



Ashwell Primary School

Newsletter
29th September 2023

September 2023

Dear all,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new children, their families and staff to our school. It is always a pleasure seeing our new Nursery and Reception children join us at the beginning of term, as well as those who have joined us across the school. They have all settled in incredibly well.

Classrooms are already busy, exciting places with a real sense of purposeful learning taking place. It has not taken long for staff and children to get into the full flow of term and we have already had a fantastic French dance workshop day!

As ever, we have a busy term planned with a huge number of events and curriculum enrichment activities taking place. Please see our **NEW** website and calendar for a full list of what is taking place! Remember you can now sync the school calendar to your device should you wish! Before we know it, Year 5 will be off on their Burwell House Residential!

We have already been able to hold 'Meet the teacher' sessions. Thank you to those who provided feedback regarding these. Further workshops for parents, starting with Phonics next week, are planned this term so keep an eye out for these dates!

Over the summer, ongoing works continued linked to our heating system upgrade, this included the installation of a mini substation. We are hoping that the work will finally be completed before the end of 2023! Over October half term, our kitchen is also having a full refit which is exciting! Further information to follow when we have it.

Mr S England
Headteacher



A reminder that our school events are now shared on the new website calendar. There is a function for you to subscribe to this to have dates sync to your device.

<https://www.ashwell.herts.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=8&viewid=1>

- 2nd Oct – Parent Phonics Workshop
- October – Black History Month
- 10th & 12th Oct – Parents' Evening
- 18th to 20th Oct – Year 5 Burwell Residential
- 19th Oct – Year 6 Ancient Greeks Day
- 20th Oct – PTA Disco
- 23rd to 27th Oct – Half Term
- 30th Oct – Indian Drumming Workshop
- 4th Nov – PTA Fireworks
- 8th Nov – Flu Immunisations
- 9th Nov – Year 3 Class Assembly
- 13th Nov – Anti-Bullying Week
- 17th Nov – Children in Need
- 21st Nov – Year 3 Fitzwilliam Museum Visit
- 22nd Nov – Year 5 Sartorius Visit (CCI)
- 22nd Nov – Reception Audley End trip
- 24th Nov – Occasional Day (School Closed)
- 26th Nov – PTA BassBelle 10 Miler
- 1st Dec – Year 6 & PTA Christmas Bazaar

Parent Volunteers



Thank you to those who have contacted the office to offer some time and your support. If you have not yet had a chance to, please let us know ASAP as we are co-ordinating parent helpers with the class teachers so that we are able to target needs across the school.

I want to thank you in advance for giving up your time, it is very much appreciated and makes a huge difference to staff and our children.



Meet the Teacher

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions. It was fantastic to see so many people.

We hope that you found the session informative and that it gave you a chance to hear about the year ahead, as well as meet your child's class teachers.

You should have received the presentation alongside some other useful documents. Please keep these to refer to as the year goes on.

Parents' Evening

Believe it or not, it will soon be our first parents' evening of the year. This will take place on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th October. The letter with full details should have come to you this week. It explains how it will run this year and how appointments can be booked. Booking will open on Sunday 1st October and close on Thursday 5th October.



Don't forget
Parents'
Evening!

Christmas Card Designs

Miss Carroll in the office is kindly organising a fundraising project enabling children to design and produce their own Christmas cards again this year.

Your child should have brought home the instruction of how to take part with a letter and template.

Please return the completed sheet to school by Friday 6th October. **We CANNOT process anything after this date.**

Samples of the card design will be sent home and you will be able to order directly online for delivery to the school at the beginning of December.



October Half-Term Holiday Club

There will **NOT** be a Premier Camps Multi-activity Holiday Club at Ashwell School during the October half term as a result of the kitchen refit.

Clubs will return in future holidays.

These will be open to children aged 4-11 and more information is available at:

<https://www.premier-education.com/holidaycamps>



Nursery Admissions

The admissions information for our Nursery and Reception – September 2024 Intake is now all on our website [here](#).

