



Message from the Head Teacher

As we come to the end of January, I would firstly like to take this opportunity to wish all our parents and carers a very happy and healthy New Year. The Christmas gifts received by staff were very much appreciated and everyone is always very grateful for the generosity of our parents and carers.

Pupils in Year 6 have been preparing for their SATs assessments that are due to take place in May 2023. Thank you to those of you that were able to attend the SATs/Wye Valley meeting last week. If you have any questions regarding the SATs, please speak to Ms Leo or Mr Bonallo directly.

Thank you to the APPTA for organising the year group events. I hear that the Year 3 disco was lots of fun! There is a Happy Bag collection this Thursday 2nd February. Bags must be taken to the MUGA where they will be collected by members of the APPTA. Unfortunately, due to low numbers, the Silent Disco that was due to take place this Friday, has been cancelled. Please join us at the AGM this evening from 8.15pm where we will be voting in a new core committee.

Thank you to Miss Burke for organising yet another spectacular visit to the O2 with the Choir. The children had such a wonderful time. Thank you to all the parents and carers for going along to support their child and to the many volunteers who helped on the day.

We have lots of exciting focus weeks to look forward to next month, such as Safer Internet Week and Children's Mental Health Week.

As you know, the NEU has announced their teachers will strike over pay in England and Wales on a few days in February and March 2023. The dates for this action in London, and at Ashmole Primary School are 1st February 2023, 2nd March 2023, 15th March 2023 and 16th March 2023.

Ashmole Primary School will be closed for our pupils tomorrow, Wednesday 1st February 2023, due to the absence of our teaching staff. I will keep you updated with events for the dates in March as soon as I am aware of the current situation.

We look forward to seeing our Reception parents and carers this Friday 3rd February at 9am for a Phonics Workshop. Parents and carers will be given the opportunity to see how we teach phonics skills using our new phonics scheme 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' which we hope will give you greater confidence in supporting your child's reading journey.

Can you believe that we only have just over one week to go until the end of this half-term! Please remember that Monday 20th February is an Inset Day, so pupils should not come to school on that day. The first day back for pupils after half term is Tuesday 21st February.

Best wishes

Mr Tofallis
Head Teacher



Reception

What a great start to the new year we've had in Reception!

In Phonics, we have nearly learnt all of our phase 3 sounds and tricky words. We have started writing an 'I can see' sentence each morning when we come in to the classroom. The children are becoming superstars at beginning to use these sounds independently in their reading and their writing. In Maths, we explored addition and subtraction and enjoyed using resources to write number sentences. We are now beginning to explore length and have been using measuring worms, cubes and rulers to find out how long or short an object is. This term, our topic is 'food'. We have been learning about how to live a healthy lifestyle and about the different food groups! Well done Orion and Calypso for having a great start back to the new year! 😊



Year 1

It has been another eventful term here in Year One! We had our fabulous Victorian Day, where the children enjoyed immersing themselves into everyday Victorian school children. We have not stopped there! The children have become little historians delving deeper into the life of a Victorian child. They have learnt all about the way the houses, kitchen and toys were and compared them to our modern-day equivalents. We are very excited to show you our Victorian assembly showcasing what the children have learnt.

In Literacy we have created our own class poems all about jelly and then used our senses to create poems about the seaside. In Maths we have been working very hard on addition and subtraction, including multiples and doubles.

We have also ventured outside looking at our natural habitat in the winter, the children had great fun comparing the creatures in the summer months to those now in the winter.

Thank you all again for your ongoing support.





Year 2

It seems like an age since we last caught up with all the goings on in Year 2!

January has been an absolutely fantastic month, and we were so impressed with how all the children settled back into school life after the Christmas break. Well done to them all! The children were not the only ones adjusting to school life in January, as Mrs Pavlakos re-joins the school from maternity leave. She has found her stride straight away and has loved being back.

We have started our topic of Dazzling Dinosaurs and the children have been so excited by this theme!

In Literacy they have researched different dinosaurs and used their notes to write some incredible non-chronological reports about a wide range of dinosaurs.

In Art they have produced some outstanding pop art/Andy Warhol themed pieces using repeating patterns of fossils with eye-catching coloured backgrounds.

In Maths we have made excellent progress in our new topic of multiplication and division. The children are getting to grips with the inverse relationship between the two operations brilliantly.

And last but by no means least, music lessons have been transformed by the effervescent presence of Mrs. Pocock who is teaching the children to play the Glockenspiel. The sound on a Friday morning is quite simply symphony-esque....

Thank you as always for your ongoing help and support.
Mrs Charalambous, Mrs Pavlakos and Mr Evaghoras



Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to 2023!

