



# Ashwell School Newsletter

## Dates for your Diary

4th February 2011

### February

- 9th Yr 6 - Health screening
- 11th PTA - School Disco
- Deadline for Reception applications**
- 18th Yr 6 Singing Festival at KTS
- PTA - Let them eat cake
- 21st -25th Half Term

### March

- 1st Ashwell School Open Morning
- 2nd Ashwell School Open Morning
- 3rd World Book day
- 12th PTA - Table top sale
- 14th PTA - Happy School Bags Collection 10.00am
- 16th Yr 3 - Luton Mosque
- 18th Red Nose Day
- PTA - Let them eat cake
- 21st Yr 5 & 6 - Digital Microscope Workshop
- 29th Parents Evening
- 30th Yr 6 - House of Parliament

### April

- 1st **Deadline for Nursery applications**
- 4th Parents evening
- 5th Yr 2 - Cambridge Botanical Gardens
- 6th Yr 1 - Cambridge Botanical Gardens
- 7th Parents evening
- 8th Last day of term
- 27th First day of term
- 29th Royal Wedding - Bank Holiday

### May

- 2nd Ashwell Sports
- 8th Ashwell at Home
- 24th Ashwell Music Festival Concert
- 30th - 3rd Half Term

### June

- 10th Inset Day - School Closed

## Dear Parents

### ART EXHIBITION

This term's whole school theme - 'Rainforests' - is proving very stimulating and fruitful. Our Art Day on January 19<sup>th</sup>, part of 'Take One Picture' week, was a great success. All the children from Reception to Year 6 were split into mixed age groups for the whole day, each working on a different art technique but all inspired by the painting 'Tiger in a tropical storm: surprised' by Henri Rousseau. The children produced some amazing work, and collaborated really well with each other, with older children helping younger ones. I am very grateful to all the staff for the work that went into the day, but particularly to Rachel Chalkley, our art subject leader, who was the main driving force behind it. Many thanks also to all the parents who helped on the day.



Much of the work produced on the day is now on display in the wide corridor outside the Foundation Stage Unit and in the narrow corridor outside the staff room. **I hope very much that you will be able to visit the exhibition over the next fortnight.** There will be a collection box for donations to the charity 'Rainforest Concern': Emma Pritchard in Year 4 has had the excellent idea that the school should 'sponsor' 'an acre of rainforest through the charity.

**Open for family and friends 7th Feb - 18th Feb**

## *Staff*

I am pleased to say that Kate Blake, who has been on sick leave for almost a year, is gradually recovering and has been able to return to the school for an afternoon a week, teaching literacy in Class 4. We are all delighted to see her back.

Sadly, Maggi Tofts, who has also been on long term sick leave, is not fit enough to return and will be taking early retirement. She hopes very much to come back to the school as a volunteer when her health improves sufficiently.

## *Charity*

I am pleased to tell you that the children raised £108 for 'Children in Need' in November by 'showing their spots', and that almost £500 was donated by the audiences at our Christmas productions which has been sent to our twin school, Chejika School in Malawi. They hope to be able to build a new toilet block with the money, as currently the whole school have to share four toilets.



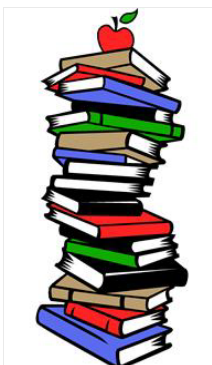
## *Parents Evenings*

Parent Consultations will be held on Tuesday March 29<sup>th</sup>, Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>. I hope very much that you will all be able to attend as a close partnership between parents and teachers is vital to educational success. Details and appointment forms will follow nearer the time.

## *Help!*

Volunteers are needed, both in the library and in classrooms. If you think you can commit to helping out once a week or once a fortnight on a regular basis, please see me, Mrs Oxley.

## *Friday Library*



The school library is open for parents and children every Friday afternoon from 3.15 to 3.45. This may be particularly helpful for parents of younger children who are not old enough to use the library independently during the school day, but all families are welcome.

## Open Mornings

We have decided to hold two Open Mornings, on Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>., this will give you, the parents and carers, the opportunity to observe the school in action and to improve your understanding of your children's educational experience. The idea is for parents to be 'flies on the wall' – I have asked the teachers to keep the day as normal as possible without any special performances by pupils (or staff!).

