

Ashcombe Primary School

Headteacher: Chris Penny

Deputy Headteacher: Kerry Evans

Assistant Headteacher: Steve Burditt

Know yourself and your world. Be part of the world. Change the world.
We Are Ashcombe



Monday 4th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 2! I hope that your children and families have managed to rest and recuperate over the half term holiday ready for an action packed term. We've got a great deal to look forward to this term as we move towards some colder weather and (whisper it) Christmas! We had a really lovely first term as detailed below and we're all looking forward to seeing the children back again this week.



Highlights from Term 1



In year 5, the children have enjoyed reading War Horse and have produced 2 pieces of writing from this, a diary entry and an information text. In maths the children have started a new programme called Mastering number which improves their times table skills as well as revising place value and addition and subtraction skills. Science has consisted of looking at the major organs of the body and how they work. 5SH and 5ED have been swimming every Thursday and this has seen the children make some fantastic progress. One highlight for the children was using the new kitchen facilities to make Irish soda bread during International day of languages.

Year 4 have had a fantastic first term - culminating in the performance of their musical - Snow White and the Seven Jockeys! Through the sales of souvenir programmes and kind donations at the performances, each class raised enough money to sponsor their very own donkey at the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth. We are really looking forward to following the progress of our three chosen donkeys; Percy, Drizzle and Cocoa.



Year 2 have had a very busy Term 1. In English, we enjoyed learning the story 'Gorilla' and were excited to write instructions on how to carve a pumpkin. Our focus in Art this term has been colour. We used Kandinsky's art to inspire our own abstract creations. European Day of Languages was one of our favourite days this term. We learnt some Portuguese phrases, tasted custard tarts and even performed a Portuguese dance! We're definitely looking forward to Term 2!



Waterproof and warm clothing



As we move towards the colder months, can I remind families to please send their children into school in clothing for cold weather. Please remember:

- **Jumpers/fleeces**
- **Warm and or waterproof coats**
- **Gloves and scarves**
- **Wellies (optional)**

We will be aiming to play outside, except in heavy rain – please make sure children arrive into school with the right clothing for this.

Please ensure all clothing is labelled.

Communication – Parent Champions

Communication is one of the biggest challenges I face in a school this size. I recognise that as a parent it's often very hard to keep up with communications from school – I struggle with this with my own children. The routes we have at the moment are:

- In person – a member of LT will be on duty at the gates in the morning and afternoon
- Newsletters – every 2-3 weeks
- School Ping – messages, reminders and booking systems
- Facebook – Reminders and updates.

I know that these channels don't work for everybody though and some really good communication and reminders can arrive in different ways through Whatsapp groups or through parents and carers chatting at the beginning and end of the day.

I am looking for volunteers in different year groups who would be willing to act as Parent communication champions. This wouldn't entail much – it would be supporting the school and AFA with communication about key events. My hope is that the communication could work both ways and that key messages can be passed to staff or myself through this working group. If you would be willing to volunteer to be part of this group, can you please email office@ashcombepimary.co.uk FAO Mr Penny – Parent Communication Champion. Please let me know your name and which year group you would be willing to support.

Ashcombe Friends Association

I was delighted to see such a large number of volunteers come to our last AFA meeting – thank you so much to the parents and staff who take part. There are some big events coming up from the AFA this term to look forward to:

- AFA Meeting – Monday 11th November – 7pm
- AFA Drop & Shop – Thursday 28th November – 5-7:15pm
- AFA Drop & Shop – Tuesday 3rd December – 5-7:15pm
- AFA Non Uniform Day in return for donations – Friday 6th December
- AFA Christmas Fayre – Friday 13th December (after-school)



More details will follow about these events – if you are able to support the team by volunteering your time for these events, it would be really appreciated. Please email: ashcombefriendsassociation@outlook.com

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Attendance

Expectations for parents/carers

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival. Check this website if you are unsure: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help.

What we will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Bullying

I led assemblies for the children at the end of term, talking about bullying. Having experienced being bullied as a child, I know how much this can effect young people. My assemblies were in advance of anti-bullying week which takes place on week beginning the 11th of November. During the assembly I talked about how we can recognise bullying. Children will fall out with other children at school – unfortunately I can't take that experience away. It's important though, that children recognise when they might be being bullied. An easy way to remember is STOP (Same thing on purpose). Children should know that bullying can be physical, verbal or emotional. It can take place in person or online.



Children are invited to wear odd socks during Odd sock day (part of Anti-Bullying week) on Wednesday 13th November.

