



Welcome Back!

Dear all,

I hope that you all had a lovely summer! I am delighted to be able to welcome everyone back for the start of another year at Ashwell. It was fantastic seeing all of the children during the first week in their new uniforms. They really did look smart. Thank you for your support with this.

I am sure that you will all join me in welcoming our new Nursery and Reception children as well as members of staff, Mrs Clark (Y1) and Mrs Allan (Reception). They have settled in really well and it is lovely to have them on board.

Over the summer we have had our new front steps installed which have improved our front entrance way. In addition to this the work has started in preparation for the installation of our new canopy and EYFS play surface. This is due to be completed during October half term.

Apologies in advance for the many reminders in this newsletter, but this is typical at the start of a new school year.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to working with you this year!

Yours Sincerely

Mr S England
Headteacher

Some of our Upcoming Events - please see our website for a full list

- 10th September - Meet the Teacher
- 17th September - Individual Photos
- 27th September - Harvest Festival
- 1st October - Parent Workshop (Behaviour)
- 9th October - EYFS Parent Workshop (Phonics)
- 15th & 17th October - Parents evening
- 18th October - Y6 Let them eat cake
- 21st - 23rd October - Y5 Residential
- 25th October - Y6 Class Assembly
- 28th October - HALF TERM

Volunteer Help Needed!

Are you able to spare a couple of hours? We are in desperate need of some help to tidy up and maintain our nature and wildlife garden. It has grown out of control and the children are currently unable to use it. The job is too big for our children's gardening club. If you are able to offer some time and tools, please let the school office know. We would be extremely grateful.

Harvest Festival

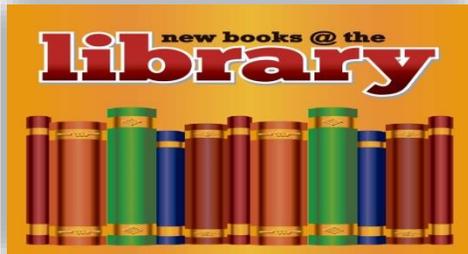
Our Harvest Festival will take place on Friday 27th September at 2:15pm in St Mary's Church, Ashwell. Please look out for a letter coming soon with full details. We look forward to welcoming parents to this event.



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/OR6HXLA>



School Development Priorities

Now we are well underway with the new school year I would like to share our school development overview with parents.

Main Priority 1: Review and further evolve the school's curriculum to ensure it is high quality and ambitious, inspiring all children; optimising their social, emotional, creative and academic outcomes.

Main Priority 2: Raise the attainment and accelerate the progress of SEND & Disadvantaged pupils (particularly in maths).

Main Priority 3: Begin to promote and work towards achieving quality emotional wellbeing and mental health for everyone in the school community. (Begin work towards Kite-mark)

Background Priority 1: Continue to embed and develop recent English initiatives to improve pupil progress rates and outcomes

Background Priority 2: Continue to embed and develop recent Maths initiatives to improve pupil progress rates and outcomes

School Lunches

At Ashwell we do our best to promote a healthy lifestyle. 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.



Marvellous Me

It was lovely to receive such positive feedback about the use of MarvellousMe last year. I hope that we can continue to build on this. We have a few parents who are still not signed up and reminder letters should have come home this week.

If you have any feedback regarding the use of MarvellousMe I would be delighted to hear it.



Ashwell Learning Journey

Teachers are busy writing their Autumn Term newsletters and these will be distributed shortly along with the 'Meet the Teacher' presentations that took place this week.

October Half Term Holiday Club

There will be a Premier Camps Holiday Club at Ashwell School on the following dates:

28th October - 1st November (8am - 5pm)

This will be open to children aged 4-12 and more information is available at:

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



IMPORTANT - PTA AGM

The hard work and fundraising efforts of our PTA are vital to the continued improvement we are able to make for our children. Last year the funds raised by our PTA enabled us to refurbish the dining room. They also contributed to the development of our new library.

This year our PTA AGM is on Thursday 19th September at 8.00pm in the school dining room.

If you are able to volunteer some time it would be lovely to see some new faces to bring fresh ideas to the team. Please do consider how you could become more involved in the life of the school. We are actively recruiting for PTA parent helpers - please leave your name at the office if you are able to help.

PTA events this term:

Year 6 Let them eat cake - 18th October

Fireworks Night - 2nd November

In the meantime remember you can support the school by using the link below when shopping online:

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



Our Three Star Aims

During our welcome back assembly we talked to the children about our three star aims:

1. Be Responsible & Respectful
2. Be Kind & Truthful
3. Be The Best That You Can Be

We talk to the children and refer to these across the school and apply them to everything that we do.

School Uniform Reminder

September saw the full launch of our new school uniform. Seeing the children walk through the school gates on the first day and then sitting together in assembly was a really special occasion.

The Uniform Monkeys shop unit is now open in Letchworth.