In literacy we have been learning about instructions and we made our own delicious sandwiches. We also read lots of books by Anthony Browne and wrote some amazing persuasive letters and book reviews. At the moment we are reading 'The Stone Age Boy' which links to our topic of the Stone Age and we are going to write a description of the cave in the story as well as a diary entry. We have been looking at cave drawings in Art and we used a variety of resources to recreate our own. In Maths we have been learning about measurement and we have using rulers and trundle wheels to measure cms and metres. In Science, we have been learning all about healthy eating and our bodies. We have been designing our own balanced meals and discussing the affect it has on our bodies.





Year 4

This term has been incredibly fun for Year 4. We have been learning about the Tudors across many of our subjects. In Art we have been looking at King Henry VIII and the portraits that have been painted of him. We have been learning lots of new techniques such as looking at shape, tone and dimension. We have focused on features and how to add detail to them. We have enjoyed looking at how the classes were split in Tudor England through the foods, clothing, housing and education that people received. We have also enjoyed looking at what kind of character King Henry VIII was.

In Literacy we have also been look at adventure stories. We have enjoyed thinking about the reasons why Arthur should and should not go to the land of the Minimoy, where we created a conscious alley to try and persuade for and against. We have then been creating our own endings, which we have really enjoyed, thinking about and incorporating the different literacy features that are included within adventure stories.

In Science we have been learning all about our digestive system and how it works. For one of our exciting activities we drew a life size body and added all the organs and their functions! As well as this, we have been looking at how we can best look after our teeth. We even conducted an experiment using eggshells to see which drink would decay it the most!



Year 5

Happy New Year everyone! Year 5 have had a wonderful start to 2023 and have especially enjoyed starting their swimming lessons. Every Wednesday, we have been walking to Arnos swimming pool and learning how to swim as part of the PE curriculum. It is also great to explore the surrounding area and to observe all the dogs and ducks in the park! In school, we have started our space topic and we have been so impressed with the children's space projects. Well done to everyone who worked so hard on these at home :) In Science lessons, the children used fruits to create their own solar system. We learnt about the order of the planets, the distances between the planets and created rhymes to remember the order. We are very much looking forward to Science week in March!





Year 6

This month has been an excellent and positive period of learning and interaction for Year 6. The pupils have had the opportunity to explore Shakespeare's works in *Macbeth* - demonstrating teamwork in their drama and show-not-tell writing in Literacy. We have additionally worked hard on our arithmetic and reasoning skills in ratio and proportion. Our Year 6 pupils have shown an especially keen interest in our history topic of World War II, which is currently linked to our guided reading of *Carrie's War* and our Literacy focus around *Goodnight Mr Tom*.

We continue to move forward with a build-up of excitement for the upcoming trip to Wye Valley!



Values Award Winners

We have recently implemented a special treat each month for those children that have won a Values Award during the month.

Each Monday lunchtime, the children will sit at our special top table to eat their lunch and will be joined by special guest, Mr Tofallis!





Breakfast and After School Club

Thank you for all your kind gifts and Christmas wishes.

January is such a long, cold, and dark month but not for BASC! We keep warm and active by doing lots of different activities whilst we are forced by the weather to stay indoors!

We use the mats and PE equipment to keep children moving. Dancing is still the most fun activity, by far! In art, our focus was on winter. We created pictures of different winter animals by using cotton wool, eggshells and glitter to create amazing winter displays.

The most favourite activity was decorating biscuits with lots of different sprinkles. The children also had lots of fun painting different dry pasta shapes and making jewellery out of them.

If you have any questions regarding Breakfast and After School Club, including availability, please email basc@ashmoleprimary.org

Mrs Urso Baiarda
BASC Manager





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Ashmole Primary Food Bank



The Ashmole Primary Food Bank Donation Station was a MASSIVE success before Christmas, but the Eco-warriors are determined to keep the momentum going as there are still many families in need of our help.

Mondays will be transformed into '**Food Bank Mondays**' so can we please ask for all food donations to come in on this day.

The Eco-warriors will also be at the Donation Station on Monday mornings to promote this incentive and provide a visual reminder for the need to help our Ashmole community.

We look forward to receiving your donations that make such a difference to so many families, and we thank you in advance for your help.

Thank you for helping to save the planet! The Eco-Warriors

Emailing the school - office@ashmoleprimary.org

If you need to contact the school for any reason regarding your child, please ensure that you state your **child's full name and the name of their class** in the subject heading. This will ensure that emails are forwarded promptly and to the relevant member of staff. Thank you for your cooperation. In addition to this, if you need to contact the school regarding Breakfast and After School Club, including club availability, please email basc@ashmoleprimary.org

Walk to School

Thank you to all the children who have walked, scootered or cycled to school this month, at least once a week! These children have all received their WoW Badge!