What should parents do if they are worried their child is being bullied?

- Speak to your child's teacher. In most cases, the class teacher can support you and your child about any concerns and support you and your child.
- If you are still concerned, please see a learning mentor, Miss Evans or Mr Penny in the morning or afternoon **Or** email office@ashcombeprimary.co.uk
- We will meet with you and your child to discuss what has been happening, investigate and arrange any follow up support or consequences in school.





Remembrance Day

The second week of term will be Remembrance week. We will mark this in school during assembly time this week when I will speak to the children about Remembrance. The school will also mark the day together by holding a two minute silence at 11am. I will be asking some of our year 6s to sell poppies outside on the main playground and by the children centre entrance at the beginning and end of the day. **Children**

who attend any Scouting groups may wear their uniforms to school on Monday 11th November.

Important Dates ahead

I will endeavour to keep these dates in place but on occasion we will need to make changes if circumstances change. I'll aim to give families as much notice as possible for this though.

Term 2:

Term 2 Begins: Monday 4th November

Remembrance Day – Monday 11th November (Children who attend a scouting group can wear their scout uniform)

Flu Immunisations – Wednesday 13th November

Odd sock day (part of Anti-Bullying week) Wednesday 13th November

Individual Photos – Thursday 14th November

Children in Need – (Bring in £1 donation) - Friday 15th November (Children can wear a yellow or spotty item of clothing)

AFA Drop and Shop - Thursday 28th November

Reception Nativity - Tuesday 3rd December pm (More details to follow)

AFA Drop and Shop Tuesday 3rd December

Reception Nativity - Wednesday 4th December am (More details to follow)

AFA Non Uniform Day in return for donations – Friday 6th December

Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 11th December

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 12th December

Year 2 Christmas Presentation 1 – Monday 9th December pm

Year 2 Christmas Presentation 2 – Tuesday 10th December pm

AFA Christmas Fayre – Friday 13th December

Christmas Parties – Children can wear party clothes into school for these days

Reception, Years 1 and 2: Tuesday 17th December

Years 3 and 4: Wednesday 18th December

Years 5 and 6: Thursday 19th December

End of term 2 – Friday 20th December

Term 3:

Term 3 begins 6th January

INSET Monday 6th January

INSET Tuesday 7th January

Year 3 Presentation Wednesday 12th February pm

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Year 3 Presentation Thursday 13th February am

End of Term 3: Friday 14th February

Term 4:

Term 4 Begins: Monday 24th February

Mid-year School Reports sent out – Friday 28th February

World Book Day – Thursday 6th March – (More details to follow)

Year 5 – Parent Presentation Wednesday 12th March pm

Year 5 – Parent presentation Thursday 13th March am

Red Nose Day Friday 21st March – Children to bring in a suggested £1 donation – Children wear a red item of clothing.

Ashcombe's Got Talent Finals – Wednesday 2nd April

AFA Easter Fayre - Friday 4th April

End of Term 4 – 4th April

Term 5:

Term 5 Begins 22nd April

Class Photos – YR and Y6 24th April

Y5 Morfa Bay residential Monday 28th April to Friday 2nd May

KS2 Test week – 12th May – 15th May

Year 1 Parent Event/Performance – Wednesday 21st May pm

Year 1 Parent Event/Performance – Wednesday 22nd May am

Day of Sport and Kindness for Liam Shepherd Foundation - Friday 23rd May (Children can come into school wearing unusual trousers, shorts or skirts)

End of Term 5 – 23rd May

Term 6

Term Begins: Monday 2nd June

INSET Monday 2nd June

Y4 Multiplication Check Window Opens - Monday 2nd June to Friday 13th June

Y1 Phonics Screening Check week – Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June

Reception and Year 1 sports day - Wednesday 18th June (reserve day Friday 20th)

AFA Summer Fayre – Saturday 5th July.

Year 4, 5 & 6 sports day Wednesday 9th July (reserve day Friday 11th)

Year 2 & Year 3– Wednesday 16th July (reserve day Friday 18th)

Parents' Evening 1 – Tuesday 8th July 4:00-7pm

Parents' Evening 2 – Thursday 10th July September 3:30-6:00pm

Y6 Leavers Show, Parents Lunch and Leavers' Service Thursday 17th July am and pm

Wrong Trousers Day for Grand Appeal – Monday 21st July – Children wear sport clothes to school

End of Term 6 Tuesday 22nd July

Forever proud to serve you.

We Are Ashcombe.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Penny