



Ashwell School Newsletter



Dates for your Diary

6th April 2011

April

- 8th Last day of term finish at 3.15
- 27th First day of term
- 28th Royal Wedding Picnic
- 29th Royal Wedding - Bank Holiday

May

- 2nd Bank Holiday
- Ashwell Village Sports Day
- 5th Yr 5 - Cycling sessions start
- 8th Ashwell at Home
- 9th Yr 6 - SATs
- 11th PTA - Belly Dancing
- 16th Yr 6 - Cycling Proficiency Week
- 19th Yr 3 - Hatfield Forest
- 24th Ashwell Music Festival Concert
- 30th - 3rd Half Term

June

- 7th School Journey - Parent Talk
- 8th Yr 5 - Maths Roadshow
- 10th Inset Day - School Closed
- 13th Yr 6 - Taiko Drums at KTS
- Rural Sports at Hitchin Boys
- 17th Sports Day
- PTA - Let them eat cake Yr 1
- 18th PTA - Elvis Night
- 21st Reserve Sports Day
- 23rd Yr 4—Racquet Skills Festival
- 24th Yr 6—Crucial Crew
- 27th - 1st Yrs 5 & 6
- School Journey - Canterbury
- 29th Yr 2 - Multi Skills Festival KTS

July

- 9th PTA - family Event
- 13th Yr 3 - Wider Opportunities Celebration at KTS
- 14th Yr 6 - KTS new intake day
- 15th PTA - Let them eat cake Yr 6
- 19th Meet your new teacher
- 21st Final Assembly
- 22nd Last day of term finish at 1.45

Dear Parents

Royal Wedding Celebrations



The first week of next term is a two day week (for pupils) and we have decided to devote it to a mini project about the Royal Wedding. This will culminate in a **wedding picnic party** for the whole school on the afternoon of Thursday 28th April. If the weather is fine, we will hold the picnic on the meadow; if not, it will take place in the main hall and the dining hall. We would be very grateful if on the Thursday morning you could send in some **party food**, such as a packet of biscuits, a plate of cakes, a large packet of crisps or a bottle of lemonade, that your child can share with his or her classmates.

We thought it would be fun if the children came to school that day dressed in **red, white and blue**, with a **wedding hat** to wear that they had prepared during the Easter holidays. This could be a hat made from card or paper from scratch, or perhaps they could decorate an old hat of yours. If anyone has any **bunting, flags etc** we could use to decorate the school for the occasion, please send it into school either this week or on the first day of next term.

If you are free on the afternoon of the 28th, please come along and help out if you can. We plan to play party games before eating the picnic and I am sure the whole afternoon will be great fun.



Ashwell Sports



The village sports day is scheduled for Monday May 2nd and I hope that lots of the children – and their parents – will be taking part as usual. I am very grateful to Alison Picking for organising the refreshments in the pavilion on behalf of the PTA. Please let her know on 743314 if you are able to provide cakes or biscuits, or do a half hour stint serving.

Ashwell at Home

Ashwell at Home takes place on Sunday May 8th. This very popular and profitable event attracts many visitors from outside the village as well as locals, and the proceeds are split between the museum, the church and the school. The PTA is responsible for serving lunches and teas in the school dining hall, and would be very grateful for donations of quiches, salads or cakes, and for volunteers who are able to spend an hour or two helping out between 11am and 5pm. I will send a separate letter at the beginning of term to remind you, but please put the date in your diary if you are able to help at all.

Fundraiser



In July 2011, seven local young people, including four of our ex-pupils – Callum Adams, Rosie Boxall, Kier Petit-Brandtner and Rufus Talks – are travelling to Brazil to work for three weeks in an orphanage. They need to raise almost £2000 each to pay for the trip and to buy school supplies and building materials to take with them. **This Saturday,**

April 9th, they have organised a classic rock covers band, 'Desperate Measures', to perform at St Mary's Church. Doors open 7.15 for 8pm; licensed bar and raffle; tickets from Ashwell Post Office, 'Rhubarb and Mustard' or the Parish Office.

Red Nose Day



Earlier this month the school raised almost £800 for Comic Relief, by buying noses, by paying to wear fancy dress and to watch the talent show, and by a variety of sponsored events initiated by the children. Many, many thanks for helping the children raise so much for such a good cause.

School Council



The School Council has been discussing ways in which the school can help improve the environment, both locally and further afield, and have drawn up an Environmental Action Plan. 'Green Monitors' in each class will help save energy by turning off lights etc, and by making sure that we make full use of our new recycling bins which allow us to recycle card, food waste, cans and glass, as well as paper. Each class will this week be planting seed potatoes to learn about self sufficiency, and the School Council is very keen to encourage children who live in Ashwell to walk or cycle to school.

The School Councillors from Years 5 and 6 attended a day long conference at St Christopher's School in Letchworth about a campaign called 'Plant for the Planet' which aims to plant a million trees in every country.