<https://theuniformmonkeys.co.uk/>

A few reminders:

- Please note the summer gingham dress colour is navy (not green)
- The green polo colour is the one available on the following links:

<https://direct.asda.com/george/girls-school-polo-shirts/girls-school-2-pack-scallop-polo-shirts-green/GEM462931,default.pd.html?cgid=D10M2G1C2>

<https://direct.asda.com/george/boys-school-polo-shirts/boys-school-2-pack-polo-shirts-green/GEM527313,default.pd.html?cgid=D10M1G1C2>

School & Class Attendance

Attendance at Ashwell continues to be good with our whole school figure at 97.0% for 2018-19.

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

School Matters!



Cashless Reminder

Many of you will already know that we are now operating as a cashless school office. A huge thank you to everyone for supporting us with this. It seems to have been a smooth transition.

Running for Ashwell PTA

On Sunday 24th November a team of 23 Ashwell School parents and staff will be running the Basse Belle to raise money for Ashwell School PTA. This is a local 10 mile race and will be a big challenge for many of us meaning lots of training whatever the weather! Every donation really will help the children of Ashwell School so please donate if you can. Thank you so much in advance for your contribution.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/5egs8-a-cause-i-care-about-needs-help?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Henry Colbron Trust Notice

Hopefully you will have already received an email from us detailing the intentions of the Henry Colbron Trust regarding the old netball courts on Rollys Lane.

The invitation to submit proposals, and the parameters which proposals have to meet in order to be considered, are set out in a notice from HCT which you can find at the following link:

https://mtaylors.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/MerchantTaylorsCompany/EeP6XBAD_AJJjFsIqLLWN10BJPibkYnzyTZge2GW38TrtQ?e=YFOXGL

A plea for support - Bag Sizes!

We are desperately short of space around school and particularly in some classrooms. We ask that children do not bring large rucksacks into school. Ideally children only require their PE kit in a draw string bag and a standard book bag for their planners, reading books and letters. Many thanks.

Parking Safely

Please help us improve the safety of our community when travelling to and from school. The new double yellow lines have now been marked. In addition to this, it is great to have had our yellow zig-zags re-painted.

Please can I ask that all of our parents observe these lines and refrain from parking on them or in any other dangerous places. We have already had a number of occasions this term where staff have been unable to get in and out of the car park because of cars parking on the Zig-Zags and in front of the gates. Please can parents please also refrain from parking in front of or near to the gate at the back of the school. The school taxi service need this space to drop children off safely. We are looking at a solution to improve this.



Ashwell Patients Group

From September 2019, you will now be able to access your GP at Ashwell and Bassingbourn Surgery through the website on eConsult.

Next time you need to come to the surgery, avoid the queues on the phone, complete an eConsult online. We will get back to you by the end of the next working day.

eConsult is an online triage tool, it mirrors the questions that a GP would ask in a face to face consultation. Once eConsult has gathered the information from you it sends an email to GP practice. The email is then looked at by a clinician at Ashwell & Bassingbourn Surgery and the practice gets back to you by the end of the next working day.



School Clubs - Autumn Term

You will have received our Autumn Term club letter at the end of last term. We have been working hard to ensure we are offering a wide range of clubs to a mixture of ages across the school. These clubs will be either before school, during lunch time or after school. Clubs will be reviewed on a termly basis. Please see below for the Autumn Term club timetable.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Chess Club (Experienced) *30*		Dodge Ball (Y4-6) Premier Sport *30*	Dodge Ball (Y1-3) Premier Sport *30*	
Lunchtime			Team Games (Y1 & 2) MUGA		
		Choir (Y4-6) Mr Maddox *30*	Gardening Club (Y3) Ms Coates *10*	Team Games (Y3 & 4) MUGA	
After school		Street Dance (Y3-6) Premier Sport *30*	Football (Y4-6) Premier Sport *30*	Netball (Y4-6) Premier Sport *30*	

Parent Governor Vacancies

Are you keen to make a difference at Ashwell School?

We currently have vacancies for 2 parent Governors to join our board of Governors. Please see the email sent from Mrs Bowen during the first week of term and come and speak to Mr England if you are interested in finding out more about what the role of a Governor entails.

Nominations and applications close on Wednesday 18th September at 9:00am

Primary Science Quality Mark

During the course of last year, our Science leader, Ms Docking, was working with staff across the school to raise the profile of Science. All of this work contributed towards the Primary Science Quality Mark. I am delighted to share with you that we have now been awarded this nationally recognised accreditation. A fantastic achievement. A huge thank you to Ms Docking for all of her hard work.

Primary Science Quality Marks have been awarded to 200 infant, junior, primary, middle and special schools to celebrate a commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning. So far, since its national launch in 2010, over 3500 schools across the UK have achieved a prestigious Primary Science Quality Mark.

The Primary School Quality Mark programme ensures effective leadership of science, enables schools to work together to share good practice and is supported by professional development led by local experts. It encourages teacher autonomy and innovation while at the same time offering a clear framework for development in science subject leadership, teaching and learning. Schools that achieve PSQM demonstrate commitment and expertise in science teaching and leadership.

Jane Turner, PSQM National Director said: "Gaining a Primary Science Quality Mark is a significant achievement for a school. The profile and quality of science teaching and learning in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as secure scientific understanding and skills. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, head teachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud."

