



Ashmead Primary School

<https://myashmead.org>

11th March 2024

Dates for the diary

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

14th March: Y1 Holly class assembly - 9.10am in school hall and Y6 TfL workshop (in school)

18th March: Y4 trip to Greenwich Foreshore

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

22nd March: PTA playground planting 9am and Love Books Event and Cake Sale from 3.30pm

25th March: Y3 trip to Natural History Museum

26th March: Y6 Fieldwork trip

28th March: Y5 trip to Kew Gardens

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

15th - 26th April: Y4 Pine swimming sessions (daily)

17th April: Y3 trip to Unicorn Theatre (date change)

25th April: Reception classes visiting Breakspears Mews Garden

26th April: PTA coffee morning

2nd May: Y5 Aspen class assembly - 9.10am in school hall

9th May: Y2 Maple class assembly - 9.10am in school hall

13th - 23rd May: Y4 Lime swimming sessions (daily)

24th May: INSET day (school closed to children)

27th - 31st May (inc) Half term break

Attendance

Below are the overall attendance figures for Reception – Year 6 for the last two weeks. Overall attendance was 93.87%, lower than the previous fortnight and quite far below our school target of at least 96% attendance. Hopefully we can improve this figure in the run up to Easter.

The class attendance figures for last fortnight are:

Cypress (Y6):	97.19%
Lime (Y4):	97.08%
Maple (Y2):	96.5%
Elm (Y2):	95.95%
Pine (Y4):	95.21%
Birch (Y3):	93.96%
Holly (Y1):	93.82%
Aspen (Y5):	93.64%
Oak (Y3):	93.33%
Sycamore (YR):	91.5%
Rowan (YR):	91.03%
Juniper (Y5):	91.02%

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

PTA News



LOVE BOOKS EVENT & CAKE SALE Friday 22nd March - 3:30 - 4:30pm

Our LOVE BOOKS event is back! Each child can choose a pre-loved book for FREE during the day. After school, at our LOVE BOOKS Event & Cake Sale, we'll be selling nearly new books from 20p. There will also be cakes, bakes and an Easter Egg tombola! **PLEASE BRING CASH/CHANGE!**

We will also be selling Ashmead PTA merchandise:

- NEW! Limited Edition PINK TOTE BAGS £7.50
- Ashmead PTA Calendar REDUCED was £7 NOW £5
- Class Badges £1

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you can, please leave donations at the OFFICE:

Books: Children's books (old & new) - good condition and all ages

Easter Eggs: For our Easter Egg tombola

Cakes & Treats: **DONATIONS ON THE DAY ONLY PLEASE** Homemade or shop bought cakes, biscuits & sweet treats. **MUST BE NUT FREE.** Allergen friendly cakes and treats welcome.

Volunteers: If you have a spare hour from 2pm to 4.30 to set up and/or sell please join the [Volunteer WhatsApp group](#)

Donate: Don't have time to bake or volunteer? Donate via [Wonderful](#).

Note: The Ashmead PTA are now registered for GiftAid!

SPRING GARDENING GROUP

Friday 22nd March - 9 - 10am

Help us to weed, plant and prune the planters in the playground. If you can help out, please join the [Planting WhatsApp Volunteer group](#)

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you can, please leave donations of spring herbs, bulbs and seeds leave at the OFFICE, by 9am 22nd March please

Many Thanks, Ashmead PTA
ashmeadschoolpta@gmail.com

Safeguarding - Technology

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

Technology is wonderful but children do need lots of help and supervision to ensure they use it safely so we thought it would be useful to remind parents and carers of the following:

- A lot of apps that children commonly use are not meant to be used by primary school aged children, for example children should not be downloading/using WhatsApp until they are 16!
- Any app or program that allows words or images to be communicated needs to be carefully monitored by parents (e.g. Roblox, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.) Again most of these apps should not be used by primary school children!
- Children need to know that they can come to you if they encounter anything they find confusing or worrying. In our experience it is best to combine this with regular checking of content your child accesses, is sent or sends to others. This means checking browser histories, messaging systems, photo galleries, etc.
- We strongly recommend setting up parental controls on any devices your child uses and your internet service provider.
- **Remember you are in charge!** If you set firm boundaries about screen usage early on it will make it easier for children as they get older, e.g. we would **strongly** recommend not allowing devices in bedrooms overnight. *If you have questions about any of this please speak to Sean or Jane.*



Lower School News

(Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Last week, in celebration of International Women's Day, we showcased inspiring stories of influential women, emphasising gender equality and women's rights. As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we shared our much-loved books and characters in class. Nursery children treasure their library day, eagerly sharing their favourites with friends, and this week they had the chance to create their own books.



