

# Ashfield Junior School

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## Welcome

A warm welcome to Ashfield to all our new children their parents and welcome back to everyone else. I hope you all had a good summer break and enjoyed the remarkable weather. The children have come back excited and eager to learn. I hope this will be a very happy term.

The start of a new term brings many changes.

We said goodbye to Mrs Brannigan and teaching assistants Miss Podro and Mrs Pereira; and to our caretaker Mr Liddell. We have welcomed Mrs Francis who has joined the teaching team; and Miss Stringer and Mrs McLean who have joined the teaching assistant team. Our former caretaker, Mr McGrail has kindly agreed to come back to us on a part time basis until we are able recruit a new caretaker. Please spread the news that Ashfield is looking for a new caretaker. A copy of the advertisement is at the bottom of this newsletter.

We also said goodbye to two parent governors, Tom Usher, who relocated with his family; and Daniel Phillips, whose second child left Ashfield to go to secondary school. I would like to thank them both for their service to the school. There will be some information coming out shortly about the governor vacancies. I hope some of you will consider applying to take up such an important role.

A number of teachers have had changes too. Miss West has turned into Mrs Edwards over the summer. Congratulations to her and her new husband! Some of our teachers have had a change of year group, our children have changed their classes and we have welcomed a whole cohort of Year 3 children. We have also welcomed a number of children who have changed school in other year groups over the summer. I have been very proud of the way that the children have welcomed our new starters and helped them settle in. That spirit of friendship is highly valued here at Ashfield.

There have been a number of changes on the premises. I am sure you will have noticed the new fencing at the entry to the school and those of you who have visited the school office will have seen the remodeling of the entrance to provide increased security. My thanks to Mr McGrail for coming out of retirement at very short notice to oversee the works.

Change can be daunting, but can also be exciting – and rest assured that our committed teaching team continue to support and challenge all our children to be the best that they can be.

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## Upcoming Events

### September 17

2.30-3.15pm

Invitation to meet with Ella, our Family Support Worker in the Ashfield dining room

### September 21

Ceremonial Unveiling of the new gravestone for Arthur Ashfield – Mrs Dalziel & Year 6 School Councillors attending

### September 28

From 8.30 – 9.00am

MacMillan Coffee Morning in the Ashfield Dining Room

### October 5

9.15am – Year 5 Harvest Assembly. Year 5 parents welcome

### October 19

Year 6 trip to Whipsnade Zoo – more details to follow

### October 23

3.30-7.30pm Parents' Evening in the Ashfield School Hall. More details and booking forms to follow.

### October 25

3.30-5.30pm Parents' Evening in the Ashfield School Hall. More details and booking forms to follow.

### Half Term

29<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### Curriculum Evening

Thank you to all our parents who came along to meet their children's class teachers and learn more about the curriculum the children will be following. This year, at the suggestion of the Parent Focus Group, we ran 2 shorter meetings back to back to make it easier for parents with more than one child at Ashfield to attend 2 meetings. I hope you found this helpful. The Powerpoint Presentations and other handouts from the meetings will be available on the year group website pages shortly.

### Uniform

Most of the children have come back in their winter uniform. If your child is still in summer uniform while the weather is warm that's fine, but please ensure that they are kitted out with their winter uniform by the end of September. We have a policy of no jewellery other than a simple wrist watch. The children should not be bringing FitBits or other step/activity trackers and the bracelets that have been creeping into school should be removed please.

### School Meals

My apologies that there has been a delay in the payment system for Caterlink. Thank you for your patience.

A separate letter will come to Year 3 parents to explain how to log onto the system. It should all be up and running by next week. In the meantime your child can still have a school meal – you can catch up with the payments later.

#### School Meal ready-reckoner

1 meal	£2.30
2 meals	£4.60
3 meals	£6.90
4 meals	£9.20
5 meals	11.50

### Mobile Phones

A reminder that we have a no smart phone policy. We are actively discouraging children from bringing mobile phones to school: and very few children actually need to have a mobile phone in school. If you think that it is essential for your child to have a mobile phone in school, then you can apply for permission for your child to bring their phone. An application form is available from the school office.

An example of a reason that a child might require a phone is that they travel by public transport and you need to check that they have arrived safely. Smart phones will not be allowed in school at all. If your child is given permission to bring a phone, it should be a basic phone than can make calls and send texts only. Children should not be able to access the internet via their phone and any camera facility should be removed.

