



Welcome Back - Summer Term

Dear all,

I hope everyone had a lovely Easter break and enjoyed the recent bank holiday weekend!

It is so lovely to see our children enjoying the outside space on the meadow now the weather has improved.

As ever we have an action packed summer term in front of us consisting of a number of trips and other sporting events, please note we have added extra things since we last issued the school calendar. Please check the key dates on this page and make sure you have them in your diary.

We are busy planning for the new school year already - we know both parents and children's minds turn to who will be teaching them next year! Communications will follow as soon as plans are finalised.

We are now in the final term where the school uniform is optional and this newsletter contains some important updates for you. Please do read this carefully.

I am very much looking forward to Ashwell at Home this Sunday and hope to see many of you there!

Yours Sincerely

Mr S England
Headteacher

SUMMER TERM

Parking Enforcement Changes

Double Yellow Lines and Zig-Zags - Update

You will have noticed that this did not happen over the Easter Break as we were informed. I have been informed by the parish council that it is scheduled to take place but we have not received a date. It will still include re-painting of the school zig-zag lines. When this is in place we suspect it will have quite a significant impact on parking on the roads in the close proximity of the school, however we fully support this to make sure dangerous parking is prevented, ensuring the safety of our children.

Staff and members of the public have recently reported several near misses. Please ensure you supervise children closely.

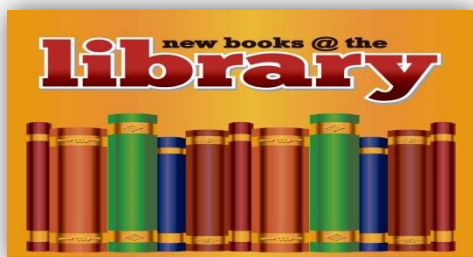
Some of our Upcoming Events - please see our website for a full list

- 7th May - Year 4 Trip Parent meeting
- 10th May - Year 1 Class assembly
- 12th May - Ashwell @ Home
- 13th - 17th May - Key Stage 2 SATs Week
- 16th May - Ashwell Music Festival (Choir)
- 20th - 24th May - Walk To School Week
- 20th May - Year 6 Harry Potter Studio
- 21st May - Year 6 School Journey meeting
- 21st - 22nd May - Year 6 Bikeability
- 21st May - Class Photos
- 22nd - 23rd May - Year 4 Residential
- 24th May - Pirate Day in EYFS
- 24th May - Break up for Half Term
- 28th May - Premier sports Holiday club
- 3rd June - INSET DAY
- 7th June - ART DAY
- 10th June - Year 1 Phonics Screening
- 11th June - Reception Willows Farm trip
- 13th June - Rural Sports Athletics

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>



Staffing

Following on from my last newsletter, I am now able to confirm that we have successfully appointed Mr Maddox on a permanent basis. We will also be welcoming Miss Meehan and Mrs Clarke who will be full time teachers from September.

I want to wish Mrs Furr the very best as she begins her maternity leave after half term. Miss Meehan and Mrs Tumber will be teaching in Year 6 until the end of term.

Good Luck to Year 2 & 6

It is that time of year again where we wish all of our children taking part in the SATs the very best of luck.

We are extremely proud of how hard our children have been working and know that they will do themselves proud during these tests.

The children all have an excellent attitude towards learning and are going into next week full of confidence.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of the staff who have been so hard working and dedicated to ensure the children are well prepared.

Ashwell @ Home

Ashwell at home will be taking place on Sunday 12th May.

As ever the school is a focal point on this impressive and eventful day. Please see below for how you can be involved on the day.

Our PTA are heavily involved in Ashwell at Home providing coffee, lunch and tea. To enable this to be a success and raise funds for our children please see the PTA letter to see exactly how you can support and help.

PTA Refreshments

11:00am onwards - Coffee / Tea / Cakes

12:00pm onwards - Lunches

3:00pm onwards - Afternoon Teas

Music Events (in the school hall)

11:30-12: Junior Musicians Concert

12:15-12:45: Junior Choir Concert

2:00-2:30: Nicola Goldscheider and Family

3:00-4:00: Welwyn Harmony Ladies A Cappella Chorus

Children's events

11:00 - 11:30: Waggle Dancing (MUGA or EYFS)

11:00-2:00: Creating the Ashwell Village Collage (Year 3 Classroom)

2:00-2:30: Children's Magic Show (EYFS)

2:30-3:00: Junk Boat Modelling (EYFS)

3:30: Story Time with Mrs Young! (EYFS)



Holiday Club

Following a successful Holiday club over Easter, we are delighted to be able to inform you that Premier Camps will be running a Holiday Club at Ashwell School on the following dates:

- Tuesday 28th May (1 day 7:30am -5:00pm)
- 24th July -26th July
- 29th July - 2nd August

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

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



Important Reminders

Summer Clothing

With the improved weather can we please remind parents that it is essential that children are coming to school dressed in the appropriate clothing and footwear. This may include a hat and sun cream applied at home.