Reception – September 2024 Intake

If you would like to book onto a Reception tour please use the link below:

[Reception Tours](#)

Deadline for applications – 15/1/24

Allocation Day – 16/4/24

All admissions are via:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Nursery - September 2024 Intake

If you would like to book onto a Nursery tour please use the link below:

[Nursery Tours](#)

Deadline for applications – 9/2/24

Allocation Day – 8/3/24

*PLACES STILL AVAILABLE in current Nursery cohort

[On-Line Application Form](#)



Black History Month

October is Black History month and we will again be using this as an opportunity to explore cultural diversity. On Monday Mr England will hold a whole school assembly to launch the month. During October, teachers will be planning activities around this theme across their curriculum. For further information please see: <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>



Healthy Eating Policy & Lunches

At Ashwell we do our best to promote a healthy lifestyle. A reminder of our Health Eating & Drinking Policy at Ashwell. Part of this revolves around promoting a healthy balanced packed lunch.

Children should not have any form of sweets or chocolate bars in their lunches.

We also have a number of children with nut allergies in school and ask that parents **do not** include food items with nuts in your child's packed lunch.

Thank you for your support with this.

Please do check to see if you are eligible for Free School Meals. If you are unsure – pop in and see Mrs Bowen in the school office.

We actively encourage children to come to school with a water bottle each day. Can we please ask that the water bottle is named and that children only have **water**. We have already noticed some children bringing in bottles of juice.



Safeguarding

In school, we constantly remind our children that they can report any concerns they have about themselves or someone else to any adult in school. We encourage parents to report their concerns too. A reminder that our Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mr England & Mrs Andrews.



School Governors

A huge thank you to the 6 people who put themselves forward for the parent governor vacancies. It really shows how supportive our parent body are at Ashwell. I also want to thank everyone who took time to vote during the recent parent governor election.

Congratulations to Mr Lee who was reelected and to Mrs Firth who was elected. Both will now have a 4 year term of office with the Governing Body.



PTA Updates

Thank you to those who were able to attend our recent PTA AGM. I want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Wright and the outgoing committee for their hard work and support last year. I also want to thank and welcome our new committee. Hopefully you will have had a chance to read their first newsletter to find out a bit about them all and what they have planned! If you haven't had a chance to read it, you can find it [here](#).

You can also view the new PTA website to access information and their shop - <https://ashwellpta.co.uk/>

Dates for your diary:

PTA Spooky Disco – Friday 20th October

PTA Fireworks - Saturday 4th November

Ticket details coming soon.

If you are able to help at the PTA Fireworks, please get in touch, without help it is exceptionally difficult to put this event on. Please speak to your class reps.

info@ashwellpta.co.uk



Remember you can still support the school by using the link below when shopping online:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashwell-school/>

Or by donating @

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=FMN6V7N9XZDVY

Year 2 Non-chronological Reports

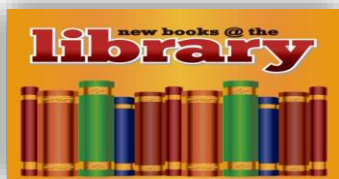
Year 2 have been making links between Science and English this week creating non-chronological reports about "Materials." They used both practical and IT skills to take photographs of various materials around the school using the iPads. They then put these onto their reports and added some captions to describe the properties of their chosen material.



Donate a Book to our Library

Book donations continue to come into the school from our wish list.

A huge thank you to everyone who has already purchased a new book for the school library. To see our children's wish list and to donate a new book please see: <http://amzn.eu/OR6HXLXLA>



Environment Improvements

Over the summer holidays, thanks to the Henry Colbron Funding, we have been able to refurbish the Key Stage 2 toilets and also install a new music and digging area in our EYFS outside areas.



New Key Stage 2 Toilets



New EYFS Music area

Attendance

Attendance at Ashwell continues to be good with our whole school figure at 98.2% for 2023-24.

May I remind parents to avoid booking holidays or medical appointments during school times wherever possible.

Class	%
Acorn (Nursery)	99.2%
Oak (Reception)	99.1%
Year 4	99.0%
Year 2	98.6%
Year 3	98.4%
Year 1	97.5%
Year 5	97.3%
Year 6	96.8%



School Development Priorities



This year our main school development priorities are:

Main Priority 1: To raise the attainment of pupil in writing across the school.

