



Newsletter

June
2018

A Message from Mrs Frost

As I write, Harry Kane and England are riding high after their 2-1 defeat of Tunisia. (Let's hope they still are by the time you read this!) What struck me was the way the players kept going even when things were going wrong and they were not playing as well as they might. In the post-match interviews the word that was repeatedly used by the BBC interviewer was *resilience* — the ability to bounce back after difficulties. The players did not hang their heads, but kept going, kept believing and, thankfully, prevailed.

Resilience is a quality that we constantly talk to our children about, whether it's during assembly or in the classroom, and we see shining examples of it everyday. Everyday I am pleasantly interrupted from staring at my computer screen by children who have been given a golden token by their teacher and want to tell me why they have been given it. Invariably there will be at least one child who has struggled with an element of the work and got frustrated, but during the course of the lesson he or she has prevailed and shown a new understanding and ability. It's moments like this that make me proud of being the Head of Ashfield Junior School. Resilient children are children that will go on to cope better with what life offers them as adults.

Resilient children have not been gifted with a particular attribute— it's not written in their genes. It can be taught and nurtured by you at home, at clubs and at school. One of the methods we use at Ashfield is to teach Growth Mindset. Growth Mindset is NOT about 'if you work hard and don't give-up, you can be famous and rich'. It's about having that inner voice that decides to face-up to struggles and failure, that decides not to give-up and has another go. The phrase we teach all of the children and especially when they are struggling with a concept is '*I can't do it...yet*'. It's the mindset of having another attempt and the possibility of, with hard work and maybe extra help, that tomorrow, next week or even next year, we may further our learning more than we thought we could.

The England captain showed just those attributes. He kept going, despite being thrown to the ground. He kept going, despite the likelihood of the game being a draw. He kept going, despite barely touching the ball in the second half. And yet, he didn't give-up. He went through the struggle and, in the dying minutes, won the game. I think the pupils of Ashfield are well on their way to having those attributes and having that mindset, just like Harry Kane. *Mrs Frost*

Ashfield Win!

Thanks to our star swimmers, we won the Workington Large Primary Schools Swimming Gala...for the second year running! As many of you stated on our Facebook page, well done to everyone who participated — they were all amazing.



A Word from the Governors — Mr Andrew Wallam

I've been asked to introduce myself as a governor at the school. Within the governors, I am the link governor for Special Educational Needs, data protection and governor training and I am a member of the Teaching, Learning and Achievement sub-committee. I started as a governor here in 2013 when my daughter was in Year 3. She had many wonderful experiences at Ashfield Junior School and these prepared her well for the transition to secondary school. I've enjoyed working with Mrs Frost to support her to make many valuable changes to the school including closer co-operation with the Infants and changes to the way the curriculum is taught. The junior school has its own character. It is a happy school and the ethos is one of supporting staff and pupils to make the best of change in an environment that is caring and values the unique contribution that each person can make.

Friends of Ashfield

We are always grateful for all of the hard work and support that the Friends of Ashfield give us — they really do make a difference. The money raised by the Friends benefits our children. Just this term, the money they have donated has paid for a coach to take Year 6 to The Cocoabean Factory in Dumfries (£350) and funded a Tree Tops trip to the Gincase in Mawbray (£200).

The next Friends event is the Summer Fair which is on Friday, 29th June. Without a doubt the weather will be warm, sunny and cloudless! The money raised from this event will be put back into school to benefit the children in the Autumn Term.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Ashfield, simply contact Mrs Sibbald in our front office.

Ofsted

Did you see our mention in The Times & Star? We are all proud of what the school—staff, governors and children— has achieved in the past few years. Thank you for your continuing support. We do value it. As we've already said, this is not a time for sitting still. We want to make the children's education and experience at this school even better. There's no resting on our laurels here!

Soccer Aid

With your help, we raised £322 for Soccer Aid. The children had a great day in their sports kits, taking on the challenge of Mr Kyle's and Mr Gaskell's football obstacle course and, of course, many of the children took on the goalkeeping might of Mr Gaskell in the penalty shoot out. Have you ever seen a more dramatic goalkeeper!?! For those of you of a certain age, Liverpool's Bruce Grobbelaar came to mind! Thank you to all of you who supported the event.

