



## The end to another term!

Dear all,

As we approach the end of our spring term and my first term at Ashwell I can't help but reflect on how quickly the time seems to have gone. I already feel privileged to be part of a fantastic school full of inspirational children, dedicated staff and supportive parents. I am extremely proud of what we, as a school, have achieved in a short space of time.

I have been genuinely taken aback by the way in which the school embrace every opportunity to provide curriculum enrichment activities for the children in the form of trips, workshops and experiences outside of the classroom norm!

It has been an exhausting yet rewarding term for all and I am certain that everyone is looking forward to some time to recharge their batteries!

As well as looking back over what has been achieved this term, it is also important to look forward. We have a fantastic summer term ahead of us with lots to be extremely excited about. Please see the details of various things to look out for over the coming weeks.

Thank you to everyone for making my first term at Ashwell so enjoyable. I wish you all a lovely Easter break.

Yours Sincerely  
Mr S England  
Headteacher



### Twitter @AshwellSchool

I hope you are continuing to enjoy the tweets and you find that it is a useful means of informal communication!

Please help me spread the word so we can increase our following!

### Follow us @AshwellSchool

We now have 139 followers - can we get all families following?



### Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone who came and met with the staff during our recent parents' evening. We hope that you found the information provided useful and that it enables you to continue to support your child/children with their development at home.

I do hope that you found the new layout suitable; it was lovely for me to be able to meet so many of you being in one place! I am aware that some of you preferred the classroom however there was lots of positive feedback too. We will review all feedback and consider the best way forward in future. If you do have any feedback please let me know.



**Thank You!**

## Meadow Development

Hopefully many of you were able to take a look at the plans for the meadow improvements during parents' evening. We are expecting work to start over Easter and have been informed that it should be completed by the beginning of May.

For those who were unable to see the drawings, please see the final page of the newsletter for a smaller overview which will give you some idea of what is happening.

During this period of works please ensure that children are not allowed to wander off in the area and are closely supervised before and after school. We are expecting minimum disruption, but anticipate some path ways cordoned off for a period of the works.

## Science Week

During the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> March, children across the school took part in a fantastic range of science activities to celebrate Science Week. It was lovely to see how much fun they had and how much learning was taking place during the Bubbles workshops and the Materials workshop. I have to say, at some points I was left wondering who was enjoying the workshops more - the children or the parents!

In addition to this we welcomed a range of parents and guest speakers during the week. They spoke with the children about the part science played in their jobs and industries and provided a fascinating insight into how science can be applied in the world of work.

A huge thank you to parents for volunteering their time and to Ms Cordwell and Mrs Bruning for organising and co-ordinating the event. It really was a huge success.

## Upcoming Events

- **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March** - Break up for Easter at 1.30pm
- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April** - Summer Term Starts
- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April** - Yr3 Young Enterprise
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May** - Yr6 SATS week
- **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May** - Ashwell at Home
- **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May** - Year group photos
- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May** - Ashwell Music Festival
- **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** - Yr6 Magistrate visiting
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** - Rec & Yr1 Dental checks

## School Dinners!

It was lovely to be able to share the Herts catering LTD new lunch menu with parents during our parents evening. I hope you were able to stop and taste some of the new dishes that will be on the menu after Easter.



## School Meal - Price Changes

### Notification of changes to School Meal Prices from April 2017

HCL are changing their annual price reviews in line with the Financial Year. School meals for the financial year April 2017 to March 2018 will now be £2.40 per day.

Thank you to everyone who uses School Gateway for payments.

We highly recommend using the website or app for paying for meals, trips, events etc. plus you will be able to see current lunch money balances, what your child ordered for lunch and attendance figures.

Link - [School Gateway](#)

## 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. Our school attendance policy is on the school website, should you need to refer to it.

### School Matters!



### School attendance - 97.2%

Class	%
Maple	97.9
Sycamore	97.9
Chestnut	97.8
Willow	97.3
Poplar	96.9
Birch	96.8
Pine	96.8
Oak	96.8
Acorn (Nursery)	95.5

Well done to Maple and Sycamores who currently top the attendance table!

## Parent View Survey - Results

A huge thank you to all of those parents who completed the Parent View Survey via Survey Monkey. I am extremely pleased to see how well the results reflect how I feel about the school after my first term. Details of the survey will be on the website soon.

We will analyse the comments with the Governors and identify areas to improve.

## Support the PTA - Quiz Night

We are really lucky here at Ashwell, to have such a supportive and hardworking PTA.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March the PTA held a Quiz night in the school hall. A huge thank you to those of you who attended. In addition to this they held a lovely mother's day sale for the children.

The PTA work hard to raise much needed funds for our children. I have recently received a cheque from the PTA for £7000. After Easter we will provide detailed information on what this is being spent on to benefit our children.

Without your support this would not be possible. If you are able to spare some time and are interested in joining the PTA please let the school office know and we can put you in touch.

