

Ashfield Junior School



January 2019 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

“Let us remember: one book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world.”

Malala Yousafzai

With the media constantly feeding us a diet of Brexit and other such concerning news, where our leaders and politicians are unable to co-operate, or engage in respectful dialogue and debate, it is such a pleasure to come to school each day and enter a different world. Visitors to Ashfield always remark on the community feeling and school environment when they do tours with our Year 6 Ambassadors, or simply come for meetings with staff. Every morning, when I greet the children, their positive energy, boundless enthusiasm and optimism uplifts me, the morning headlines fade away and my confidence is restored. It is all going to be all right, because I know that the Ashfield children are being well prepared to become the leaders of tomorrow—leaders in whatever career paths they choose or within the communities that they join. Throughout the curriculum and in daily school life, our children are encouraged to develop their moral sense, treat each other with kindness and respect and stand up for what is right. Through opportunities within the school council, our children impact on school policy and practice. This week I had the pleasure of meeting with the school council to review our school mission statement and motto. The comments of the councillors were honest and insightful; and their differing opinions were offered respectfully. Our politicians could learn a thing or two from the Ashfield children!

This term we welcome a number of new pupils across the school. We are looking forward to getting to know them. We also welcome Jenny Dokelman to the Ashfield team. She will be working in the school office every Friday.

Compass for Life - Floyd Woodrow

On 21st January the school was closed for staff training. We were joined by Floyd Woodrow, founder of Compass for Life. The Compass for Life programme is designed to inspire and empower children to follow their dreams. The most wonderful thing about the programme is that it also supports the teachers on their own journey and provides a common language to ensure that all children can be heard. It also supports every aspect of learning in the current curriculum and gives meaning to the subjects the children are being taught.

We are looking forward to Floyd joining us again on Monday 4th February to give workshops to all the Ashfield children.



Attendance & Lateness

The attendance figures for this academic year are currently 96.41%. This is a long way from our target of 98%. Increasingly families are requesting authorisation for absence during term time, taking long weekends, collecting children on Friday lunchtimes for “medical appointments”, and adding an extra few days to half terms and starts and ends of terms. All this soon adds up and we have a considerable number of children whose attendance is currently at 90% or below. This is the equivalent of half a day absence each week, or 6 days a term, or 15 days a year – three whole school weeks! A lot of learning is lost in that time. Unnecessary time away from school can also put added stress on children to catch up when they get back. I would remind parents that the Local Authority may prosecute for poor attendance and fine parents.

A reminder that school starts promptly at 8.50am. The children should be in the playground by this time. Today there were 15 children late (and I didn't shut the gate until almost 8.55am). I know that the traffic is bad - it's always bad. I also know that there are road works—there are always road works in Bushey and Watford. I am afraid some of us need to leave just a little bit earlier to ensure we are on time.

Sporting Achievement

Our girls played really well in their netball matches against St. Margaret's, especially considering that for the majority of them, it was their first match. The Year 6 team lost 3-1 which was actually a great result against really strong opposition. Congratulations to Skye for scoring the goal for Ashfield. The Year 5 team won 2-1. They were so nervous to start with but very soon they gained confidence and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience. Well done to Lila for scoring both Ashfield goals.

ASHA Events

Last term our parents gave most generously both financially and of their time to support the community events. The ASHA committee hopes to have started a tradition of ongoing events that the children can enjoy throughout the year, whilst raising additional funds for our school. Through the cake sales, coin trail, sponsored obstacle course, Christmas Fair and secret rooms you have raised an amazing £3,419; funds that are immediately available to the school. A huge thank you to the ASHA committee and all those parents who have supported the events by manning stalls and donating so generously.

ASHA Winter Disco

On Friday 18th January the children enjoyed attending their Year Group disco arranged by ASHA. Thank you to everyone involved with the preparation and helping out at the event. This raised an amazing £500.00 profit.



St. James' and Colosseum Carol Concerts

At St. James Carol Concert our families raised an amazing £226.26 and those of you who attended the Colosseum the total for the collection was £582.70. Both of these collections will be donated to The Peace Hospice.

Parents' Evening

Our Parents' Consultation Evenings will take place between 3.30 and 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th February and 3.30 and 5.30pm on Thursday 14th February. All parents meetings will take place in the school hall and you will have the opportunity to see the lovely work your children have done and meet your child's class teacher to discuss their progress. Your reply slip with your preferred time slot MUST be back before Thursday 31st January as staff will be allocating appointments on that day. We understand that you may need to bring your children with you on parents evening. Please ensure that they are calm and quiet and do not allow them to run around the hall. I would recommend that you bring something quiet to keep them amused—e.g. a pack of cards or a book to read. And please be considerate at Parents' Evening and help the teachers keep to time.

Crime Prevention

On Friday 15th February 2019 the Bushey Neighbourhood Team will be outside the school at pickup time to offer crime prevention advice, sign up to Neighbourhood Watch and discuss any issues you may have. We hope you will come along and see them.



Contact Us

Ashfield Junior School
School Lane
Bushey WD23 1SR
Tel: 020 8950 2350
admin@ashfield.herts.sch.uk
www.ashfield.herts.sch.uk
Follow us on Twitter

