

Ashfield Junior School



February 2019 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

“Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.”

— Robert F. Kennedy

It's hard to believe that we are already half way through this academic year, although with the recent extraordinarily warm and sunny weather, we might start thinking we're in late Spring.

I always think of the Spring term in school as the “hard work” term. Not that we don't expect our children to work hard all the time, but the Autumn term has its settling in phase (then all too soon it's Christmas) and the Summer term has its moving on phase. While the Spring Term has the feel of a concentrated block of learning. I am a teaching Head Teacher and spending time in the classroom is a great privilege. I have been particularly impressed with the attitudes of my year 6 maths group and the way the children respond to their feedback. Over the course of the term, my group have learned to spot their mistakes and analyse which are careless errors and where they have misconceptions; and they have learned to be brave enough to admit when they don't understand. While we all like to get things right and have our success acknowledged, young people today are bombarded in the media by images of perfection and demands to get thing right first time. FAIL (First attempt in learning) is all too easily forgotten. Mistakes, if used to improve, are an essential and powerful tool for learning. Challenges, when overcome, improve confidence levels, develop growth mindset and quite simply allow pupils to believe in themselves a bit more. Our mistakes should not be hidden away. So this term is a term of “if at first you don't succeed, then try again”.

Compass for Life - Floyd Woodrow working with children

On 4th February Floyd Woodrow joined us for the day to deliver Compass for Life workshops to all the Ashfield children. The Compass for Life themes support all aspects of learning in the curriculum. The children spent the day exploring the cardinals—finding their Super Bright North Star, evaluating their Ethos (East cardinal), their strategy, plans and goals (South Cardinal) and their warrior spirit (West cardinal) and plotting their ideas and plans on their maps.

Floyd's visit was reported earlier in the month in both the Watford Observer and this month's Bushey News.

If you are interested in finding out more about Compass for Life, you might like to visit:

<https://compassforlife.co.uk>

The Ashfield staff are now working on the plans to incorporate Compass for Life themes through our Personal Development Programme to enhance children's learning experiences and help them develop their leadership potential.



Feeling Good Week — 11th to 17th February

During the week 11th to 17th February we celebrated Feeling Good Week which is a Hertfordshire-wide event that encourages schools and the wider community to promote children and young people's emotional wellbeing by raising awareness of mental health. We secured funding from the Feeling Good initiative to run our own special projects. Throughout the week the children started their day with 10 minutes breathing exercises and finished it with a mindfulness story or poem. Each year group enjoyed an introduction to Tai Chi and XLR8 came and gave Yoga classes. During class assembly the children were taught about the mindfulness jar which represents their head, water their mind and glitter their thoughts, worries and memories. While their thoughts (glitter) are calm & quiet at the bottom of the jar, their mind (water) is clear and they are able to focus.



Sporting Achievements

Our netball teams have been very successful in their recent matches against Bushey Manor Junior and Bushey Heath Primary.

	Ashfield v Bushey Manor	Ashfield v Bushey Heath
Year 6 Team	8-1	12-6
Year 5 team	3-3	5-2

Congratulations to all our girls for their outstanding performances – and our thanks to all our supporters.

Our Rapid Fire Cricket Team played really well in their Tournament at Queens'. The event was played with excellent sporting spirit and everyone had a good time.

Car Exhaust Fumes

Please remember to turn your car engines off if you are waiting for your children in and around School Lane.

The Highway Code states: '**You MUST NOT** leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running *or* leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road'.

Exposure of children to high levels of toxic air pollution from traffic can have a major impact on their lungs. Children's lungs are especially vulnerable as they are still developing.

Please be considerate.

Eye am making a difference! - Fundraising for Moorfields Eye Hospital by Leo in 3F

Many of you will know that Leo in Year 3 has undergone some very serious eye surgery over the past few weeks. I am pleased to let you know that his initial recovery is going well. Leo is an amazing young man and has shown great bravery throughout his extensive treatment. We are all very proud of him.

To show their appreciation for the amazing work the team at Moorfields have done for Leo, his family will be participating in a 4 mile walk to raise money to help fund vital research which will help make a difference to children like Leo. If you would like to support the Nativ family in their fundraising, please visit Leo's Justgiving page and read his incredible story.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dror-nativeyetoeye>



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