



# Ashwell School

# Newsletter

## Dates for your Diary

9th September 2010

### September

- 16th Yr 6 - KTS Olympics
- 20th PTA AGM - 8.00pm
- 21st Yr 3 - Fitzwilliam Museum  
Bags 2 School Collection
- 24th Harvest Festival -  
United Reform Church
- 30th Arty-Fact Theatre Show

### October

- 5th Yr 6 - Wimpole Hall
- 6th KTS Open Morning 9-12  
Yr 4 - IWM Duxford
- 7th KTS Open Morning 9-12
- 14th Parents' Evening
- 18th Parents' Evening
- 20th Parents' Evening
- 21st Yr 6 - Royal Festival Hall  
Yr 5 - British Museum
- 25th - 29th Half Term
- 31st Deadline - Secondary  
Applications

### November

- 6th PTA - Bonfire Night
- 12th Individual Photographs
- 20th PTA - Village Quiz

### December

- TBC Christmas Bazaar
- 8th Infant Christmas Play
- 9th N, R, Yr 1 & 2 - Theatre Trip  
The Junction Cambridge
- 11th 51st Turkey Dinner
- 14th Christmas Play - Juniors
- 15th Christmas Play - Juniors
- 17th Last day of term finish at 1.45

## Dear Parents

Welcome to the parents of new pupils and welcome back to everyone else. I hope that you enjoyed the summer, despite the unreliable weather, and that your children have settled well into their new classes.

I would also like to welcome four new teachers to the staff: Rachel Chalkley, who will be teaching for two and a half days a week in Year 3, Sheila Danhof, who will be teaching for 3 days a week in Year 5 and Daniella Lawn and Juliette Shackleton who are both Graduate Trainees based in various Key Stage 2 classes during the year.

Many of you will have noticed that during the summer holidays the foyer, the meeting room off the dining room and some of the outside of the school have been redecorated by our new Maintenance Assistant, Keith Clifford. Many thanks to him: I am sure you will agree that the school looks much smarter.

Congratulations are due to Tracy Bowen who qualified in July as a School Business Manager, after a year long course at the National College of School Leaders. This will enable her to play an ever greater role in strategic planning and the management of the school.

## Governors

Liz Fitzsimmons has retired after many years as a Community Governor, Justin McCarthy has resigned as a Local Authority Governor due to work commitments, and Tim Giles and David Cook have come to the end of their term of office as elected Parent Governors. I'd like to express our grateful thanks to all four for their support and guidance over the years.

You should already have received nomination papers for the two vacancies for Parent Governors. If you have not received them, please ask in the office. Nominations close on Tuesday 21st September at 9.00am, if required, ballot papers will go out straight after this and need to be returned by Wednesday 6th October 2010.

## *PTA*

Many thanks to the large numbers of parents who turned out on Bank Holiday Monday to help at Ashwell Show, particularly with the clearing up afterwards. The Show Committee were very pleased with our efforts, and I think we can look forward to a donation for the school from the Show's profits...

The PTA AGM is on Monday 20th September at 8pm in the Dining Hall: all parents are members of the PTA and are warmly invited to attend. Several members of the current PTA Committee have decided to retire after, in many cases, years of dedication. Grateful thanks to them for all their hard work – it has been a record breaking year in terms of money raised for the school, and also a very enjoyable one in terms of the events they organised.

Please come along to the PTA AGM, particularly if you would like to suggest ideas for events, volunteer as a helper or join the committee. The committee usually meets once every six weeks or so in the evening at a local pub to plan and organise events, and meetings are always relaxed and friendly. Whether you are a new parent or a longstanding one, we would be very pleased to welcome you onto the committee. Quite apart from the social aspects of PTA activities, the contribution they make to school funding is absolutely vital to the quality of education we are able to offer your children.

