



NEWSLETTER

21st July 2017

SCHOOL NEWS

Well I don't think any of us can really believe that the school year is over already. What a year it has been!

As we have reflected on the year this week it has been amazing to go back over all the fantastic things that have happened since September.

The school has been an incredibly busy place since September and the focus on pupil progress and attainment has been relentless. This is reflected in the pupil's assessments over the year and the evidence of work in their books. The pupils, staff and governors have all been working flat out to ensure this school continues on its positive journey. We were all so pleased to see that this was acknowledged in our recent Ofsted monitoring visit in June. The feedback from Neil Dixon, our HMI inspector was extremely encouraging and has given us all the impetus to continue this work in the same way next year.

Our curriculum has continued to grow and expand this year with great opportunities developing in the Arts through the Arts Award and Science through the Enthuse Award and the Lego League. These will both be key parts of our curriculum next year. Alongside this we now also have our outdoor classroom and development of the woodland area at the rear of the school which will enable us to use this part of the school more often to enhance our learning provision. We will also be busy next term establishing a new learning garden to use during Science lessons.

We have been incredibly pleased with the way our trips out of school and our homework projects have also enhanced the children's learning experiences. We always need your support with these activities as they could not go ahead without your contributions financially and through the time and effort you put into supporting the children at home. We know that this is not always easy for everyone but seeing and hearing how these experiences improve the knowledge and understanding of our pupils makes it all worthwhile. We ask for your continued support with this next year and are grateful for all the support you have given this year.

This year the children have shown a real commitment to our school values; sticking to the golden rules, displaying a range of character strengths and attending well. Our celebrations of attendance and dojo points this week were very lengthy ones as so many of the children have done so well. Hundreds of certificates and prizes were distributed across school for bronze, silver and gold achievements. In order to ensure that our pupils remain motivated by this success we are going to change things slightly next year by using a house team approach to link to these systems in order to encourage further teamwork across the school. More news on this will follow in September.

It has been a year of great sporting success; winning the Workington Large Schools Swimming Gala and the Workington Schools Football Cup. Our tennis players made it through to the County Games beating all other schools from Workington and then Allerdale to finish fourth of all the schools across the County. There were also fantastic performances in gymnastics, orienteering, netball and hockey in fact too many fabulous efforts to mention them all here. Out of school, Ashfield pupils have been incredibly successful in local clubs with gymnastics, dance, football, rugby, martial arts and tennis. Well done to all our pupils who take part in all these fantastic competitions and events, always representing our school brilliantly.

Congratulations also to the Yellow team who won Sports Day this year. The children continued to compete in school whenever possible after the official sports day was cut short due to the poor weather. All the points were then added together the following week. Well done Yellows!

Thank you for your support at all our charity events this year. This week alone we collected over a hundred pairs of shoes to send to Tanzania and £208 was raised for the Bradley Lowery Foundation.

I would encourage you all to try to spend a little time looking back at our Facebook page over the holidays to reflect on everything that has happened this year. It really gives you a good picture of what's been going on on a weekly, if not daily basis. We regularly get remarks from other local schools about what a hive of activity Ashfield is!

UNIFORM

As I know many of you will be thinking of new uniform for September can I take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform policy. It consists of a school polo shirt, dark (black, grey or navy) trousers (not leggings or jeans style trousers), an around-knee-length skirt (black, grey or navy) or red summer dress, school sweatshirt and black school shoes. Shoes should be completely plain black with no stripes, flashes etc. of white or any other colour. Hair bows must be school colours. Jewellery and nail varnish are not allowed.

We noticed in the last few weeks of term that some of these rules were forgotten or ignored. Please can you ensure that your child always comes to school in the correct clothing. This saves any issues having to be addressed by staff during the school day.

For PE the children need navy blue shorts, plimsolls, trainers (for use when outside) and a school PE t-shirt. Red hoodies are also available for outdoor PE during cold weather. It would also be useful this year for your child to have a pair of wellies that they can bring into school if they are working outdoors in the woodland area.

