



NEWSLETTER

16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Welcome back to all our families in Y4, Y5 and Y6 and welcome to all our new families in Y3. What a brilliant start we have all had since our return on the 5th September. Our new children have settled in fantastically well and are already making a very positive contribution to our school. We are also happy to welcome Mrs Field, the new Headteacher at the Infant School into the Ashfield community.

I am sure you will all agree that everyone looks so smart in their new uniforms. We have been overwhelmed by the number of positive comments that we have had on our new look. We are so pleased with the way the children are conducting themselves and the pride that they already have in their new uniform. Many of them have said that it feels like being in a new school and they are certainly upping their game in terms of conduct and hard work. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for your co-operation during this big change and for how much effort everyone has put in to ensuring that the children are correctly dressed and ready to learn.

Mrs Frost

School Events

The children have enjoyed a performance of Treasure Island with M&M Theatre Productions and the Y6 children got some inside information on theatrical effects. We also marked Roald Dahl Day in assembly on the 13th and many children watched a live Matilda broadcast during the afternoon. Year 5 had a fabulous day at Brockhole on the 14th developing their teamwork skills. Next week Year 6 and Year 4 are off to Dove Cottage and NSPCC will be in school to work with the children on their Speak Out, Stay Safe campaign.

The staff have also been incredibly busy learning how to use Numicon our new Maths resource as well as discussing KS1 expectations. This week we have also been working with the Infant School and St Patricks to look at the writing produced from children across all 3 schools. This will now become a half termly event. We have also been incredibly busy making changes to our marking policy and behaviour policy. The behaviour policy is now available for you to access on the school website. Our Governors are also meeting regularly to discuss their own action plan for the year.

A new School Development Plan has also been written and a parent & carer version of this will soon be available on the new website. You will then be able to keep up to speed with all the things we are working on for the next two years.

Website & Communication

The new school website is now almost complete and will soon be going live. We hope that this new site is easier to navigate and will help us to communicate efficiently with you. New features will include a direct link to the latest Facebook posts and an online parents & carers calendar. Our plan for the future is that all communication will be done electronically. Letters and notices will be shared through the website and via email and text unless you request otherwise. Mrs Sibbald is currently looking at a system where we can email letters to you. Please can you ensure that we have an up to date, working email address to help us with this.

Building Improvements

Following requests from last year's School Council we finally managed to upgrade our Y5 & Y6 toilets over the summer break. Everything was removed, back to the bare walls and all new plumbing, fixtures and fittings were installed. We are all really pleased with the outcome and I know the children will do their very best to maintain the sparkly, new appearance. The staff toilets have also been improved and work has carried out on flooring in the kitchen. New work spaces have also been created to help us deliver small group Maths support and reading time. Plans for the future include upgrading the Y3 & Y4 toilets and improvements to the Fun Club.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital and we have made some changes that allow you to inform Mrs Thwaites if your child is absent from school. Please select the attendance line when you ring school to report an absence. Our school target is 97% and anything at 90% or below will be referred to the LA Inclusion Team. Holidays during term time are not authorised. Please try to ensure that any appointments are made outside school time or if this is not possible that your child is in school for the register at 8:50am and 1:30pm. All this will help to ensure that your child does not miss any of their learning and our school attendance figures are healthy.

Homework

Homework projects for this term will be coming home soon and the children will have until 5th December to complete their tasks. Thank you to everyone for supporting the children with this important element of their learning- we are seeing a huge impact in the classroom. Homework Club will be offered again to those pupils requiring additional support.

Pupils of the Week Awards

Last week these pupils received Pupil of the Week awards from their teachers. Congratulations everyone!

Y3: Amelia Hill, Keeley Quinn & Callan Bragg

Y4: Ruby Mewse & Jack Walsh

Y5: Spencer Bland & Olivia Scurr

Y6: Sienna Jenkinson & Nathan Holt

Mathematician of the Week: Kai Opie (Y5)

The calendar for this term is packed full already. Please see the attached list of dates for your attention.