



Welcome Back!

Dear all,

Welcome back for the start of a new term. I very much hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year.

We have had another busy and exciting start to term. During our first whole school assembly we talked about resolutions and how a new year is a good opportunity to reflect and make changes to help us improve! We also reminded ourselves of our 3 core rules:

Be Responsible & Respectful
Be Kind and Truthful
Be the best that you can be

At school we relate everything we do to these three phrases - it has become our mantra!

Hopefully by now you will have all had your child's class curriculum newsletter. This will be full of useful information about the learning for this term. I hope it will enable you to support children's learning and develop their curiosity and enthusiasm for the topics at home!

I look forward to working with you all over the coming term.

Yours Sincerely

Mr S England
Headteacher

Welcome back to



NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM

On Monday 14th January we welcomed The Uniform Monkeys to school with their first pop up shop. The hall was busy and it seemed to be a really successful and popular event.

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.

For further information please see our website: <http://ashwell.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ASHWELL-UNIFORM-GUIDE.pdf>

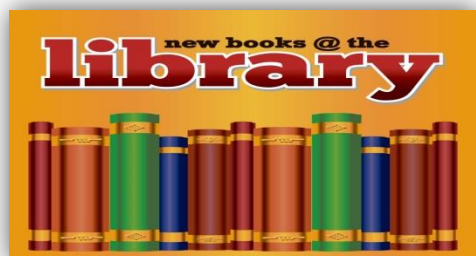
Some of our Upcoming Events - please see our website for a full list

- 25th Jan - INSET DAY (School Closed)
- 1st Feb - Year 3 Class assembly
- 5th Feb - Safer Internet Day
- 11th Feb - Year 6 @ Houses of Parliament
- 14th Feb - Year 6 Distraction Training
- 14th Feb - Year 5 @ West Stow
- 15th Feb - Samba Workshop
- 15th Feb - Year 6 @ KTS singing festival
- 18th - 22nd February - HALF TERM
- 5th March - Parent Maths Workshops
- 6th March - Year 4 Nene Valley Trip
- 7th March - World Book Day
- 8th March - Year 4 Class assembly
- 8th March - PTA Race Night
- 11th - 15th March - Science Week
- 11th March - Year 5/6 Knex Challenge
- 15th March - Red Nose Day
- 19th & 21st March - Parents Evening
- 20th March - Year 4 Pedestrian Safety Training

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/i5eHcI>



HATs - Time changes

Please remember that since the start of term HATs is now available to book from the earlier time of 7:30am and up to the later time of 5:30pm.

Our Governors will be reviewing the results from the HATs Survey to see if there are any further changes that can be made to support families.

In the meantime please do take up the offer of the slightly earlier start and later finish times should you wish.

Garden House Hospice

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Garden House Hospice exit collections at the shows before Christmas. Together we raised £254.92

I am delighted that we will be welcoming them in to speak with the children as part of their new 'Hospice Heroes' assemblies where the children will find out about the work of Garden House Hospice Care.

Nursery Tours & Admissions



Nursery - September 2019 Intake

24.1.19, 1.2.19 - Prospective Parent Tours

Application NOW open

Deadline for applications - 8.2.19

Allocation Day - 8.3.19

All admissions via: School Website

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

Poetry Publications

It was lovely to see that some of our children who entered their poetry in Mrs Furr's English competition last term are having their poetry published in a collection that will be available to purchase.

Welcome to Hector!

As part of our on-going commitment to children's mental health and wellbeing, we have recently been working with an amazing charity - 'Pets as therapy'.

This week our new 4 pawed friend Hector, a golden retriever, visited the children in our whole school assembly before spending some time with Nursery and Reception in the EYFS classrooms.

Hector will be visiting school regularly to work with children, we are all very excited!



School Clubs

Our spring term clubs are now up and running. We are pleased that we have been able to start a new Chess breakfast club which is being run by one of our parents. We are extremely grateful for her time and commitment. The club has been extremely popular and is now full!

All of our clubs have been more popular this term which is fantastic. There are still a few remaining places should you wish your child to attend. Please see the office for details. Our club timetable is also available on the school website.



New Spring Term Reminders

Drinks Bottles

Please can we remind you that children are encouraged to bring in a drinks bottle but this is only to contain water. Drinking water is also available to children throughout the school day.

Winter Clothing

We are at the time of year when the weather can be extremely cold and wet. Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for school. This MUST include a coat and preferably hat, gloves and a scarf. Please ensure all items are named.

Punctuality

When dropping children off at school in the morning, please remember that children should be in class by 9:00am at the latest.

Please ensure you are here to collect children at 3:15pm promptly. A number of children have been left waiting with staff beyond 3:25pm.



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, Reception and Year 1 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.

School Council

Thank you to parents and children who contributed old Christmas cards to our recycling box. We had a very busy session sorting them and making gift tags from the glittery ones. Keep an eye out for these on sale at the Christmas Bazaar next year!

We welcomed Samuel from Year 6 to our meeting, who shared his ideas for a project to recycle crisp packets. School Council members were very keen to support this, and more information will be coming soon.

Mr England has asked for our help to improve games and activities available for children at lunch times and break times. We have created a wish list of new equipment we would like to buy for each class to use, and come up with some great ideas of how these can be organised and managed.

School & Class Attendance

Attendance at Ashwell continues to be good with our whole school figure currently at 97.1%

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

School Matters!



Class	%
Year 3	98.5
Year 1	97.7
Year 6	97.5
Year 5	96.6
Year 2	97.6
Year 4	96.4
Acorn (Nursery)	96.3
Oak (Reception)	95.8

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

Road Safety Workshop

On 17th January our Reception children alongside their parents, welcomed a visitor who taught them about various aspects of road safety. This is linked to our work on keeping children safe when travelling to and from school and follows on from our recent scooter training in Year 2 last term.



PTA

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

Remember you can support us using:

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

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/892807736725489
(you will have to copy and paste it into the URL bar)



Ashwell Show

A huge thank you to the Ashwell Show committee who have donated £1900 to the school. This is going towards a new portable sound solution that can be used for assemblies, PE lessons, shows and various other events across the school year. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support.

Children's Achievements

It is always lovely to share the achievement of children in our school, including their successes outside of the school day. Please do encourage children to come and let me know if there is something that they have achieved.

Congratulations to:

- Owen B (Y6) Trumpet examination
- Harry W (Y6) Trumpet examination
- Alfie M (Y4) Drum examination
- Sophie N (Y4) Piano examination