PTA events already planned for the Autumn term include:

- Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> Bonfire Night Party for the whole family
- Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> Village Quiz
- Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> Turkey Dinner

## *HATS*

We have appointed Sam Day, who some of you will know as the mother of Grace in year 5, to replace Georgia Lees as one of our playleaders at HATS. We have also appointed Helen Bacon, an ex parent and current grandparent of pupils, to work as an extra playleader on those occasions when we have large numbers of children at the club.

## *Gates*

If you bring your children to school through the meadow entrance, please use the pedestrian gate so that they do not run the risks involved in sharing the drive with cars. The gate will be open from 8.30 to 9.15am and from 3.00pm onwards.

## *Bear Lane*

We have been notified that Bear Lane will be closed to traffic for two days during the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> September.

## *Financial Help*

If you think that you may qualify for **free school meals** please apply, even if your child prefers to have a packed lunch. You would be under no obligation to take up the meals, but being registered as eligible for them may qualify you for a number of other financial benefits such as free school milk, free music lessons, and help in paying for out of school activities.

### *Do I qualify for help towards school expenses?*

To be able to get financial help, you need to be receiving one of the following benefits:

- Income Support\*
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance\*
- Income-related Employment 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\*
- Child Tax Credit - payable at a rate higher than the family element i.e. £547.50 (this is £1,095.00 if you also have a child under one year old)
- Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, or Council Tax Benefit (not including second adult rebate)
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after employment finishes or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week

\* **Some help is only available if you receive these specific benefits.**

### *How do I apply?*

You can apply online quickly, it should take around 10 minutes to complete.

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/scholearn/canhelp/>

If you have any questions, would like help completing the online form, or you would prefer an adviser to complete it on your behalf, please call our Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4048.

## *Midday Supervisors*

We would like to recruit some Midday Supervisory Assistants (commonly known as dinner ladies) on a casual basis to fill in when regular staff are absent. If you would be able to help us in this way, please see Tracy Bowen.



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

Please take a look at this website, it could save you money and at the same time make money for Ashwell School.

## *Bags 2 School*

The PTA are organising another Bag2School, the blue bags were sent home this week, spare bags are available from the school office.

Please bring your bag to school **on Tuesday 21st September by 9.00am prompt.**

## *Lost Property*

Last term's lost property has been bagged up ready for the Bags to School collection on Tuesday 21st September. If you want to have a look through, please ask at the office.

## *Gift Wrap Sale*

This will be the 3rd year that the PTA has run this sale. It's not only a great fundraiser but also a chance for you to purchase lovely, different and good quality products. Watch out for the brochures which will coming home with your child soon.

Orders & payment **MUST** be returned by Friday 15th October, before half term. Delivery will be during November.

## *Harvest Festival*



Our harvest festival will this year take place at The United Reform Church on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30.

All parents are warmly invited to attend the short service during which children will present harvest gifts, which will later be taken to Herts Young Homeless Group in Hitchin. If you would like to do so, please send your harvest gifts on the Friday morning.

Items that are most useful include:

Dried pasta & rice

Any tinned/jarred food items - Baked beans, spaghetti, sweetcorn, soup, fruit, jam etc.

Tea, coffee, drinking chocolate, sugar

Toiletries

After the service, please collect your child from the school playground rather than take them home straight from the church to ensure that no-one gets lost.

## *Parents' Evening*

We look forward to seeing you at our Parents' Evenings on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Details to follow nearer the time.

## *11<sup>th</sup> Ashwell Book Weekend*

St. Mary's Church

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Sat.10-5pm Sun.12-5pm

Entrance £1(children free)

Many hundreds of books for sale, all types, bargain prices. Refreshments available.

Proceeds to the Church Restoration Appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Oxley  
Headteacher

# *Term Dates 2010/11*

## *Autumn Term 2010*

First day of term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September
Half term	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Last day of term	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December – finish at 1.45pm

## *Spring Term 2011*

First day of term	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
Half term	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Last day of term	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April

## *Summer Term 2011*

First day of term	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
Half term	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
Inset day	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June
Last day of term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July – finish at 1.45pm