



What a busy half term!

Well I don't quite know where that half term has gone!

Christmas is now a distant memory and it seems we have avoided any substantial snow!

I have almost been at Ashwell for half a term. Now whilst it has been a very short half term, it feels like so much has already happened! I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know all of the staff, children and parents.

The highlight of the half term for me so far has definitely been getting in to see the children in lessons and talking to them about their learning. I have also really enjoyed being part of the sharing assemblies that are held every Friday. It is lovely to see children getting the opportunity to share their learning as a whole school.

We are all really looking forward to what is shaping up to be a busy yet exciting half term in the run up to Easter. Children will be taking part in Feeling Good Week, Science Week, World Book Day and Red Nose Day as well as other educational visits that are planned to supplement the curriculum.

I wish you all a lovely February half term break.

Yours Sincerely
Mr S England
Headteacher

HELLO
FEBRUARY

Twitter @AshwellSchool

It is great to see so many of our staff and parents now following the Ashwell School Twitter account. I very much hope you are enjoying the tweets, which are aimed at giving you informal information about what is going on in school.

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

Follow us @AshwellSchool

We currently have 113 followers - can we get all families following?

Library Re-Vamp! Books, Books, Books

This half term, our library has seen a huge overhaul. We have been able to restock with a wide range of exciting books to motivate, engage and inspire the children. We desperately want to promote a love for reading amongst the children.

A huge thank you to two Grandparents, Jackie Sanders and Pat Cook, who have dedicated lots of their own time in organising and running our school library. We are very grateful.



Year 4 Swimming

It has been fantastic to hear how much fun the children are having at Royston Leisure Centre during their swimming lessons. They are proving to be a huge success. Thank you to all of the parents who have supported this and a special thanks to those who have accompanied the children on Friday mornings so far. If you are interested in volunteering at one of the remaining sessions please see Mrs Bruning in the office.



MUGA, Meadow & Playleaders

I am pleased to report that, where staffing numbers allow, we are gradually increasing the amount of time the MUGA is being used by groups of children during lunchtimes. Currently it is difficult to staff both the front playground and groups on the MUGA but we are continuing to work on improving this. The MUGA continues to be used for PE and is increasingly being used for after school clubs.

Mrs Wild is in the process of training play leaders who will run organised and structured activities for our younger children during break and lunch

We are also currently working on plans to further develop the provision for children during their break and lunchtimes. I hope to bring you some exciting news once plans are finalised.



Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday 8th February** - Nursery Open morning for 2017 intake
- **Friday 10th February** - Year 6 Primary Singing festival at KTS
- **Monday 13th February** - Half Term
- **20th - 25th February** - Feeling Good Week
- **Tuesday 21st February** - Nursery Open morning for 2017 intake
- **Tuesday 21st February** - Year 5/6 K'nex Challenge
- **Thursday 23rd February** - Year 3/4 Stevenage Mosque visit
- **Wednesday 1st March** - Year 5 Eureka workshop at Princess Helena College
- **Thursday 2nd March** - World Book Day Event - Book fair
- **Friday 3rd March** - World Book Day Event - Visiting author
- **Monday 6th March** - Year 6 at Houses of Parliament
- **Thursday 9th March** - Olympic/Paralympic Sports activity day
- **13th - 20th March** - Science Week
- **Monday 20th March** - Parents' evening
- **Thursday 23rd March** - Parents' evening
- **Friday 24th March** - Red Nose Day
- **Friday 24th March** - Year 4 last swimming lesson
- **Saturday 25th March** - PTA Quiz Night
- **Friday 31st March** - Break up for Easter at 1.30pm

Special Pupil Achievements

Sports

Congratulations to Louis (Y6) for his silver medal in the Eastern Area Schools Judo Championship.

Music

It was a pleasure giving out certificates in assembly to:

Edward R - Guitar Grade 1 (Distinction)

Beth M - Violin Grade 1 (Distinction)

Abi W - Trumpet Grade 2 (Merit)



School & Class Attendance

We have recently received a visit from the school Attendance Improvement Officer. It's great to see that generally attendance at Ashwell is good. May I remind parents to avoid booking holidays or medical appointments during school times wherever possible. Our school attendance policy is now on the school website, should you need to refer to it.

School Matters!



School attendance - 97.22%

Class	%
Maple	98.0
Chestnut	97.8
Sycamore	97.8
Willow	97.3
Pine	97.0
Oak	97.0
Birch	96.9
Poplar	96.5
Acorn	95.2

Well done to Maple class who currently top the attendance table!

Curriculum Enrichment

It was lovely to welcome the Rev. Robert Evens into school this term. He worked with our Year 1/2 classes and spoke to the children about his job and what his faith meant to him. Our children asked him some fantastic questions!

Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday 7th February all children took part in lessons which focused on Internet Safety Day. Please look out for our E-safety parent letter and information on how to access key resources to support your child at home.

Reminders for Parents

There has recently been an increased number of children off school with a sickness bug. **Please can all children be provided with a named water bottle** to ensure they have access to water throughout the school day and are not sharing cups.



Please can parents ensure that children are not bringing toys or teddies to school. They are leading to an increasing number of issues amongst friendship groups and are distracting children from their learning. We cannot be responsible for toys that are lost or get damaged. Thank you for supporting us with this.

URGENT - Parking

A number of parents and delivery drivers are parking on the yellow zig-zag lines in front of the school. Please remember this is extremely dangerous and puts our children at serious risk. It is illegal to park in this area and can result in a penalty charge notice. We are reminding delivery companies of this when we are aware of it happening.



Ashwell Pupils in Cross Country Run

On Saturday 4th February, 3 of our pupils - Esme, Louis and Aiden in Years 5 and 6 took part in the Hertfordshire Schools Athletics Association Cross County Championships! During our assembly this week Esme and Aiden told us all about how difficult this was. The children had to complete a course spanning over 1500m of grassland. They showed tremendous determination and stamina to successfully complete the race.

Congratulations to all three children who did the school proud and a huge thank you to the parents who made it possible for the children to participate.



Parent View Survey

Now I have been in post for almost half a term I am keen to begin to gather parents views on aspects of school life at Ashwell. I am looking forward to hearing about what you feel are the school's strengths and areas to develop. Please help me by completing our Parent Survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3P35KGD> by 19/3/2017.

Have a lovely Half-Term