



Merry Christmas Everyone!

Dear all,

As we near the end of our first term, I can look back and be immensely proud of how much we have achieved as a school community since September.

It has been a lovely end to term, starting with a wonderful bazaar run by our Year 6 children and then moving on to celebrate Christmas performances with children and parents. Both the EYFS and KS1 productions were fantastic and really helped get the school community into the Christmas spirit.

So far we seem to have avoided arctic blasts and I can still count the number of times I have had to scrape ice off the car windscreen on one hand! Long may that continue!

Children and staff across the school have worked incredibly hard over what has been a long term. I very much hope everyone is looking forward to a well-earned rest over the festive period.

We have already started looking to 2019 and are busy planning yet more fantastic trips and educational experiences for our children.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all on 7th January 2019!

Yours Sincerely

Mr S England
Headteacher



NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM

I am sure that by now you will have read the letter from the Governors regarding the introduction of a school uniform. I am very excited about this and really proud of what they have come up with. The positive response and enthusiasm from parents has been lovely to hear. The full shop can be found here: <https://theuniformmonkeys.co.uk/>

Most of the items are also available in many other retail outlets and supermarkets.

There are samples available outside the school office should you wish to see them and a pop up shop will be at school on 14th January 2019 from 2.30pm - 4.00pm.

For further information please see our website:

<http://ashwell.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ASHWELL-UNIFORM-GUIDE.pdf>

Upcoming Events

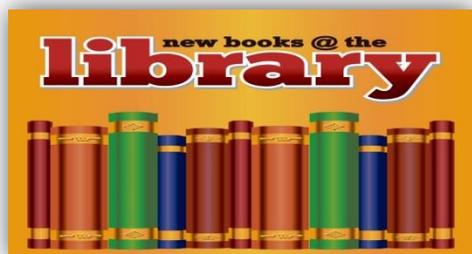
- 7th Jan - Spring Term starts
- 16th Jan - HATs Survey closes
- 16th Jan - Reception Road Safety talk
- 18th Jan - Let them eat cake (Yr 4)
- 22nd Jan - EYFS Parent Phonic Workshop
- 25th Jan - INSET DAY (School Closed)
- 1st Feb - Year 3 Class assembly
- 5th Feb - Safer Internet Day
- 11th Feb - Y6 @ Houses of Parliament
- 14th Feb - Year 6 Distraction Training
- 15th Feb - Feeling Good Day
- 15th Feb - Y6 @ KTS singing festival
- 18th - 22nd February - HALF TERM
- 5th Mar - Parent Maths Workshops

Donate a Book to our Library

A huge thank you to everyone who has already purchased a new book for the school library.

The generosity has been overwhelming and children are really enjoying the new titles that we are adding to the shelves!

Donate a new book here: <http://amzn.eu/i5eHcI>



HATs - Time changes

Hopefully you will have received the communication explaining that we are reviewing our very popular and successful HATs provision. We pride ourselves on offering what we believe to be extremely flexible childcare for exceptional value.

The immediate response to the survey was excellent and it has already given us some important feedback that we have been able to act on without it impacting on staffing.

From January HATs will be available to book from the earlier time of 7:30am and up to the later time of 5:30pm.

We hope that this initial change is helpful. The survey is available until 16th January, when a full review will take place to consider the future organisation of the club. If you have not yet had a chance to provide your feedback please see the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JTHGYGX>

Nursery & Reception Tours & Admissions

Reception - September 2019 Intake

Deadline for applications - 15.1.19

Allocation Day - 16.4.19

All admissions via:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Nursery - September 2019 Intake

15.1.19, 24.1.19, 1.2.19 - Prospective Parent Tours

Application opens - 26.11.18

Deadline for applications - 8.2.19

Allocation Day - 8.3.19

All admissions via: School Website

<http://ashwell.herts.sch.uk/our-school/admissions/>



HCC Admissions Consultation

Hertfordshire County Council is running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2020/21 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed changes are:

- To amend the wording and definition of 'Rule 2 - exceptional social and medical reasons to attend a specific school' to include children previously looked after abroad and subsequently adopted;
- To amend the schemes of coordination to clarify the process for late applications and continuing interest;

The consultation period runs until 6 January 2019. Please visit:

<http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2020> for more information and to respond online.