We encourage children to bring a healthy snack to eat in the middle of the morning and keep them going until lunchtime. A piece of fruit or vegetable is ideal, but as our children are growing and use up a lot of energy, particularly on PE days, they may need to have something slightly more substantial. We do not want to dictate what parents are allowed to send into school, but we are aware that there is a lot of confusing information about what constitutes "healthy". Therefore at Ashfield we are asking parents to follow these guidelines when choosing a snack for your child.

Please look at the ingredients label of a pre-packaged snack. Where sugar or an alternative name for sugar appears in the first three ingredients, please avoid sending this to school either for their snack or in their lunchbox – these foods should be considered as special treat only.

The following is a list (by no means exhaustive) of some of the most common sugar ingredients:

Anhydrous dextrose, brown sugar, cane crystals, cane sugar, corn sweetener, corn syrup, corn syrup solids, crystal dextrose, evaporated cane juice, fructose sweetener, fruit juice concentrates, high-fructose corn syrup, honey, liquid fructose, malt syrup, maple syrup, molasses, pancake syrup, raw sugar, sugar, syrup and white sugar.

Other types of sugar you might commonly see on ingredient lists are fructose, lactose and maltose.

Plain water only in children's water bottles please. A number of children are bringing fruit infusions and flavoured water. These contain sugar leading to enamel erosion and cavities in children's teeth.

## Clubs

This academic year all our after school clubs will be run by external providers. Our sports clubs are run by The Elms and Netball club is run by Lynda Leyshan and Dance Club by XLR8. Most clubs run between 3.30 and 4.30pm –the exception is the sports club run by the Elms on Tuesdays, when parents can opt for their child to stay for a second hour multisport following the football session. The current timetable for clubs is set out in the table below:

Day	Sports Club
Monday	Dance & Netball (Y5 & 6)
Tuesday	Chess Football (+ multisports for those staying for the second hour)
Thursday	Tennis

The football team will be managed Mr Hardy and Mr Jones from The Elms this year. Mr. Hardy will be organising the matches and squad practice which will take place during Friday lunchtimes. He will arrange squad trials for children in Years 5 and 6; and the successful children will be invited to attend the lunchtime squad practice each week. The team for each match will be selected from this squad.

## Family Worker News

Being a parent/carer can be the most rewarding job in the world but also the most challenging. Ashfield has worked with the Southwest Herts Partnership for a number of years. Their family workers have supported children and their parents with a wide range of issues that can affect us all. I am delighted that we have been able to increase the level of support we are able to offer our families and that our Family Worker Ella will be able to spend more time at Ashfield.

Do you need support to help with any of the following?

- Sleep issues?
- Routines and boundaries?
- Behaviours and consequences?
- Financial difficulties?
- Advice about technology
- Anything else...?

If so, please come along to a 'drop in' and meet Ella, our lovely Family Support Worker, who has a wealth of knowledge and can signpost parents to where they can get further support.

**Where: Ashfield School Dining Room**

**When: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September between 2.30pm-3.15pm.**

**All welcome!**



## Caretaker Required

Following the resignation of Mr. Liddell over the summer break, Ashfield is seeking a new caretaker. Please help us by drawing our advertisement (below) to the attention of people you know who might be seeking employment and who you think might be a suitable candidate.  
Thank you!

We are looking for a reliable, friendly and hardworking Caretaker to join our team, to look after our lovely school and grounds. The work involves carrying out a range of duties to ensure the safe and secure opening and closure of the school and upkeep and maintenance of the buildings and site.

This role is offered on an All Year Round basis, working Monday to Friday. Ideally we would like our caretaker to work 2 shifts per day.

AM Shift – 7.30am to 8.30am (5 hrs)

PM Shift – 1.00pm to 6pm (25 hrs)

Maximum weekly working hours, covering both shifts, is 30 hours per week. The post holds a salary of Local Authority Pay Scale H4 (£17,772 pro rata).

We will accept applications from candidates wishing to cover either the AM or PM shift only.

From time to time you may be asked to vary your hours for school events. **Cover of lettings may also be required, which is paid as overtime.**

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate that they take a real pride in their work, be flexible, have good literacy and numeracy skills as well as general DIY and painting and decorating skills. Use of domestic power tools for appropriate repair and maintenance tasks will be required. A knowledge and experience of operating as a caretaker within an Education setting is desirable, but not essential. Site specific training will be provided. Application of common sense and the ability to maintain good working relationships with all school staff and visitors is essential.

The post holder will be subject to an enhanced DBS check to satisfy child protection requirements. The post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and all convictions (including cautions, bind-overs or no case to answer) must be declared.

The post holder has a responsibility to promote and safeguard the safety and welfare of children in accordance with the school's child protection and behaviour management policy.

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

Please contact the Ashfield School Office on 020 89502350 for an application form.