Excitingly, Reception is caring for caterpillars, observing their astonishing growth and learning about the butterfly life cycle and webbing production. Year 1 are delving into UK geography, learning

about the capital cities and landmarks. Year 2 are exploring Ernest Shackleton's life, tracing his legendary expedition to Antarctica, gaining insights into his remarkable leadership, resilience, and bravery in the face of adversity.

As we approach the midpoint of the school year, we reflect on the children's academic progress and personal growth, eagerly looking forward to celebrating these achievements with you during the upcoming Parent-Teacher meetings. See you there!

Emma Dodsworth - Assistant Head and Lower School Lead

Upper School News

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

Another jam-packed few weeks in key stage two with some special events alongside. Last Thursday was World Book Day and I loved hearing from children across the phase about their most cherished books. We attended an assembly workshop with Valerie Bloom – what a pleasure! It was so fun to see the poems we'd been learning about in

classrooms come to life. Y6 were treated to an extra workshop, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



Friday was International Women's Day and

we marked the occasion by sharing stories in class that highlighted the achievements of some incredible women. We also reserved the use of the cage to participate in the FA and Barclays 'Biggest Ever Football Session', alongside 5000 other schools, as part of the #LetGirlsPlay campaign. I hope to share some more photos and videos soon of the wonderful sessions -

brilliant play by the girls across the school and great support from our excellent sideline supporters (shout out to King, Jay and Kester in Y6 for the compliments and commentary).

Nicole Cox - Upper School Lead



Inclusion Matters

Over the last two weeks, we have been carrying out TA observations to support the continuous professional development of the additional adults that support children across the school. Improving the quality teaching and learning at Ashmead is something we reflect and work on, on a continuous basis. In addition, TAs also meet every fortnight to have training, feedback and support.

Just a reminder that I'll be in my own class parents' meetings so if there is anything SEN related that you would like to discuss with me regarding your child, please contact me at the usual email address:

dfielding@ashmead.lewisham.sch.uk

David Fielding - Assistant Head and Inclusion Lead

Ramadan

Ramadan has now started and we know what a special time this is for our Muslim families. We know that some parents and carers would like their children to experience fasting alongside their families. Where this is the case we will always discuss this with families so please speak to Sean first if you would like your child to do this.



Take One Picture

As you might know every year we take part in the 'Take One Picture' project where we use a painting from the National Gallery as a stimulus for a variety of art projects across the school. This year the painting was 'The Courtyard of a House in Delft' by Pieter de Hooch.



The children explored the painting in class and decided what projects they'd like to do as a result. They might ask questions like: 'Who are the people?' 'Do they live in the door?' 'What is through the alleyway?' or 'Why has the brick got writing on it?' and these questions then lead to different art projects. The projects might make links between art and subjects across the curriculum including maths, literacy and history.

As always we are stunned by the quality and diversity of the projects. Please do come and see the exhibition when you come to school for your parent-teacher meetings this week. **The exhibition is only open from today until Wednesday, 3.50 - 6pm (5pm on Wednesday). Don't miss out!**

Valerie Bloom World Book Day

We all thoroughly enjoyed our time with Valerie Bloom on Thursday as part of our World Book Day celebrations. She entertained us with song, stories and fascinating poems and we even learnt some words in patois so we could join in with some of the choruses! She also stayed after school to sign books which was an extra special end to the day. Thanks to everyone for your patience, there is no quick or easy way to choose and pay for books to then get them signed so thanks to everyone for sticking with it!



Science Week

In partnership with Airborne Allergy Action, Ashmead PTA delivered two air filtration kits to the school last week. They will form a project that James and Year 6 will do as part of British Science week this week. The children will build and install the kits themselves.

We believe we are the first school in Lewisham to build and use these boxes so it will be interesting to see how they monitor and filter the air. They might be used in the Ashmead Road building or in the Lewisham Way building alongside our existing air filtration systems in the classes.



Nursery admissions - September 2024

We have a few spaces left in our Nursery for children to start in September 2024 - children that started in January will continue their time in Nursery next academic year. If you would like your child to join our nursery (or if you know of any families with pre-school children that are looking for a nursery place) please contact the office. We have both part time places (15 hours, free for children the term after they are three) and full time places (32.5 hours, if you have a '30 hour code' you can use this towards a full time place) available but they usually fill up fast so do make sure your child is registered should you need a nursery place/childcare. Thanks!