Obviously, there could be problems with sheer numbers of visitors, so if you would like to come, please can you:-

- ✿ Come either from 9.00 to 10.15, or from 10.45 to 12.00 on either the Tues or the Weds
- ✿ Feel free to wander round all the classes, not just those your children are in
- ✿ Move on if a classroom becomes very crowded – you can visit the classrooms in any order
- ✿ Try to be as quiet and unobtrusive as possible in order not to interrupt learning, ideally please try to arrange a time when you won't have to bring younger children.
- ✿ Not attempt to talk to teachers or teaching assistants who will be busy teaching – there will be opportunities to do this later in the term at Parents Evenings (see details on page 2).

There will be an evaluation form for you to complete after your visit if you wish, and if the experiment proves a success we hope to repeat it in the future, so don't worry if you can't come this time. I am afraid there will not be room on this occasion to welcome

## PTA



Since my last newsletter, the PTA have organised several extremely successful events for parents – the Village Quiz, the Turkey dinner and the Burns Supper - which were all enormous fun and raised much needed funds for the school. The PTA treasurer was able to hand over to the school a cheque for £6000 in early January, and a further £1856 was raised by the Burns Supper, organised by Tricia Pritchard. Many thanks to all those involved.

The school have also received a very generous cheque of £3000 from the Ashwell Show Committee, which will be spent on repairs and maintenance of the swimming pool. We are very grateful to Martin Geeves and the committee, and to all those parents who turned out on August Bank Holiday Monday clearing up after the Show and 'earning' the donation.

## Reminder

Please can you make sure that your child does **not ride scooters or bicycles in the playground**, as the combination of the slope of the ground and the large number of people on the playground after school ( including small children and babies) means that nasty accidents could happen.

Please take bicycles and scooters home each night if possible, and definitely at weekends.



## *Children's Disco*

Friday February 11<sup>th</sup>

Reception, Year 1 and 2 - 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 - 6.00pm to 7.30pm.



Entrance: £2.50 for Ashwell School pupils

£5 for others.

Many thanks to Wendy Hepburn for organising this event.



## *Tesco & Sainsbury Vouchers*



The school will be 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

# *Ashwell Parish Council*

## Making your mark in our village

Your chance to make a difference to your community will come up in the local elections for the parish council on 5 May 2011. Ashwell Parish Council is urging people, especially those with children at Ashwell or Knights Templar schools, to find out more about serving on the Parish Council. Surveys reveal that while many people want a say in how their area is run, many do not take the plunge.

Parish councillors are asking people who think they might be interested to attend council meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month in the Parish Rooms at 8.00 pm to see what issues are covered.

Ashwell Parish Clerk, Jane Porter, David Short, a Parish Councillor who is also a Governor of Ashwell School, and parish councillors will be very happy to talk to you about what being a parish councillor entails. Parish councils have the right to make representations on planning applications, the state of footpaths to street lighting, and have a wide range of responsibilities including the upkeep of the Springs, the cemetery, the allotments and the recreation ground. They make decisions which affect every day life in Ashwell.

Even if you do not want to become a local councillor, you might know someone who does. Please tell them about this opportunity.

For more information contact:

Jane Porter

Clerk to the Parish Council

89 Back Street

Ashwell

Tel: 01462 743706

Email: [clerk@ashwell.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ashwell.gov.uk)

## *Red Nose Day 18th March 2011*



Honkus



Captain Conk



Chucklechomp

Honkus, Chucklechomp and Captain Conk are the mischievous new must-have monster Red Noses and they come with their own mini monster joke book!

They will be on sale from the school office starting Monday 28th February, price £1.00 each.

## 120 Club

Prize		October	November	December	January
1st	£15	48 - Moynihan	60 - Merrell	Osborne &	85 - Giles
2nd	£10	52 - Bruning	86 - Giles	Cullen	78 - Barton
3rd	£5	55 - Fleming	1 - Chambers	Bruning	55 - Fleming
Bonus	£50			Perricone	

We are very grateful for the hard work of Alison Picking who has been running the Ashwell PTA 120 Club for several years. She has just handed over a cheque to the school for £700, for money raised over the last year. This brings the total amount donated to the school since March 2007 to £2400.

For further information on joining the club please contact Alison Picking on 01462 743314 or call in at the office for forms.

## Headlice



There have been **several** reported incidents of head lice in the school since returning in January, particularly from the younger years.

Can we please remind parents to check their child's hair at regular intervals, ideally each time it is washed, using the process listed below.

### The 5-Step Detection Process

1. Wash the hair well and towel dry. It should be damp, but not dripping wet.
2. Comb the hair with an ordinary comb to remove the tangles.
3. Using a plastic detection comb (nit comb), start with the teeth of the comb touching the skin of the scalp at the top of the head. Comb slowly towards the end of the hair, keeping the teeth of the comb in contact with the scalp for as long as possible. Look carefully at the teeth of the comb in good light. Wiping the comb on a tissue will help to see if any lice have been removed.
4. Repeat this process for 10-15 minutes, covering the scalp and hair in all directions.