Main Priority 2: To foster a culture of self-motivated, resilient, and independent learners, enabling students to take ownership of their education and thrive academically and personally.

Main Priority 3: Continue to fully embed the intended high quality, ambitious curriculum ensuring the ongoing development of teacher expertise and subject knowledge.



School Council 2023-24

During the early part of the term, children were invited to put themselves forward to be class representatives and form our 2023-24 school council. Following class elections, I am delighted to be able to share with you our new school council for this year. Congratulations to:

Executive Rep & Chair – Charlotte W (Year 6)

Year 6 – Teddy C & Belle H

Year 5 – Finlay P & Emily K

Year 4 – Elodie F & John LF

Year 3 – Cora U & Asier DL

Year 2 – Duncan B & Orlaith C

Year 1 – Rion GL & Mersey G



French Dance Workshops

On Tuesday 26th September, children from Reception to Year 6 were treated to a fantastic workshop themed on French and dance! Speaking to children across the school, they thoroughly enjoyed it!

A huge thank you to the PTA who fully funded this workshop.



Ground Force Team!

Following our email and plea for help to 'sort' an area for Year 1 to enjoy outdoor learning, I'd like to say a huge thank you to:

- Mr Robinson who gave up some of his time last Friday to clear some of the borders
- Mr Lovejoy and Orla who gave up their Sunday morning to source materials and complete the job.

We are incredibly grateful – thank you!



Ground Force fairies in action

PE Kit & Uniform Reminders

Please can we ask that you check our uniform policy carefully prior to ordering/buying new uniform.

<https://ashwell.herts.sch.uk/parents/uniform-equipment/>

IMPORTANT – PE Kit update

We have recently noticed a huge variety of clothing items being worn as PE kit. In particular, we are concerned about the type of shorts that some children are wearing. Please note, PE kit should comprise of the following ONLY:

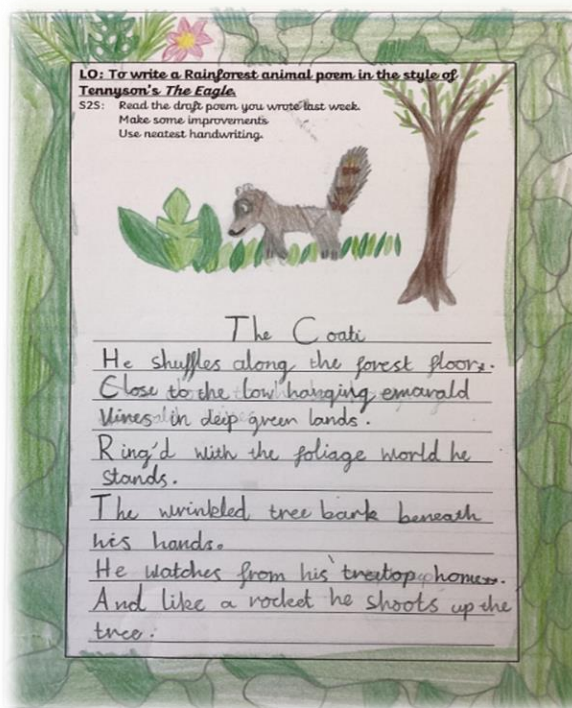
- ✓ Navy tracksuit bottoms / leggings / shorts* / skort
- ✓ Plain white T-shirt
- ✓ Plain trainers
- ✓ Navy tracksuit top

****An update to our policy will come in the autumn but please note that shorts should NOT be cycling or gymnast type shorts and need to be of an appropriate length (see below the expected style)***



Year 4 – Rainforest Learning

Year 4 have made a good start to some cross-curricular topic work, by writing Rainforest animal poems in English and designing and making a rainforest diorama as part of our design and technology lessons. The poems imitated the style of Tennyson's The Eagle poem, following the structure of that poem and using challenging vocabulary too. The dioramas were made out of a shoebox and natural materials from our meadow area. The children painted the backgrounds and added extra details using other resources such as tissue paper and cardboard. They were very proud to share them in our whole school assembly!



