



NEWSLETTER

6th December 2016

School Events

Well here we are almost Christmas time again. We cannot believe how quickly this term has passed. The school has been a hive of activity and hard work since September and we are now getting ready to allow ourselves a few days to celebrate Christmas together before the end of term.

The children and staff are waiting expectantly to welcome you in to school **tomorrow for the decoration morning which will start at 9am**. Please enter the school via the front office and make your way to the hall to sign in and be collected. If you have 2 children with us then staff will accommodate you so you can work with both children.

Thursday brings Christmas dinner and the elves will be busy setting all the tables ready for our 2 sittings. Y3 & Y4 will eat first, followed by Y5 & Y6. Pile on the sprouts and don't forget your Christmas jumper!

Finally this week we will be at **St John's Church on Friday at 2pm for our Christmas Service**. The shepherds are busy gathering their flocks and the camel is preparing for his long journey to see the baby.

All the children will have a Christmas party before the end of term with their year group. Year 6 are having theirs today and Y3, 4 and 5 will be next week. Our final day will bring awards for hard work, attendance and conduct before we break up at 1:30pm on Friday 16th December.

School Development

We continue to work on our School Development Plan. These past few weeks have seen us focus on marking and feedback and its impact on pupil learning as well as assessing pupil progress since the summer in reading, writing and maths. We had our Local Authority partners in school on Friday last week to review our actions so far this year. This was a very positive day and they were extremely complimentary about the children, their attitudes to learning and conduct around school. They visited all classrooms to see English and Maths lessons and gave us a lot of positive feedback about what they saw. Pupils are making good progress, our curriculum and teaching methods are having an impact and teachers are astute at picking up on misconceptions. We are continuing to focus on our priorities but once again we are pleased that we have received external verification that our decisions regarding teaching and learning are having a positive impact on pupil learning.

We are currently in the process of producing a parents and carers version of the School Development Plan. This will allow you to see our planned actions and timescales for the next 18 months as we continue to improve. This will go on to the school website next week.

Homework

Well done! You have all obviously worked incredibly hard supporting the children this term with their project tasks. There is a wonderful display of work around school and the children are incredibly proud of what they have produced, learned and achieved. We know that this can only happen if we have your support but we also know what an amazing impact it has on the children seeing themselves as learners, not just now but for the rest of their lives.

We know that it is not the traditional worksheet approach to homework that many schools have but we passionately believe that this approach has a much bigger impact on the children's ability to learn and allows them to use and apply their English and Maths skills across other subject areas.

The children have wowed us this week with their knowledge of the Stone Age, Egyptians, Anglo Saxons, Vikings and World War Two. They have been inspired to research further into topics, make visits and explore ideas and that is a lot to do with the enthusiasm they pick up from you at home as you encourage them.

Thank you very much for supporting the school in this way.

We are making some additions to the homework tasks for the Spring Term. The children will all bring home a Family Maths scrapbook in January with a set of activities to complete over the term. These are produced by the National Numeracy charity whose work has been recognised as having a positive impact on children's maths. Many families have also taken up the offer of purchasing the CGP study books. These can also be used to give your child additional practice at key English and Maths skills. These books have now arrived in school and will be sent home before the end of term.

As a celebration of all this fantastic work we would like to invite you to an exhibition of all the homework projects in the school hall on Monday 12th December from 3pm to 4pm. Free mince pies and a warm drink!

Website & Communication

Newsletters and other forms of communication are now primarily shared through the school website (www.ashfieldjuniorschool.co.uk). Please check the website if you have mislaid a letter that your child has brought home. You should be able to find any information you need. There is also a schools events calendar that lets you know of any dates you aren't sure of. We also still have our Facebook page to provide images of the fantastic things going on in school. If you experience any problems then please contact Mrs Sibbald in the school office.

Parent Workshops

In January we are going to begin a programme of Parent Workshops to provide information on teaching methods in Maths at our school and support with the Family Maths scrapbook activities. There will be one each half term and they will always take place on Mondays from 4:00pm to 4:45pm. This follows requests from some parents for advice on how to help their children with their learning at home.

The first meeting will take place on Monday 13th February with the second one on Monday 27th March.

Attendance

Our attendance so far this term is: 96.04%. This takes us slightly below our target of 97%.

Class winners during November were: 4LP, 6B and 3B. Our winning class will receive £50 at the end of the year to spend how they wish. Past winners have had a class party and invited the ice cream van in to school!

Individual 100% attendance lottery winners are chosen weekly. They receive a £5 prize. All pupils with 100% attendance for this term will receive a certificate and prize on the final day of term.

Please remember that holidays during term time are not authorised.

All the staff at Ashfield Junior School would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

We return to school on Thursday 5th January 2017.

FRIENDS OF ASHFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAIR 2016 PRIZE WINNERS:

Friends of Ashfield Hamper:

- Libby Green - Year 4

Raffle:

Milk Tray	-	Joe T – Year 4
Milk Tray	-	Jacob F – Year 5
Milk Tray	-	Josh L (c/o Nathan L Yr 5)
Lego Advent Calendar	-	Jacob C – Year 3
Box Heroes	-	Abigail G - Year 4
Box Shortbread	-	Hayden T - Year 4
Bag of Celebrations	-	Louis W – Year 4
Teddy & Advent Calendar	-	Katherine C – Year 3
Prosecco & Truffles	-	Nathan L - Year 5
Selection Box	-	Ewan (c/o Mrs Frost)
Hand Cream Set	-	Mrs Sewell (TA)
Make up Bag	-	Mr P Rafferty (Chair of Governors)
Bayliss & Harding Hand Lotion	-	Oscar P – Year 3
Jewellery Set	-	Abigail G - Year 4
Purse	-	London T – Year 3
Set of Coasters	-	Emily S - Year 5
Box Quality Street	-	Ellie P – Year 5

Guess how many Loom Bands:

- Amelia H – Year 3 (Tin of Sweets)

Name the Bears:

- Boy Bear – Mrs Pears
Girl Bear – Abigail G – Year 4
Large Bear - Emily F – Year 3

Santas Treasure:

- Abigail G - Year 4