Please remember that walking, cycling or scootering to school is always our preferred option. However, we do understand that some parents and carers need to drive. If this is the case, please remember to park safely and considerately. The school office still receives complaints from local residents regarding inconsiderate parking. Please do not park over driveways EVER and never confront residents in an aggressive manner, especially when you have parked over their drive or garage.

Additionally, if you use our school drop off/pick up zone, please drive safely and no more than 5mph.

Your full cooperation is very much appreciated. Thank you.

www.ashmoleprimary.org



New School Motto

We just wanted to highlight a small but important change at Ashmole Primary School, in partnership with Ashmole Academy. The school motto has changed. The previous motto was 'excellence is a habit'. The new motto will be: 'Excellence, Aspiration and Care'. We feel this better encapsulates the vision and values of the Ashmole Trust (Primary and Academy) as we move forward.

Proposed new end of school time for September 2023

From September 2023 we would like to end the school day 5 minutes later to continue to enhance the children's curriculum further and this will help us extend the DfE guidelines for teaching at least 32.5hrs each week from September 2023 onwards. In fact, KS2 will be above the recommended guidelines each week by 50 minutes.

Our proposed end of the day time for EYFS and KS1 will be 3.20pm (5 minutes later than now).
Our proposed end of the day time for KS2 will be 3.30pm (5 minutes later than now).

If anyone would like to comment on the proposed new end of the school day, please email the school office - office@ashmoleprimary.org before half term - by 10.2.23. Thank you.

Story Competition - Based on the Value of Humour

This February we would like to encourage everyone to build on their writing skills and we are holding a story writing competition. We would like the children to write a short humorous story to entertain their class and year groups. We are looking for interesting short stories that will amuse and entertain the reader. We will place all the entries in a special book in the library for everyone to read through.

The special prizes will be for the best overall entrees:

EYFS and KS1 - £10 Amazon Voucher

KS2 - £10 Amazon Voucher

All entries should be printed and given to the school office by 21.2.23. Miss Costas and Mr Tofallis will announce the two winners in our February Newsletter. Good Luck!



In other news...

Chickenshed Performance

George and Onegie from Year 4 both performed at the Chickenshed Theatre over the Christmas Holidays, in a total of 15 shows starring in "Jack".

They both performed to a high standard and gave up their time over the Christmas holidays to do what they do best, performing arts on stage!

George and Onegie showed off their talents and made the Jack show even more magical.

A massive congratulations to George and Onegie yet again for another high standard performance.



Chelsea FC Mascot!

James from Vesper Class, Year 5 was selected to be a child mascot from one of our most popular and successful league teams; Chelsea Football Club. James took to the pitch at Stamford Bridges against Bournemouth hand in hand with the clubs very own Marc Cucurella to lead the blues onto a 2-0 victory on the 27 December 2022. He was even in the clubs very own programme that day and was interviewed on national television about his role and predictions before the match. He got to meet all the players and even warm up with them.

When James was asked about the experience, he replied " It was the best day of my life!"



House Point Winners

In recognition of all the children in Blue Sapphires House Team from Year 1 to Year 6 who were the Overall House Points Champions last year, they all enjoyed a special Cinema afternoon treat with drinks and popcorn in the school hall.

The winners for the Autumn Term were the Red Rubies, who also enjoyed a lovely cinema afternoon with popcorn and drinks.

The winners for the Spring Term will be announced before the Easter break.





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Diary Dates - January 2023

Value for February is Humour	Date	Time	Event
	1 st	All day	NEU Strike Action - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
	2 nd	9am - 10am	Reception - Phonics Workshop for parents and carers in the school hall
	3 rd	7.30pm	APPTA Silent Disco - adults ONLY CANCELLED DUE TO LOW NUMBERS
	6 th	All Week	Children's Mental Health Week
	6 th	All Week	Safer Internet Awareness Week
	7 th	9.15am	Year 1 Victorian Assembly for parents and carers
	7 th	2pm	Year 6 Holocaust Memorial Day Trip
	9am	All Day	Road Safety Talk with Met Police
	8 th	7pm	Finance and General Purpose Committee Meeting
	10 th	3.15pm/ 3.25pm	Last day of half-term
	13 th - 17 th	All Week	Half Term
	20 th	All Day	INSET DAY
	21 st	8.50am	Return to school for all children

Values Competition

Thank you to all our pupils who have followed the value of the month and worked hard to be top role models. Our Value for January was Positivity. There is a £5 book token for the winners each month and our value for February is Humour. The winners this month are Sharne in Year 2 Lyra Class and Rachel in Reception Calypso Class.



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Celebrating Achievement

In recognition of their outstanding work this month, the following pupils have received an achievement certificate from Mr Tofallis.