Parent Training Courses - DSPL sign posting

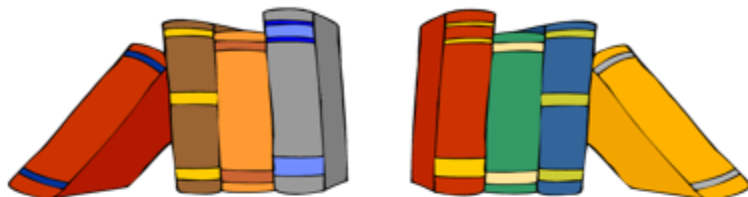
- ✦ [Autism Plus: Co-occurring Conditions \(Fri 29 Sep 2023 at 10:00\)](#)
- ✦ [Sleep Workshop \(Mon 2 Oct 2023 at 19:00\)](#)
- ✦ [PDA, ODD and ADHD: Understanding the Differences Workshop \(Wed 4 Oct 2023 at 10:00\)](#)
- ✦ [Understanding Autism in Girls - ONLINE WORKSHOP \(Mon 2 Oct 2023 at 10:00\)](#)
- ✦ [Tips & Tools to Manage Eating Difficulties - FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP \(Wed 4 Oct 2023 at 10:00\)](#)
- ✦ [Tips & Tools for Toileting - FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP \(Thu 5 Oct 2023 at 10:00\)](#)

Extra-Curricular Activities (Clubs)

We are delighted to be able to share that our full program of extra-curricular clubs is now up and running. This is a mixture of activities led by both school staff and external agencies. The clubs that run during the school day are organised by teachers and attendance to them is optional for children. Before and after school activities must be booked. Please contact the office if you require support with this.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 8:00 - 8:45			Dodge Ball (20) (Year 1-3) Premier Sport Hall	Dodge Ball (20) (Year 4-6) Premier Sport Hall	Chess (20) Yrs 3 - 6 Dr Hunt Ash/Library
Lunchtime 11:45 - 12:15			Gardening Club (10) Ms Coates Y3 Team Games (20) (Year 3&4) Premier Sport MUGA	Team Games (20) (Year 3&4) Premier Sport MUGA	
Lunchtime 12:15 - 12:45	Music (20) (Year 1-6) Miss Back Hall	Maths (20) Yrs 3-5 Mrs Clark Yr 4 Dance (20) Yrs R-2 Miss Meehan Hall	Team Games (20) (Year R, 1&2) Premier Sport MUGA	Team Games (20) (Year R, 1&2) Premier Sport MUGA	Choir (10) Yrs 2&3 Miss Valentine Hall
After school 3:15 - 4:15	Choir (20) (Year 4-6) Miss Back Hall (4.30 finish)	Gymnastics (20) (Year 1-6) Premier Sport Hall	Football (20) (Year 4-6) Premier Sport Meadow	Netball (20) (Year 4-6) Premier Sport Playground	

23rd ASHWELL BOOK WEEKEND



St Mary's Church, Ashwell

Saturday 7th October 10.00 till 5.00

Sunday 8th October 1.30 till 4.30

A great selection of second handbooks to browse through and buy

Entrance £1 - Under 16s free

Tea, Coffee and Homemade cakes available

Please bring donations of books to the Church on

Monday 2 October - Thursday 5 October

from 10.00am to 5.00pm

*Please no dictionaries, encyclopaedias, cassettes, videos, or
Readers Digest condensed books please.*

No books accepted after 5.00pm on Thursday

For further details contact Karen Rogers 01462 743338 or Teresa King
07964 287562

Proceeds to St Mary's Restoration Fund

Please park **SAFELY**

We need everyone to play their part in keeping the roads near schools safe.

DRIVERS SHOULD NOT:

- park on yellow zig zag markings.
- park on double yellow lines at any time, or on single yellows during restricted hours.
- park or drive on footpaths.
- park within 10 metres of a junction, as this decreases visibility.
- block driveways or dropped kerbs.

You may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Thank you for your cooperation.

