



September - Welcome Back

Dear all,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new children and their families to our school. It is always a pleasure seeing our new Nursery and Reception children join us at the beginning of term, as well as those who have joined us across the school. They have all settled in incredibly well.

It has been wonderful starting a new term and being able to return to many of our normal ways!

The joy on the faces of children and staff over the first few days when they were able to mix and see each other across the school, particularly during break times and lunchtimes was something to behold and a somewhat emotional moment! I do not think we realised the amount of time that our children spend interacting with siblings and friends of different ages across the school. Our older children taking care of our youngest has certainly been something that we have missed.

Being able to hold our whole school assemblies again and share our learning and celebrating successes has been a treat and something that I always look forward to.

It does not take long for staff and children to get into the full flow of term! Classrooms are already busy, exciting places with a real sense of purposeful learning taking place. As ever, we have a busy term planned with a huge number of events and curriculum enrichment activities taking place. Please see our website and calendar for a full list of what is taking place!

Mr S England
Headteacher



EVENTS

- 29th Sept - 1st Oct - Year 5 Burwell House
- 1st October - Black History Month
- 7th October - Year 5 Science workshop
- 8th October - Year 5 Class assembly
- 12th October - Young Shakespeare Visit
- 12th & 14th Oct - Parents evening
- 14th October - Year 4 Police workshop
- 19th October - Y5/6 Football Tournament
- 19th October - Harvest Festival
- 22nd October - Art Day
- 25th - 29th Oct - Half Term
- 31st Oct-7th Nov - PTA Guy Fawkes Event
- 6th November - PTA Fireworks
- 9th November - Parent Phonics workshop
- 15th November - Anti Bullying Week
- 25th November - Christmas Bazaar
- 26th November - Occasional Day

Parent Volunteers

We ♥
Volunteers

Thank you to those who have contacted the office to offer some time and your support. If you have not yet had a chance to please let us know ASAP as Mrs Bruning will be co-ordinating parent helpers with the class teachers so that we are able to target needs across the school.

I want to thank you in advance for giving up your time, it is very much appreciated and makes a huge difference to staff and our children.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions. It was fantastic to see so many people and a pleasure being able to welcome you back in to the school building and classrooms again!

We hope that you found the session informative and that it gave you a chance to hear about the year ahead, as well as meet your child's class teachers.

You should have received the presentation alongside some other useful documents. Please keep these to refer to as the year goes on.

Parents' Evening

Believe it or not, it will soon be our first parents' evening of the year. We will be writing to you soon with details of how it will run this year as we are still trying to work out the full logistics.

Following the virtual version of parents evening during the pandemic, and having listened to feedback, we are aiming to run a hybrid/blended approach to parents evening moving forward. We hope that this will meet the needs of a wider range of parents and accommodate options for those unable to attend in person. We are aiming to offer the choice of a face to face consultation or a virtual consultation. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

School Day - Update

Following the changes to our school day, I am delighted to report that the earlier start (8:50am) has made a huge difference to the beginning of the day in classrooms. Punctuality on the whole, has been much improved and we have seen children settling quicker meaning that our learning time is maximised. Thank you for your support with this, it really does make a huge difference.

Having tweaked a few pick-up arrangements, things seem to have eased with how busy the EYFS playground is. We are extremely limited with space so thank you for working with us on this.

Half Term Holiday Club - Premier

There will be a Premier Camps Multi-activity Holiday Club at Ashwell School on the following dates:

➤ Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October

This will be open to children aged 4-11 and more information is available at:

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



GDPR & Privacy Notices

A brief reminder that all of our policies linked to GDPR and data protection, including our privacy notices can be found on our school website here:

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

Reception - Mark Making!



Linked to the work the Reception children have been doing on 'All About Me', they enjoyed mark making with their feet and lots of paint! They explored how the paint felt between their toes, compared different sizes of feet to others in the class and discussed how the colours mixed together to form new colours. It was a messy afternoon but they had lots of fun!



Parent View Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent View survey in July. This is an important part of our school evaluation and the feedback is used to support with our School Development planning. We are always striving to provide the best for our children and families. The results and comments have been shared with our Governors

The full survey results can be found on our website here:

<https://ashwell.herts.sch.uk/download/parent-opinions-july-2021/>

Thank you to those who left comments, they are greatly appreciated.



PTA Updates

Thank you to those who were able to attend our recent PTA AGM.

I want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Wright for Chairing out PTA once again this year. Her hard work, support and dedication is greatly appreciated. I also want to thank Mr Prowle who is stepping down as Vice Chair, he has been a huge support during his time in post. I also want to thank Mrs Mortlock for her time as secretary as she also steps down.

Date for your diary:

PTA Fireworks Saturday 6th November

Remember you can still support the school by using the link below when shopping online:

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

Or by donating @

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=FMN6V7N9XZDVY



Extra-Curricular Activities (Clubs)

We are delighted to be able to share that our full program of extra-curricular clubs is now up and running. This is a mixture of activities led by both school staff and external agencies. The clubs that run during the school day are organised by teachers and attendance to them is optional for children. Before and after school activities must be booked. Please contact the office if you require support with this.