Reception - EYFS

Orion Class

Aaryan, Yoana, Kyra, Saad, Amaya, Jasper, Sophia, Arin, Bella, Vincent, George and Hera

Calypso Class

Edmund, Ilyas, Raphael, Sara Aras, Freya, Gabriel Blake, Arthur, Elida, Gene and Evia

Key Stage 1

Year 1

Luna - Arda, Sumayya, Gian-Carlo, Zeynep, Bazil, Amaya, Rory, Enzo, Aarshi, Andrei, Daya and Asli

Nova - Eva, Yasemin, Jay, Dimitri, Christine, Kiyan, Leyna, Edwin, Kerim, Aria, Amaanah and Mya

Year 2

Carina - Benjamin, Arianna, Leo, Millie, Ayla, Vihaan, Alice, Caspar, Saara, Jaydan, Piya, Christopher, Jushn and Amelia

Lyra - Arjan, Ella, Evelyn, Noah, Amelia, Alexis, Maria, Aiden, Sharne, Amelie and Marco

Key Stage 2

Year 3

Astra - Gabriel, Mabel, Darcey, Arthur, Klay, Olivia, Saanvi, Olly, Lukne, Ayham, Anya, Karim, Luca, Azra, Eddie, Daniyal

Lynx - Amelia, Eesa, Raf, Mira, Ella and Elias, Cara, Aria and Olanna.

Year 4

Cosmo - Lia, Mason, Berkin, Ayla, Aryan, Isabella Reyhan, Aun, Lewis, Roven, Amani and Alex

Year 5

Aquila - Rocco, AJ, Ariya, Anya, Haris, Aara, Anya, Tolu, Leyla and Aaryan

Vesper - Iza, Rory, Kenan, Sara, Jennah, William, Avash, Anoushka, Isla and Tami

Year 6

Andromeda - Jake, Jenna, Jimmy, Freya, Agastya, Malaika, Lewis, Keana, Anson, Ediz, Laurence and Jasmine

Pavo - Arabella, Joe, Eliza, Nikolaos, Rohan and Henry



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Reminders

Lost Property

If your child has lost any of their belongings, please speak to their class teacher or take a look through the lost property benches located outside the school office.

THIS SCHOOL IS **NUT FREE**



THANK YOU
for keeping our school safe!

We are a **NUT FREE** school. This also includes Sesame Seeds. Other banned items include, Pesto, Kinder Bueno, Peanut Butter and other nut spreads, including Nutella.

Keeping Children Safe

For your information, our Designated **Safeguarding** Officers are:

Miss Costas - Designated

Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Toal - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mr Tofallis - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Our School Safeguarding Policy is available to view on our website:

www.ashmoleprimary.org

School Uniform

Please be reminded that pupils should be wearing uniform as per our Uniform Policy <https://www.ashmoleprimary.org/page/?title=Uniform&pid=26> Girls should be wearing appropriate footwear and **not boots**. Pupils should also be wearing the correct Ashmole Primary PE kit. School coats should be black or navy ONLY and hairbands should also be school colours.

Belongings

Please remind your child to bring all of their belongings with them at the beginning of each school day. It is extremely time consuming for the office staff to distribute belongings such as coats, musical instruments, packed lunches, snacks, after school kits, water bottles etc. Thank you for your support.

Lettings and Hall Hire

A variety of facilities at Ashmole Primary school are available for hire to clubs and organisations, both in the evenings and at weekends. Facilities include a hall, a 5-a-side football/ basketball/ netball/ multi-use games area (MUGA) and outdoor space. In certain circumstances classrooms may also be let for educational activities. We are also happy to take bookings for birthday parties etc. Please contact lettings@ashmoleacademy.org for more information. Thank you.

APPTA news



We trust you all had a wonderful break and looking forward to the half term . It has been quite a month as we prepare for the AGM and voting in a new core committee.

Thanks to those who put themselves forward, the roles, whilst they can take up a some of your time, are extremely rewarding and enjoyable. We are looking forward to welcoming a new team.



It's all go for our new outdoor learning zone, formal confirmation has provided by Timotay Playscapes, and they plan to start work mid-February.

We held our regular Friday fun night this month. This time it was Year 3 who enjoyed themselves with a disco, the opportunity to have a glitter tattoo and play Just Dance on the Wii. Thank you to all the parents who donated their Friday evening to help. These events are always exciting and fun for the children and they look forward to them greatly. The event raised £82.

Also, a big thank you to Mr. C who made an awesome DJ.



Unfortunately, we had to cancel next week's Silent Disco due to a lack of engagement.

Reminder that our quarterly Happy School Bag collection will take place on **Thursday 2nd February** at drop off.

Upcoming Events

Rescheduled from 6th February to 24th February - Year 2 cake sale
Friday 3rd March - Year 4 Friday night fun
Friday 24th March - Year 5 Friday night fun
TBC May - Year 6 Friday night fun
Sunday 14th May - Fun Run/Lego Exhibition
Saturday 25th June - Summer Fair

Look out for details on more events soon from our new committee.....