On the same theme, many thanks to those of you who made a donation to 'Rainforest Concern' when you visited the Art Day exhibition earlier in the term. Your contributions allowed us to sponsor half an acre of rainforest in Ecuador.

Singing



I am delighted to tell you that the school has been awarded the Silver Sing up award in recognition of the important role singing has in the school. Congratulations to Helen Whitehead, our music teacher, for this achievement, and also to Year 6, who took part recently in a very impressive performance at the Primary Music Festival at Knights Templar School with children from all the other local primary schools, led by Mrs Whitehead.

Sports results

The school football team has played several matches this term, against St John's School, Baldock (Ashwell 0.; St John's 1), against Sandon School (Ashwell 3; Sandon 1) and against a number of local schools at the North Herts Rural Schools Rally, where they came a very close second, only one point behind the winners. The school netball team also played well at the rally and I would like to congratulate all the children in both teams who took part, and thank Sarah Jones and Mark Linney for running the sports clubs.

PTA Events

Many thanks to the PTA who have organised several successful events since the last newsletter, including a children's disco (particular thanks to Wendy Hepburn), a table top sale and a beetle drive. Don't forget to send in your child's entry for the Easter egg competition by Thursday April 7th. As you will have seen from the PTA's own newsletter, there are several events to look forward to in the summer, including a Belly Dancing Night (May 11th), 'Elvis Comes to Ashwell' (June 18th) and a summer family event (July 9th).

Kate Blake

I am very sorry to say that Kate Blake has decided to resign the part time post she took up at Christmas as her health has deteriorated. She has been an extremely valuable member of staff and we are very sad to lose her, but hope that once she has fully recovered she may be able to rejoin us.

Split playtimes

As you know, the playground is rather small for the number of children in the school which can lead to problems. Since half term we have been piloting having morning playtime at different times for Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage Two (Years 3 to 6). Foundation Stage children have had a separate playtime for several years. We have decided that this system works well and will continue it in future, whenever morning playtime is on the playground. When the meadow is dry enough to play on (hopefully from now until September, except for the odd day) there is room enough for the Key Stage One and Key Stage Two children to have playtimes together. During the lunch hour, there is not so much of a problem as 60 children at any one time are in the dining hall, which reduces pressure on the playground.



Tesco & Sainsbury Vouchers

The school is collecting Tesco & Sainsbury vouchers again this year.

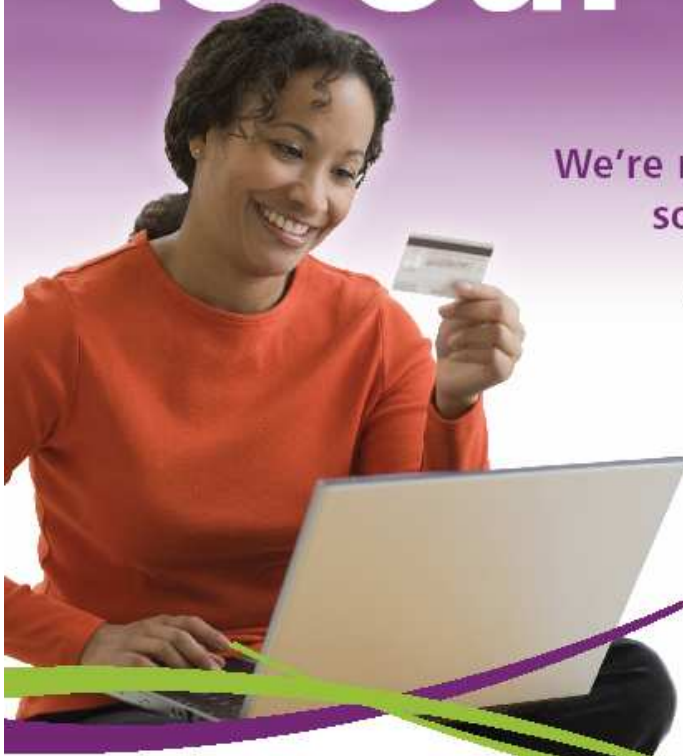
Tesco vouchers are available from 28th Feb - 8th May



Sainsbury vouchers are available from 9th Feb - 31st May

The collection point is located in the dining room

Online Payments to our School



We're making payments to school easier,
soon you will be able to pay online.

All major credit and debit cards are accepted. All
payments are highly secure.



Benefits

- Quick and easy to use.
- Payments can be made when school is closed.
- Safe and secure to use.
- Own private account history available at anytime.
- Balances can be viewed 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- Quick and easy way to find information.
- No more searching for cash.