If you do not have time - you can still support by signing up to the 120 Club (see attached letter for details)



## Ashwell Village Sports Day on the REC

Enjoy an afternoon of traditional races, friendly activities, music, refreshments and more! **Save the Date Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

### Reminder - Parking

Since my last newsletter you will have noticed the new sign we have put up outside the front of the school. We continue to witness dangerous parking and are pursuing the involvement of parking enforcement officers to assist us in keeping our children SAFE.

### Lambing in Ashwell

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April, between 2.00pm and 5.00pm, we will once again be opening the lambing pens for you to come and see the new-born lambs and their mums. Come to our maternity field, Townsend Close on the corner of Station Roads and Ashwell Street, and see the lambs that have been born within the past three or four days. Sheep, like humans, do not produce their lambs to order so it is potluck as to whether you will see lambs being born.

**Please wear warm, old clothes, boots or wellingtons.**

If you are, or think you may be, pregnant please do not attend. Please do not bring your dog.

For further information contact David Short or Madeleine Legg; Tel: 01462 742385 email: david@merchantflock.co.uk



*The  
Merchant Flock*

### Warning - Head lice & Threadworms

Cases of head lice and threadworms have been reported to school recently.

Anyone can get head lice or threadworms...

Headlice are mainly spread through direct head-to-head contact but also from sharing hats, brushes and other personal items and children can easily pick up threadworm infections from their friends.

Please do your part to prevent the spread of these communicable conditions by checking your child(ren) daily for the next few weeks, and on a regular basis thereafter. If you should discover a case of head lice or threadworms, please notify the school office.



### Ashwell Street Party Meeting

**Invitation to Village Meeting to discuss Village Street Party.**

As part of the 1,100 year Ashwell birthday celebrations, a Street Party is being planned for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> of July (save the date).

To find out more and how to be involved there's a village meeting at the Bushel on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Everyone welcome.

If you can't make it and want to find out more contact:

Liz Keirnan [thekiernans@waitrose.com](mailto:thekiernans@waitrose.com) /742673

Barbara Lohar [barbara@lohoar.me](mailto:barbara@lohoar.me) /742604



### Hertfordshire School Nursing Service

The School Nursing Service is provided by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, for children and young people aged 5 to 19 in mainstream schools. The service provides confidential support and advice on a range of health and wellbeing topics. Some of these include:

- Emotional health
- Lifestyle issues including weight management and healthy eating
- Keeping safe.
- Health conditions requiring support in schools.

The service also manages a local Health for Kids website, designed to deliver topical health messages and advice for children, parents and carers, through interactive tools and creative marketing materials.

Health for Kids - aimed at those aged four to 11  
[www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire)

## Lost Property

We continue to hold a huge stock of lost property. So much so, that we are running out of space for it all. Please take some time to come and have a hunt through. If it is not collected soon we will be bagging it up for charity.



## Goodbye Mrs Tilley

During our whole school assembly on Wednesday the staff and children said thank you and goodbye to Mrs Tilley. She is a fantastic teaching assistant and has been a tremendous support to Year 3 this year. We are sorry to see her go. She will be greatly missed but we wish her all the best in her new exciting adventures.

## A message from Ashwell Stage School Book Now for Summer Term!

Come join our weekly stage school: Ashwell's Little Stage! Our class is open to 5-11 year olds and includes lots of fun singing, acting and movement! We run on Mondays from 4.30-5.30pm at Ashwell Village Hall.

At Little Stage we work towards performances every term. Ashwell Stage School teach children valuable skills as both performers and communicators and help them build in confidence within a fun and relaxed environment. All of our teachers have years of professional and teaching experience and we design our own teaching materials to suit our classes and age groups.

Starts Monday 24th April-4.30pm - 5.30pm  
Contact Alex to Book Your Place: 07903 058 568  
or ashwellstageschool@gmail.com

## Year 2 & 6 SATs

Our children in Years 2 and 6 have been working extremely hard throughout the year. They have applied themselves excellently and are fully prepared for their SATs which will take place in May. Year 6 have spent some of their time this week experiencing what this will be like by sitting Mock exams. The children have been a credit to the school and are all striving to achieve their best.

Further information (including friendly videos) for Year 2 and 6 parents about the forthcoming SATs, how children's attainment is shared and progress is calculated can be found [HERE](#)



## Urgent - Supervision

Dear parents, we are now being regularly informed that a number of children are playing on equipment, climbing over the playground wall and leaving through the gates while being unsupervised before and after the school day. Please can I remind you that it is parents' responsibility to supervise their children before 8:50am and after 3:15pm. 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. They will be singing on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May from 7pm. Further details to follow nearer the time.



# ASHWELL SCHOOL



Adventure Play Equipment  
Outdoor development  
proposal

- Amphitheatre
- Dens & hides on synthetic grass
- Ashwell pavillion
- Chestnut post & rail fencing
- Wildflower meadow

- Highdown dimbing unit
- Football pitch (40M x 25)
- Netball Court (30M x 15)

