lunch or vice versa this can only be done on a half termly basis.

Thanks for your understanding.



Lower School News

(Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

This half-term is in full swing: Y2 have started their topic 'The Great Fire of London' and fire hooks, fire engines and bakeries have invaded their small world creations! Y1 are enjoying their topic 'Journeys and Tales' and have been telling me all about Amelia Earhart and the Cutty Sark.

All classes have begun their exploring of the painting 'The Courtyard of a House in Delft' by Pieter de Hooch, and we are looking forward to showing you our art inspired by the painting at the in-house exhibition next half-term.

Emma Dodsworth - Assistant Head and Lower School Lead



Upper School News

(Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)

It may be a five-week half term but you wouldn't know it by looking at the books in key stage two. The learning that's already happening is incredible! One of the things our whole phase is really working hard on is handwriting. We've been thinking about how we can ensure our work across the curriculum is presented to the highest standard and setting ourselves targets to make even more progress. Lots of children are making great progress with content, editing and presentation – well done!

Next week is Safer Internet Week and each class will complete a series of lessons about this but there's also a lot of resources online that can be used at home too. <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024>

Exciting events ahead – the much-loved PTA disco returns **this Friday** (7-8pm for KS2) and we can't wait to get our dancing shoes on. All children must be dropped off and collected by an adult so please make sure you have arrangements in place.

Finally, the Y5 Shakespeare Festival is **next Tuesday**. Tickets will be distributed nearer the time.

Nicole Cox - Upper School Lead

Safer Internet Day takes place every February



Inclusion Matters

Last week, teachers had training from our speech and language therapist on how to recognise children who may have difficulties with their receptive language. Receptive language difficulties occur when a person has trouble understanding the words that they hear and read, which then impacts on learning. We support children at Ashmead with these difficulties by:

- making efforts to speak a little slower than usual when speaking to the child
- using short simple instructions instead of lengthy complex ones
- explaining things in different ways to help with understanding
- using pictures and concrete learning materials to represent abstract things

If you have concerns that your child may have difficulties in this area, please speak to your child's class teacher or myself and we can arrange some time to discuss them. As always if you have anything inclusion related you would like to discuss, please email me at dfielding@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk

David Fielding - Assistant Head and Inclusion Lead