COMING SOON

Go to our school web site for a link to our WisePay Payment Portal



WisePay - making it easier for parents and schools

www.wisepay.co.uk

Open Mornings

I hope that those of you who attended our open mornings last month found the experience interesting. They were fairly sparsely attended, but that at least allowed those parents who came to be 'flies on the wall' and observe a normal classroom atmosphere. We plan to hold open mornings again during the next academic year.

Parent Survey

Many thanks to those parents who have completed the survey we sent out recently. If you have not yet done so, please return your survey to the school office by the end of term. I will send you a digest of the responses next term.

INSET Day Childcare Club

A reminder that the North Herts. School Sport Partnership is running a multi-sport/craft club at Knights Templar Sports Hall to provide childcare on the INSET day on Tuesday April 26th. Please ask at the school office for details if you would like to book a place.

Class Photos

Order forms were sent home yesterday for the class photos, with the exception of year 4's, which needs to be reprinted, the copies will be sent home as soon as they arrive.

Please return all orders to the school office by Thursday 5th May.

120 Club

	Prize	February	March
1st	£15	69 - Mandy Ferguson	13 - Emma Kendall
2nd	£10	73 - R & A Coates	44 - Katrina McCarthy
3rd	£5	19 - Cliff Jenkinson	79 - Diane Marshall

www.buy.at/ashwellschool

Year 5 Girls in the Race for Life

The year 5 girls, their mums and even some of their sisters are joining together to take part in Cancer Research UK's Race For Life on Sunday 24th July at Fairlands Valley Park in Stevenage. The girls will be running, jogging or walking 5km (along with hundreds of others) to raise money for this very worthwhile charity. They have also been promised a picnic as they complete the race, organised by their dads and brothers!

If you would like to sponsor them, they would be very grateful. You can do so by going to www.raceforlifesporsome.org/themerrells



Free School Meals

If you receive one of the following benefits, you could be eligible for free school meals worth over £300 per child per year.

- Income support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after employment finishes or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week

Don't miss out, apply now!

We recommend you **apply online** at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

Online applications are easier, faster and more convenient. In most cases, you will not need to provide paper proof of benefits or reapply.

If you do not have access to the internet at home, you can obtain access and support at any of the following locations:

- Public Libraries
- UK Online Centres
- Your child's school

If you require assistance with your application, please email howcanwe-help@hertscc.gov.uk or call our customer service centre on 0300 123 4048 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm Saturday).

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Ashwell School

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www.buy.at/ashwellschool

And the retailers give us income when you
shop with them.

By using our shop you get:

- Frequent special offers and good prices
- Convenience - no queuing for the car parks
- Gift ideas - from our great selection of retailers
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CD WOW!

COMET

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Remember every purchase must be made through our webshop, at

You must adhere to the 'terms of use' explained on the website and follow the instructions within the help section. All offers are subject to change without notice. Most commissions are only available if the purchase is completed online. Subsequent visits to a retailer's site need to be made via the webshop for commission to be payable.



Ashwell Photo Club --- At Home Competition



An Open Photo Competition for all Ashwellians

Judged and displayed in the URC Hall Sun. 8th May

No Entry Fee Prints 8 X 6 to max 10 X 8 ins. Unmounted.

One entry per person per class.

Awards for 1st & 2nd in each class.

<i>Classes:</i>	<i>Ashwell at Rest</i>	<i>Senior S1</i>	<i>Junior J1</i>
	<i>Ashwell at Work</i>	<i>Senior S2</i>	<i>Junior J2</i>
	<i>Ashwell at Play</i>	<i>Senior S3</i>	<i>Junior J3</i>

Entries to be put in a box provided, (emptied each day) in St. Mary's Church, between Sat. 23 April and Sat 30 April.

They must have a label on the back stating Class e.g. J2, name and address and "please return" if needed.

If possible they should be collected from the URC Hall where the display will be, between 6 and 7 p.m. on At Home Day.

For further information contact Martin Lush

01462 743408

ASHWELL PLAYGROUP'S

"QUIZ AT HOME"



Ashwell Playgroup's fundraising committee would like to tell you about this year's fantastic "Quiz at Home" event they are organising on the evening of **Saturday 14th May**.

How does it work?

Households volunteer themselves as hosts and invite as many guests to their home as they would like to make up a team to take part in our quiz.

It is up to the host whether this is for dinner, drinks or anything else! The only rule is that it must take place on the evening of the **14th May**.

A fun and challenging quiz will be delivered to the host's house on the date and be collected later in the evening to be marked and results given over the telephone that night.

Tickets are £7.50 per head (reduced for the host) and the host receives a comprehensive pack with all the information they need prior to the day.

Last year's event was a huge success with many households around Ashwell taking part and competing for the trophy prize! (or the wooden spoon).

If you would like to be a host for our **Quiz at Home** please email us @

ashwellplaygroupquiz2011@hotmail.co.uk or call Beth on 743997

Finally may I wish you all a very Happy Easter

Kate Oxley