ALL SCHOOL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

CAR PARK

At this week's Governors meeting the governors considered the applications for parking permits for September. It was decided at this meeting that the permits would be based on the needs of the pupil being dropped off and collected. 2 permits were issued. The decision was a difficult one for governors to make but as the car park is already often full it was clear that limited numbers of permits could be issued. We do not have permission to use the CPTT spaces. The governors will review applications termly so if you still wish to apply then please write to the governors through the school office. Permits can also be issued in emergency situations e.g. if a child has a broken leg.

Please ensure that you do not use the school car park and also let grandparents or other carers know that the car park is now out of bounds unless you have a permit. This will allow us to keep the school entrance safe at the busiest times of the school day.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please note that the school lunch price from September will be £2:20 per day (£11:00 per week). If paying by direct debit please be aware that this will change slightly. If paying weekly please ensure money is sent in on Monday mornings. If you wish to pay half termly or termly please contact Mrs Sibbald in the school office for prices. Also contact Mrs Sibbald if you wish to set up a direct debit.

If no dinner money is sent in for 2 weeks you will be asked to send your child with a packed lunch from then on until the debt is cleared. All dinner money debt has to be initially covered by the school with Dolce. As you will know, school finances are now extremely stretched and we cannot afford to cover these

payments. This year the school has had to cover a dinner money debt of approximately £1,200 and then spend many office hours attempting to reclaim it.

If you are having difficulties covering the cost of lunches please contact the office to discuss whether you are eligible to claim free school meals for your child.

Please be aware that if you have a dinner money debt to school your child may not be able to attend residential visits unless the debt is cleared.

STAFFING

This term we say goodbye to Mr Williams who has been working with us since March. We wish Miss Howells all the best for her wedding in the Summer break. She will return to school as Mrs Hicklin in Y6. We also welcome Mr Gaskell to Y4 in September.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-2018

When we return from the Summer break we will be putting together our calendar of events for next year. We are going to try to complete as much of this as possible for the whole school year so that you have plenty of notice of upcoming events. We will be including a series of parent workshops once again, alongside the termly parents meetings and also further opportunities to come into school to see your child's work and performances in class assemblies. Please look out for this calendar in September.

Key dates already established for next term:

Monday 4th September: return to school

Tuesday 12th September: Wizard of Oz production in school

Monday 18th September: Steel drum workshops in Y6

Tuesday 26th September: Y6 to REACT Science Show

Monday 2nd October: 5B Viking Day

Thursday 5th October: 5S Viking Day

Monday 16th October: Y6 to Life Centre

23rd - 27th October: Half Term

Thursday 2nd November: School photos (Individual and family)

Tuesday 7th October: Flu Jabs

Thursday 9th October: Y6 to Imperial War Museum Manchester

Wednesday 29th November: Christmas Fair

Wednesday 6th December: Whole School visit to Theatre by the Lake

Friday 15th December: Break up for Christmas

Thursday 4th January: Return to school

Can I please remind everyone that the school is officially open from 8:35am. Please ensure your child is not on site before this time. In recent weeks we have also had a few incidents where children have not come directly into school and have been found playing near the crossing or in the woods opposite school. Please

ensure that your child is brought directly to school in the mornings and they understand the need to come straight into school to avoid any unsafe situations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have recently changed your address or phone number please can you ensure that the school office has all up to date information. Can all new parents joining us in September please make sure that the data collection forms and home/school agreements are returned at the beginning of September.

REPORTS

Thank you for your response slips to your child's report. The teaching staff would like to pass on their thanks and appreciation for the many wonderful comments that you sent in. It is great to see their reactions to this positive feedback that really does mean an awful lot to them. I hope any queries have been addressed. If not, then please contact us in September.

Thank you once again to everyone that has supported us this year. This is a really key time for Ashfield Junior School and this support from you is so important to us.

Together we Achieve.

Best wishes for the Summer break. I hope it is full of wonderful opportunities and experiences for you and your families. See you all in September.

Mrs Frost