Keep checking the comb. If there are head lice, you will find one or more lice on the teeth of the comb or on the tissue.

Parents who would like further advice on checking for head lice can gain information from [www.headliceadvice.net](http://www.headliceadvice.net) or ask for guidance.

## *Millfields School*

Last week we were pleased to welcome a party of children from Millfields School in Hackney, East London, who came to Ashwell to tour the village and meet our Year 4 children. We are hoping that the children from the two schools will be able to keep in touch through letters and emails (via the schools) and that there may be further opportunities to meet up in the future, either here or in Hackney.

## *Toy Library*

Holly Blue Children's Centre hold a Toy Library in our school dining hall on alternate Thursday afternoons from 2.00 to 3.30pm. They have a huge range of lovely toys and games suitable for pre school, foundation and KS1 children., as well as some items of baby equipment. There is a small one off registration fee and after that the loans are free of charge.

The dates for this term are 17<sup>th</sup> Feb and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## *Lost Property*

Quite a large amount of lost property is building up. Please find time to check the box in the cupboard at the end of the short corridor, because I will be taking anything left at half term to the clothing bank. It would be very helpful if outer clothes, especially coats, sweat-shirts and jumpers could be named.

A ladies evening bag was left behind after the Turkey Dinner, please ask at the school office if you think it could be yours.

[www.buy.at/ashwellschool](http://www.buy.at/ashwellschool)

## *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](http://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](mailto:howcanwe-help@hertscc.gov.uk) or call our customer service centre on 0300 123 4048 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm Saturday).



## 2011 diary dates

Diary free for next year? Not for long! You don't need to be a member of the Ashwell Tennis & Sports Club to join in these great events but of course if you do wish to play some tennis as well contact Deborah Boorman - contact details below

### **Tennis Tuition – starting after Easter**

There's been great response for tennis tuition from Ashwell School children so far and so if you've not already registered an interest then please do by contacting Greg Tustain on [gregt@bmt.uk.com](mailto:gregt@bmt.uk.com). You don't need to be a member of the Ashwell Tennis and Sports Club for you child to be involved. If you or your child do wish to join however then please contact Deborah Boorman on 01462 743896 or E: [deborah@thegroovygang.com](mailto:deborah@thegroovygang.com)

### **Karaoke & Disco in Ashwell – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Have you got the Xfactor? Do you make a better Kylie than Kylie herself? Or do you just enjoy watching others make utter fools of themselves.....!!!

Join us at the Village Hall from 8 'til late for a night of entertainment! More information from Mandy Ferguson at [mandy@brewerycottage1.demon.co.uk](mailto:mandy@brewerycottage1.demon.co.uk)

### **Safari Supper – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011**

Yes! We've decided to make it a regular feature of the Ashwell Calendar – put this one in *in pen* in your diary! If you went to the last one you'll know the order of the day ... a three course meal with wine at 3 different locations around the village – dining with people you know & perhaps people you may not know – and dining at places you know & perhaps places you may not know – what we can guarantee is a warm welcome wherever you end up and of course enjoyable company and lovely food. If you didn't go last time you're in for a treat – we had great feedback from the 2008 event (surely it wasn't that long ago!) and know it will be a fabulous sell-out Ashwell event.

More details in the New Year on how to get involved/get tickets etc – a marvellous evening to look forward to.

### **Pa-Ella Tennis Tournament – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

... which also happens to be Father's day ... get it? A fun tennis tournament where everyone can play tennis with food and drinks - a relaxing way to spend a summer's afternoon and a great way to get into the tennis mood before Wimbledon starts. More details in the New Year.

### **Torchlight 10 – Ashwell Walk**

Watch out for this event later next year. A 10k evening walk around Ashwell in memory of Jason Boorman with the money raised shared with The Garden House Hospice in Letchworth. If you'd like to register your interest now drop Katrina McCarthy an email on [katrina@katalytic.co.uk](mailto:katrina@katalytic.co.uk)

We do hope you can make some (maybe even all...!) of these great events in the New Year,

The Ashwell Tennis & Sports Club Committee

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Pop, Soul, Reggae, African, European Spiritual and Gospel Music*

### **THURSDAY EVENINGS**

**Venue:** Knights Templar School, Baldock

**Time:** 7 – 9 pm

**Dates** 3<sup>rd</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March

**(Excluding Half Term - 24<sup>th</sup> Feb)**

**Cost:** £35

**Enquiries: KT Music Dept 01462 620700**

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