



# Ashwell Primary School

Newsletter  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## Welcome Back

Dear all,

I am delighted to be able to welcome everyone back for the start of another year at Ashwell.

I am sure that you will all join me in welcoming our new members of staff, Miss Blofield (Y1), Miss Harber (Y2) and Mrs Furr (Y6). They have settled in really well and it is lovely to have them on board.

As I am sure you have all seen, it has been an extremely busy summer for the school. We have been busy improving the environment for the children internally and are about to undergo a huge roofing and window replacement project which is all much needed and very exciting.

Apologies in advance for the many reminders in this newsletter, but this is typical at the start of a new school year. I also aim to update you with some of the changes that have been made in and around school.

I had a wonderful first two terms at the school getting to know you all and I am delighted to be starting my first full academic year with you.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to working with you this year!

Yours Sincerely

Mr S England  
Headteacher



## Building Improvements



The summer holidays has seen the school grounds transformed into what must seem like a building site. It was amusing watching some of the faces on both parents and children as they approached the school, walked through the gate and up the playground on the first morning!

I will update you on the progress of the project as it moves along but, in short, it is expected to last until at least Christmas. The scaffolding is now fully in place as this needed to happen before children were in school. Several safety checks have been carried out and we have discussed the importance of moving around the school carefully with the children.

The actual work on the roof is due to start on 18<sup>th</sup> September. We hope to keep any disruptions to a minimum and do not anticipate any restrictions with regards to access for parents.

If you do have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your support and patience with this.

## Parent Governor Opportunity

As you will have hopefully seen via Email, we currently have a Parent Governor vacancy. If you are interested please refer to Mrs Bowen's email for the finer details of this recruitment process. I am more than happy to meet with you if you want to understand the role of a governor prior to putting yourself forward.

It is an ideal opportunity to become involved in the life of the school and be part of shaping the school's future.

Be a School Governor



## School Clubs

We are currently busy organising a wide range of school clubs that we can offer to children throughout the school. These clubs will be either before school, during lunch time or after school. Please look out for further information and letters to sign your children up to these clubs.



## Upcoming Events



- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September - Year 6 Active Science sessions start**
- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Year 4 Swimming starts**
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September - Individual and Sibling Photos**
- **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September - Year 5 Paralympic Event at KTS**
- **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September - Harvest Festival in Church (2:15pm)**
- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Year 3 Fitzwilliam Museum**
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October - R-Year 4 Flu Immunisations**
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October - Parent Consultation evening**
- **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October - Parent Consultation evening.**



## Year 4 Swimming

A reminder to Year 4 parents that swimming starts on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Children will need to ensure that they have their swimming costume in school with a towel.

## Dress Code Reminders

Whilst we are a school that does not have a school uniform, can I please take this opportunity to remind parents of the following:

- Children need to come to school in sensible clothing that is suitable for the weather conditions and an active school day.
- No dressing up or fashion items.
- Children with long hair **must** have their hair tied back at all times.
- Our preference is no earrings but children who wear earrings must only have studs. These will need to be removed or covered during PE. Please supply the tape as children will need to do this independently.
- No crocs, sandals or flip flops please.
- Children need two sets of PE kit in a bag which consists of: Outdoors use (long tracksuit, long sleeved sweatshirt, t-shirt, socks, PE trainers.) Indoor use (shorts and t-shirt)

Finally, please ensure that every item of clothing is clearly named. We had a vast amount of lost property last year.

## MarvellousMe

It was lovely to receive such positive feedback about the launch of MarvellousMe last term. I hope that we can continue to build on this. We have a few parents who are still not signed up and reminder letters should have come home this week.

If you have any feedback regarding the use of MarvellousMe I would be delighted to hear it.



## First News

This year we have signed up to an initiative being run by First News. Each child in year 4 will receive a 'First News' newspaper on their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday. First News is a fantastic children's newspaper which is full of interesting child friendly articles.

**FirstNews**  
NEWS TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING

## School Packed Lunches

During the first few days of term we have noticed that lots of our children who bring in their own packed lunch seem to have an awful lot of food with them that they are simply not eating or getting through. Staff have become aware of this and are preventing children from throwing away unopened packets of food or large amounts that have been uneaten. Can we please ask that you check your child's packed lunch at the end of each day to see what is being left and adjust the amount they are provided with accordingly.

We want to promote healthy eating and children should not have any form of sweets or chocolate bars in their lunches.

Thank you for your support with this.





## School Day Timetable

The start of the new term has seen some slight changes to our school daily timetable. We are constantly reviewing how we do things at Ashwell to ensure that we are providing the very best opportunities for our children. This term we have made some changes to the children's daily timetable to ensure a well-balanced day with regular rest breaks. We are hoping that this will result in improved concentration within curriculum time.

The school day now looks as follows:

<b>8:50am</b>	School Doors Open
<b>9.00am</b>	Registration & Early work
<b>9:10am</b>	Assembly
<b>9:30am</b>	Lesson 1
<b>10:30am</b>	Break
<b>10:45am</b>	Lesson 2
<b>11:45am</b>	Lunch
<b>12:45pm</b>	Registration & Focused session
<b>1:15pm</b>	Lesson 3
<b>2:00pm</b>	Break
<b>2:15pm</b>	Lesson 4
<b>3:15pm</b>	Home

Although we are only a few days in, this seems to be working really well. We will continue to monitor this and make changes as necessary.

## Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 2:15pm in St Mary's Church, Ashwell. Please look out for a letter coming soon with full details.

## Ashwell School Tree Planting

This year, as most of you will know, the village has held many events to celebrate the 1100 Year anniversary of Ashwell. During the year, trees have been planted around the village to celebrate this. Next week is our turn!

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, parents are welcome to join us on the meadow at 2:45pm for this occasion. Children will be coming out with their classes and there will be a short speech to explain the reason for the planting and some brief history of the school.

I hope to see lots of you there.



## Ashwell Learning Journey

As mentioned at the end of last term, the staff have been busy mapping out our new Ashwell curriculum - 'The Ashwell Learning Journey'. This has been necessary as we transition to single aged classes. We have almost finalised these and we will share them with parents very soon.

In addition to this, look out for your child's class newsletter that will be coming out soon. This will be filled with information specific to your child's class and the curriculum areas they will be covering this term as well as other important information.