School Clubs

Please be sure to check the Spring Term Clubs letter that came out recently. I am pleased that we have been able to issue this prior to the end of term so that we can hit the ground running in January. We have aimed to ensure that different clubs cater for a variety of ages. If you wish to book your child on a before or after school club please do so using the school gateway and return the reply slip.



Ashwell Events Calendar

We have updated our events calendar and this is now attached. Please take a look and put events relevant to you in your diaries. Further details of each event will follow in a letter closer to the time. We hope you find this useful and that it allows you to see what is coming up.



Choir Visit Wolverley House

On Thursday 13th December, Mr Maddox took our school choir to visit the residents of Wolverley House where they spent the morning performing Christmas carols. It was lovely to see the joy our children were able to bring to members of the local community.



Parent Workshops

In the spring term we will be delivering 3 parent workshops that are aimed at supporting learning at home.

Phonics Workshop

Tuesday 22nd January (9:15am - 10:15am)

This will be open to Nursery and Reception Parents

How Maths is taught today!?

Tuesday 5th March 6:00-7:00pm

There will be separate workshops run - and will be aimed at specific age groups catering for everyone across the school.

Understanding Emotional Wellbeing and Anxiety

Tuesday 5th March 7:00 - 7:30pm

This will be open to all in the form of a presentation in the main school hall.

Full details will follow in the New Year.

School Council

Our school council continue to meet regularly to discuss a variety of current topics.

They are working as a group to complete activities that earn points towards our Green trees award.

They have shared their views on school uniform and played a key role in helping children in their classes understand the rationale for the change. They have helped organise the tea towels sales - these are still available from the school office. .

School Closure Notification System

When the decision is made to close the school, a message will be entered on the Everbridge system and **ALL** staff/parents/interested parties that have signed up to it will get both a text and email notifying them of the closure.

To sign up please go to:

member.everbridge.net/index/89280773672548

9 (you will have to copy and paste it into the URL bar)

School & Class Attendance

Attendance at Ashwell continues to be good with our whole school figure currently at 97.5%

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

School Matters!



Class	%
Year 3	98.5
Year 6	97.8
Year 2	97.8
Year 1	97.8
Year 5	97.6
Year 4	97.1
Acorn (Nursery)	96.3
Oak (Reception)	96.0

Well done to Year 3 who finish top of the attendance table this term!

Sports News - Football Results

On Tuesday 27th November, we attended the Rural Schools 7 a-side football tournament at the Baldock Arena. The boys played exceptionally well as a team in some hard fought tight encounters!

- Ashwell 0 - 0 Weston
- Ashwell 1 - 1 St Ippolyts
- Ashwell 0 - 0 King's House
- Ashwell 0 - 0 Pirton

The following day they travelled to Bottisham College where they took part in the EFL Cambridgeshire Schools Tournament. Again the boys battled well in some close matches.

- Ashwell 0 - 0 Stephen Perse
- Ashwell 0 - 0 Bottisham
- Ashwell 0 - 1 Milton

The boys then won a penalty shootout to defeat Stephen Perse and put us through to the quarter finals where we played exceptionally well despite conceding a late goal to a very strong St Laurence team. I was hugely proud of how well the boys represented the school. Well done boys.

PTA

A huge thank you to the PTA committee and everyone who gave up their time to help ensure that the Christmas disco was a success. The children had a great time and it was a super way to end the term. It was also lovely to have refreshments served prior to the children's Christmas performances.

Our next big event will be a Race Night for Adults on the Friday 8th March. Book your babysitters now for what is sure to be a night full of laughter.

On Friday 18th January it is Year 4's turn to run 'Let them eat cake' in the dining room.

Remember you can support us using:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashwellschool/>

