

Year 3 Information

1 Starting Out

I appreciate just how difficult it can be moving from a school where you've been settled for several years to a new school where you feel everything is different, there's too much information all at once and you don't know who to ask. In this leaflet, I hope to clarify a few points.

2 Homework

We set our homework through Google Classrooms. When your child comes to us in September, you will be sent a list of passwords you need for accessing online learning such as MyMaths, Easimaths and GoRead.

Reading

Children should be encouraged to read at home **every day**. At Ashfield we now use an on-line reading record called GoRead to log the children's reading as they go through the school. It allows you and the children to record the books that they are reading, the pages they have read, list tricky words and provides a comments box for children, parents and teachers. Teachers and TAs check the children's reading records regularly. It is very straightforward to use. The children will be shown how to use it and use guides will be coming your way.

Some children will still be reading quite short books and need to change them after a day or two. Other children will already be reading "chapter books" and will need a week or more to complete their book. If a child is reading the same book for over a fortnight, it is probably time for a change. It might be that the book is too challenging, or your child just doesn't like it very much. Just pop a message in the comment box and we can make sure the book is changed.

Spelling

Spelling homework is currently set on a Monday and tested on the following Monday. Children are either sent home a dictation or a word list to learn. The words are based on the spelling rule or pattern being learnt in class. You will know how well your child has done in the test because the words they have made mistakes with will be highlighted in their spelling book.

Maths

We use online programs for Maths Homework. Your child will be issued with 3 logins and passwords in September for My Maths, Easimaths and Timestable Rockstars. Year 3 teachers will explain these in more detail in September, but each program records success and flags up areas where your child might be having issues.

3 PE

Children should come to school in their PE kit on PE days. The year 3 teachers will provide you with a timetable in September and you will be contacted via SchoolComms if there is a change in the timetabling. One session is run by a specialist sports coach from The Elms and is held outside unless it is raining. The other PE slot is usually an indoor slot for gymnastics, dance and indoor games.

4 Stationery

At Ashfield we provide basic stationery; pencils, rulers, coloured pencils, scissors, erasers, glue-sticks... but many children like to have their own stationery sets. A small pencil case is ideal (the children's tidy trays are compact) and could contain coloured pencils, felt pens and a small glue stick. When the children first come to us they write in pencil, but over the course of the year, as their writing becomes more fluent and confident, they gain their pen licence. This means that they are allowed to work in pen in their written work. The first pen is given to the children by the school. After this, pens are available from the school office at 35p each. This is good value because of our bulk buying facility. The children come to the office at break times to purchase their pens.

5 Sanctions & Rewards

I have heard it said, "They're very strict at Ashfield". And yes, we do have high expectations and standards of behaviour, which is one of the reasons that Ashfield is a heavily over-subscribed school. There are 4 school rules:

- Be safe
- Work hard and allow others to work
- Be kind to one another
- Have respect for property and the environment

We also celebrate children's achievements in their work and socially through our special achievements assemblies on Fridays. Children are nominated by the teachers TAs and sometimes the children for a shiny Headteacher's award which is presented in the assembly to rapturous applause from the other children. The children's achievements are also put on display on our social media wall on the school website.

6 Start & End of Days

START OF DAY

At Ashfield we run a soft start to the day. Staff open the gates at 8.30am and the children can be dropped off at the gates any time between 8.30 and 8.50am. The children go straight to their classrooms where they are greeted by their teacher and start their "early work". The gates are closed promptly at 8.50am and registers are taken at 8.55am. If you are running late and the gates are closed when you arrive with your child, please take your child to the school office and we will register them there and take them up to class.

On the first day of school, please bring your child through the top gate, where you will be met by staff who will direct you to the year 3 classrooms. You may go into class with your child to help them find their coat peg and their seat. Say a cheery goodbye and then leave promptly please. The children will be fine, but if there are any problems or a child is distressed during the day, the office staff will call you.

END OF THE DAY

It is very tricky when you have children at both Merry Hill and Ashfield and both schools finish at 3.15pm. Please always pick your Merry Hiller up first and then come down to Ashfield.

When you arrive at Ashfield to collect your child, please come through the **lower** gate which will be opened at 3.10pm and follow the yellow dots up to the top playground, where the staff will wait for you with the children.

Once most children have been collected, they then escort the remaining children to the wooden side gate. If you have been delayed because you need to speak to a member of the Merry Hill staff, do not worry. Your child will be delivered to the office where they will wait with our office staff, Miss Whalley and Ms Golding until you get here.

Many parents are confident for their children to meet them up at “the tree” (the big tree on the right hand side as you go up School Lane) or at Merry Hill; or, if you are coming up the hill, at the bench at the bottom of School Lane. This is fine. Just please let us know by sending an email to the school office – admi@ashfield.herts.sch.uk. And it is essential that you tell your child that if you (or the person collecting them) is not there to meet them, they **MUST COME STRAIGHT BACK TO SCHOOL**. They can come to the school office, or see any of the teachers who will help them. They must not wait out in the street unsupervised. It is not safe.

If someone else is collecting your child at the end of the day, please let the school office know no later than 2.45pm. The end of the school day is very busy and while we will do our utmost, we cannot guarantee to get the message to the class in time for the end of the day if the message does not get through to us until late in the school day.

At the time of compiling this information, all adults visiting the school **MUST** wear a mask or face shield. While procedures may have changed by September, please come prepared to wear a mask, or you may find you are denied access to the premises.

7 Library

Once the children have settled in they will have access to the library so they can borrow additional books to read at home. Before the children bring books home from the library, we give them a bit of training in “library etiquette” (how to borrow and return books and how to find the books they are interested in). Each class will be timetabled with a library slot. Your child’s class teacher will let you know when your child will be visiting the library. The children should not keep the books for more than a fortnight please.

8 Birthdays

It is lovely to celebrate birthdays with the children. We do so in our achievements assemblies. Every Friday the children who have had a birthday that week are called up to receive a card, have a candle lit and be sung to by the school. Many parents want to share the celebration by sending in a treat for the class. This is very kind, but can lead to quite an expense; and parents often wonder what they are allowed to send in when we’re a healthy school and discourage sweets. This year we are asking parents not to send sweets or food, but, if they wish to, buy a book for the class library. We will put a sticker inside the book to show who donated it.

9 Parent Focus Group

We are seeking interested Year 3 parents to join the Parent Focus Group. This group meets termly to discuss school issues, new policies and plans; and while the group does not make policy (that's down to the Leadership and Governance), it does have a significant influence in decision making within school. We would like one parent from each class, although the role might be shared by a few parents so that it does not require such a time commitment. If you are interested, please contact Miss Whalley or Ms Golding in the School Office.

10 Worries

Our parents evenings are around October half term (it feels a long way away, but the time will fly). Please do not feel you have to wait until then to speak to a teacher. If you have any worries about your child, do please put a call through to the school office or send an email. Your child's class teacher will get back to you. We aim to respond to calls and emails within 24 hours. You can catch them at the gate at the end of the day, send them a note via your child, or call the office and the teachers will call you back as soon as they are available.

Carolyn Dalziel

Head Teacher