Full details can be found on our school website but can I draw your attention to the following:

- Shoes should be sturdy, low heeled and suitable for running around outside e.g. trainers or proper shoes. No crocs, sandals or flip flops please.
- Two sets of P.E. kit in a drawstring bag consisting of:
 - o outdoor use - long tracksuit, long sleeved sweatshirt, T-shirt, socks, P.E. trainers (not their usual school ones)
 - o indoor use - shorts and T-shirt

Finally please, please ensure that every item of clothing is clearly **NAMED**.

With the weather now warming up - Please can we ask that all children are bringing a named water bottle into school so that it can be used in class.

Thank you for your support with this.

Ashwell Music Festival

I am delighted to inform you that our school choir will be singing at this year's Ashwell Music Festival on Thursday 16th May from 7pm. It would be lovely to see parents there. Thank you to Mr Maddox for co-ordinating this.

Ashwell School Choir have been busy meeting each week to practise the 2 songs that they will be singing at the Ashwell Music Festival in St.Mary's Church.



School Uniform Update

It is our final term of the new school uniform being optional prior to the full launch in September!

Since the optional launch in February, we have been delighted with the initial response and number of children who are already wearing it! We have also listened to feedback from children and parents and, as a result, added a knitted option of the school jumper and cardigan to the school uniform shop.

A few reminders:

- School uniform becomes statutory in September for all children; our Uniform policy is now on our website.
- Please note the summer gingham dress colour is navy (not green)
- Uniform Monkeys will be running another pop-up shop later this term (date tbc) and their retail unit in Letchworth opens later this month.
- 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>

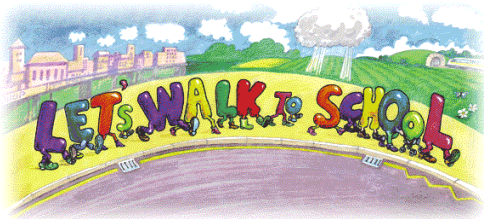
<https://direct.asda.com/george/boys-school-polo-shirts/boys-school-2-pack-polo-shirts-green/GEM527313.default.pd.html?cgid=D10M1G1C2>

Walk to School Week

Get your best foot forward for this year's challenge starting on the 20th May 2019 with the start of Walk to School Week and continuing on to Clean Air Day on 20th June.

Buster, Hertfordshire's amazing Stepasaurus is walking around Hertfordshire to encourage active travel and cleaner air. As well as getting more children to walk, scoot and cycle to school they will also discover the opportunities around the county to be more active and enjoy the great outdoors.

Teachers will be discussing this and logging their walking activity during this week in class.



School & Class Attendance

Attendance at Ashwell continues to be good with our whole school figure currently at 97.2%

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

School Matters!



Class	%
Year 1	97.8
Year 3	97.7
Year 5	97.5
Year 6	97.2
Year 2	96.9
Year 4	96.4
Oak (Reception)	96.1
Acorn (Nursery)	95.8

Well done to Year 1 who finish top of the attendance table this time!

PTA

Our next big event will be the Summer Event on **Friday 12th July**.

Ashwell @ Home - Sunday 12th May
 Father's day shop - Friday 14th June

The PTA will be doing the aquathan again this year which is being held on 19th May at Royston leisure centre.

To support them please use the following link to: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/ashwellpta>

Remember you can support us using: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashwell-school/>

Relationships & Sex Education

Last Thursday Mrs Wild held a coffee morning for parents. She was joined by parents from Nursery to Year 5 to discuss new government guidance on relationships and sex education. This was one part of a wider consultation process. More information will be coming soon regarding changes to the curriculum to meet the needs of our pupils in a complex modern world.



Children's Chess Achievements

On Saturday 4th May, four children from Ashwell took part in the Hertfordshire Chess Megafinal. A huge congratulations to: Ailsa H, Murray H, Nikos M and Edward R for doing so well. A special well done to Edward R who has progressed to the national stages of the UK Schools Chess Challenge, the Gigafinals in July!