



Ashwell School Newsletter



Dates for your Diary

10th November 2011

November

- 14th Primary applications open
- 18th Children in Need
- 24th Let them eat cake
- 25th Occasional Day - school closed

December

- 2nd Christmas Bazaar
- 7th Infants - Nativity Play
- 8th Yrs N, R, I & 2 - Theatre Trip
The Junction, Cambridge
- 10th Turkey Dinner
- 13th Juniors - Christmas Play 2.00pm
- 14th Juniors - Christmas Play 2.00pm
- 14th FS - Christmas Sing Song 9.30am
- 16th Last day of term finish at 1.45

January

- 4th First day of term
- 9th New nursery pupils start
- 15th Primary applications close
for current Nursery Pupils
- 27th Let them eat cake
- 30th Yrs 5 & 6 Visit from
Young Shakespeare Company

February

- 10th Yr 6 - KTS Singing Festival
- 13th HALF TERM WEEK
- 20th Nursery applications open

March

- 1st World Book day
- 27th Class Photos
- 30th Last day of term



Ofsted

Many, many thanks for all the support we received during the Ofsted Inspection earlier in the term. The inspectors commented that the degree of parental support for the school was exceptional, with 100% of the 129 parents who responded to the Ofsted questionnaire reporting that their child enjoys school, and that the school keeps their child safe, and very large positive majorities for the other statements. We were pleased with the Ofsted report overall, especially with the outstanding grades for pupil welfare and personal development, and are working hard to improve those areas which the inspectors felt were less strong, particularly writing, which is the top priority on our School Improvement Plan. I will be writing to you later in the year about ways in which you can support your child in learning to write, and we hope to be holding an information evening for parents about both writing and maths teaching and learning next term.

Parent Governor Elections

Mr Paul Harrison was elected as a new parent governor last month, and I am sure he will be a great asset to the Governing Body.

Digital Microscopes

I am delighted to tell you that we have been given a set of six digital microscopes by an organisation called SETPOINT. This was as result of a bid made last summer by a group of girls now in Year 6 – Brooke Middleton, Imogen Bentley, Anni Tyson, Lydia Kiernan and Clare Larking. In their lunchtimes, they prepared and filmed a video presentation to persuade SETPOINT to award us the microscopes, for which we are very grateful. Well done girls, and Mrs Reynolds, who helped them.



Christmas Bazaar

This year's Christmas bazaar takes place on Friday December 2nd. Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help on the day or provide goods to sell, wrap presents etc. Everyone is warmly invited to attend: the bazaar is open to parents from 2pm, and there will be the usual variety of stalls run by Class 6 pupils and parents, together with a special visit from Santa.

There is a basket outside the office for donations of old toys, books, gifts etc. If you have any contributions for the Christmas Hamper to be raffled, please leave them in the office.

Christmas Plays

You are warmly invited to attend this year's Christmas productions.

'Christmas Eve in the Toyshop' presented by Years 1 and 2 at **11am on Wednesday December 7th** in the Big Hall.

'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' presented by Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 at **2pm on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December** in the Big Hall

Many people felt that the Harvest Festival was rather spoilt this year by some noisy toddlers who drowned out the children and adults conducting the service. I would be very grateful if you could think carefully about whether to bring pre - school children to the Christmas plays, as it seems a great pity if all the hard work put in by school age children to learn lines and rehearse scenes is spoilt by noisy younger children. If you have to bring a baby or toddler, please sit near an exit and be prepared to leave if they create a disturbance. We are happy to organise a crèche in the dining hall if there are enough parents who can volunteer to man it. Please talk to Mrs Oxley if interested.

Parents of Foundation Stage children are invited to a Christmas Singsong at **9.30am on Wednesday 14th December**, in the Foundation Unit.

If anyone has any hobbyhorses or fancy dress top hats they could lend us as props for the 'Snow White' production, we would be very grateful. Please bring them to the office.



120 Club

MONTH	POSITION	NAME	NUMBER	PRIZE
July 2011	1st	Christine Simkins	2	£15
	2nd	David Picking	14	£10
	3rd	H&S Jones	16	£5
August 2011	1st	S&M Fleming	55	£15
	2nd	Viv Moore	32	£10
	3rd	R&A Coates	75	£5
September 2011	1st	Jayne Boxall	63	£15
	2nd	Olive Anderson	84	£10
	3rd	T&R Giles	85	£5
October 2011	1st	D Marshall	28	£15
	2nd	T&C Moynihan	48	£10
	3rd	T&C Moynihan	47	£5
November 2011	1st	Caroline Barton	71	£15
	2nd	R&A Coates	75	£10
	3rd	T&C Moynihan	48	£5

After School

There have been a few problems occurring after school when children have been given over to their parents' care by teachers, but have been playing on the playground for up to an hour while their parents chat. Sometimes the children break school rules at this time which are designed to keep them safe, for example riding on bikes or scooters (one child broke her arm last term, and there have been several children hurt by scooter riders) or jumping from the wall around the play garden onto the concrete below. In addition, children at our HATs childcare club are unable to use the playground as a play space because parents are still there and the gate can't be locked. One or two parents have also expressed their concern to me about dogs being tied up directly outside the school gate, where their toddlers have to pass.

I appreciate that it is nice for parents to be able to meet friends and catch up with news at 3.15, but please could I ask parents to make sure that they leave the playground by 3.45 at the latest, i.e. 30 minutes after the end of school, and to be aware that they are solely responsible for their child's behaviour and safety after school hours.

For Sale

- ✿ 2 large computer tables: beech and brushed steel, price £20 each. Available on the covered patio outside the New Block for inspection.
- ✿ Carousel slide projector
- ✿ Brother Laser Printer HL-1450
- ✿ Winter bedding plants, kindly donated by a parent: £1 For a tray of 15 plants.

Please contact the office if you are interested in any of the above items.

Christmas Card shop

Ashwell Charity Christmas Card shop opened on Saturday 15th October

In case you are not aware, Ashwell has had a Charity Christmas Card shop open for the festive period for the last 17 years and has raised in excess of £50,000. All proceeds from the shop are passed directly to the charities... this is in contrast to supermarket purchases where in the region of 5-10% of the price is passed onto the charities. Please feel free to come and browse in the shop where payment is by cash or cheques - cash preferred if possible.

We will be open every Saturday from 10 - 1 and Sunday afternoons from 2-4.30 until Sunday 18th December. The shop is located opposite the Village Stores on the corner with Bear Lane.

Parking

As you will have noticed, parking near the school at the start and end of the school day can present problems and sometimes dangers. Please can I ask parents who live in Ashwell to walk their children to school rather than drop them off by car en route to somewhere else. Some parents have to bring their children to school by car because they live out of the village but not on a school bus route: please could those parents park away from the school, for example on the High Street or Mill Street, and walk the last few metres. The Rose and Crown pub kindly allow parents to use their car park for a few minutes outside opening hours, (not when bringing children to evening events such as school discos). Parents are not allowed to use the drive at the back of the school: there was an accident recently when a parent drove into a teacher's car, but it could easily have been a child who was hurt. Please do not park close to the meadow gates, as this could cause an accident when the school buses and pedestrians are coming in and out.

PTA

The PTA have already organised a number of enjoyable and successful events this school year, including a supper concert, an '80s disco and the ever popular Fireworks night. Many thanks for your support for these events, and to the PTA for organising them so successfully, as well as the Christmas cards and calendars. The next event is the Turkey Dinner on Saturday December 10th – please see your invitation which I have sent separately.

Warning: tickets often sell out fast for this very popular event!