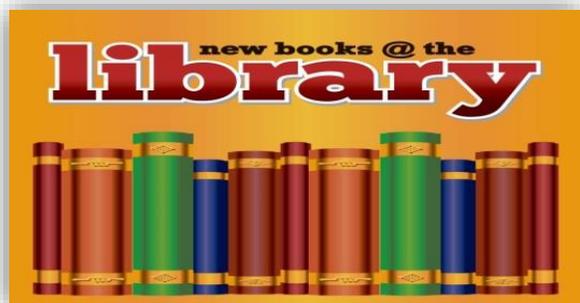
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 8:00 - 8:45			Dodge Ball (30) (Year 1-3) Premier Sport Hall	Dodge Ball (30) (Year 4-6) Premier Sport Hall	
Lunchtime	Games Club (15) (Year 3&4) Mrs Wild Ash	Games Club (15) (Year 5&6) Mrs Wild Ash	Gardening Club (10) (Year 3) Ms Coates	Team Games (Year 3&4) Mr Fallows MUGA	Art Club (20) (Year 3&4) Miss Phillips / Mrs Clark Y4 Class 12:00 - 12:30pm
	*Library Club (15) (Year 1) Miss Phillips Library: 12:15-12:45	Specific Art Project (Selected Children) Miss Phillips Green Room	Mindfulness Club (12) (Year 6) Mrs Wild - Ash 11:45am - 12:15pm	*Library Club (15) (Year 2) Miss Phillips Library: 12:15-12:45	
After school 3:15 - 4:15		Gymnastics (30) (Year 3-6) Premier Sport Hall	Football (30) (Year 4-6) Premier Sport Meadow	Netball (30) (Year 4-6) Premier Sport Meadow	

**Library club supported by 4 Year 6 Librarians (2 per session)*

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/OR6HXLXLA>



Building Work Update

Our building work made progress over the summer, I am sure those who passed by the school will have seen how busy it was! We are almost finished now and have been delighted with the results so far.

There is now a new school reception space that is bright, welcoming and far more accessible for parents. I have a lovely new office which has made meeting parents, staff and external professionals far more private and effective. We now have a new back office which was very much needed to hide Mrs Bowen away! Most importantly, the children have lovely new toilets and two purpose built small group working rooms that are super for targeted work.

The new reception area...



Attendance

Attendance at Ashwell continues to be good with our whole school figure at 97.9% for 2021-22.

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

Class	%
Year 1	99.0%
Year 5	98.5%
Year 2	98.2%
Year 4	98.1%
Year 6	98.1%
Year 3	97.2%
Oak (Reception)	94.5%
Acorn (Nursery)	94.1%

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



One of our new group working rooms...



Vacancies @ Ashwell

Do you know someone aged 18 to 24 whose ability to work has been impacted by the pandemic?

At Ashwell, we have signed up to the Governments KickStart Scheme.

We are looking to appoint:

2 x General Assistants (TAs)

1 x Site Assistant (caretaker work)

Candidates must be aged 18-24 and in receipt of Universal Credits.

The posts are for 25 hours per week and are for 6 months only.

For further information or to apply please speak to your local job centre.

School Lunches

At Ashwell we do our best to promote a healthy lifestyle. We are planning to carry out a focussed piece of work on Healthy Schools later this year.

Part of this revolves around promoting a healthy balanced packed lunch.

Children should not have any form of sweets or chocolate bars in their lunches.

We also have a number of children with nut allergies in school and ask that parents do not include food items with nuts in your child's packed lunch.

Thank you for your support with this.

Please do check to see if you are eligible for Free School Meals. If you are unsure - pop in and see Mrs Bowen in the school office.

We actively encourage children to come to school with a water bottle each day. Can we please ask that the water bottle is named and that children only have **water**. We have already noticed some children bringing in bottles of juice.



Parent Reading Guide

The single most important way parents can help their children's academic progress at home is by supporting the strengthening reading. A number of parents have asked for help and advice with regards to how to do this effectively at home. Mrs Furr has spent some time creating a comprehensive parent support guide for reading at home and it can be found on GoRead and also our website here:

<https://ashwell.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Ashwell-parent-reading-guide-21-22.pdf>

Thank you to everyone who has started using GoRead, our new digital reading record. We have already talked to lots of children who thoroughly enjoy using it. If you haven't yet got your head around it, please do take a minute to watch some of the simple video guides:

<https://vimeo.com/531349764>



Bike to School Week - 27th Sept

This year Bike to School Week takes place from 27 September to 1 October 2021. And for the first time, Sustrans want to try and track how many families take part.

Everyone can take part in Bike to School Week and there is no registration process for schools.

Instead, all Sustrans ask is that you let them know if you and your family will be cycling or scooting to school from 27 September and 1 October by pledging your journeys [via the form below](#).

By pledging your journeys, you'll be in with a chance of winning a child's Frog Bike worth up to £400. [Read the terms and conditions](#).

[How to take part in Bike To School Week - Sustrans.org.uk](https://www.sustrans.org.uk)

Please park **SAFELY**

We need everyone to play their part in keeping the roads near schools safe.

DRIVERS SHOULD NOT:

- park on yellow zig zag markings.
- park on double yellow lines at any time, or on single yellows during restricted hours.
- park or drive on footpaths.
- park within 10 metres of a junction, as this decreases visibility.
- block driveways or dropped kerbs.

You may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.
Thank you for your cooperation.

