

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



Wednesday 9th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,



We've passed the halfway point of term 1 now and it's been nice to enjoy a break from the biblical amounts of rain which seemed to have dominated the first few weeks of term! The children seem to have really settled in well to their new classes and it's lovely to pop in and see them working hard during their day. As we approach the end of term, we've got the year 4 production to look forward to, some further developments for our OPAL Play scheme and

our mental health curriculum is being launched in key stage 2. Being able to enjoy all these things in the space our new building affords has been a real pleasure.

Ashcombe Friends Association

We held the AGM for the AFA in the last week and used the meeting to elect our new committee and welcome some new faces to the group. It was really lovely to see so many people volunteering to join the group alongside some familiar faces from previous years. We've unfortunately had to have a more restricted range of events on offer in recent years due to the pandemic and latterly the building works. The committee are really excited to begin planning for our traditional range of events once again. The first of

which will be taking place in term 2 – our Christmas 'Drop and Shops' and of course the Christmas Fayre! If you were unable to attend the AGM but able to offer your time for any committee meetings or preparation for events, it would be greatly appreciated. We will only be able to run these events with a large number of volunteers. If you can offer your support, please email: office@ashcombeprimary.co.uk.



Staffing Update



Unfortunately, we're going to be saying goodbye to some members of the Ashcombe team in the coming weeks. Mrs Clothier who joined us in 2023 and works in year 3 as a TA, having previously worked as a 1:1 LSA is leaving us to start an accountancy role. Mrs White who works in Reception as TA and in different classes as an LSA has worked at Ashcombe for 16 years in different capacities is leaving education for a new role at Alliance Homes. Mrs Clothier and Mrs White will be leaving us at the end of this week. Mrs Macbeath, who works in year 3 as a TA and has been at Ashcombe since 2009 is also leaving us at the end of this term. In that time she has worked as 1:1 LSA, breakfast club supervisor and TA. She will be joining the British Red Cross. I'd like to put on record my thanks for all the hard work and dedication these



people have shown in their time at Ashcombe. They'll always be remembered here for the difference they made to the children they worked with. We are advertising for replacement staff at present and their roles will be covered by a mixture of existing staff and supply cover until new members of the team are appointed.

Mental Health Curriculum – MHST

Children in year 3 last week had workshops delivered by Gina Green who is a member of the Mental Health Support Team. They are NHS employees, working with schools to support pupils with their mental health. She is rolling out a toolkit of skills for all pupils called the Decider Skills and Gina will be meeting with children in years 4, 5 and 6 to launch these skills with them next week. Please follow this link for more information: <https://www.thedecider.org.uk/our-strategies/life-skills/> The case for giving children tools to manage their feelings is very compelling. Stress, anxiety and depression can affect us all and impact our whole society. Our goal is to give our children a toolkit of skills they learn and can use to help navigate the problems they will face as they grow up. Our secondary aim is that children will have an increased capacity to support one another as friends and peers. Gina will be meeting with years 4-6 in the coming weeks and launching the different skills of The Decider in turn. We'll be sharing more with parents and carers in the near future.



The importance of arriving on time



With the national and local drive for improving attendance going on up and down the country, I would like to remind families of the importance of ensuring that children arrive in school on time and ready to learn each day.

The school day begins at 8:45. Children start their learning straight away as soon as they've hung their coats and bags – children will be practising their maths or reading as soon as they sit down. If children arrive later than this time, they are missing that learning time at the start of the day and they are at a disadvantage compared to the children who arrive on time.

5 minutes late each day is 25 minutes of practice they are missing compared to the children who arrive on time. Over the course of a school year, that's 2 and half full school days missed. If your child is 10 minutes late each day, that's 50 minutes a week and equivalent to 5 whole days of school missed! That time adds up and it becomes harder for children to keep up with their peers. I don't say this to shame parents but to be honest with you about the importance of the first part of the school day and getting children in and settled on time.

Foodbank Donations

Can I pass on a huge, huge thank you to everyone who was able to make a donation. The community managed to bring in nearly 250 kg of donations which will make a massive difference to families facing hardship. Can I also thank Frederique Wigmore who came in and spoke to the children in our Tuesday assemblies about the vital work that she and her team of volunteers do day in and day out at the Foodbank. They are heroes and we're so proud to support them.



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Waterproof and warm clothing



Please remember that we will be playing outside every lunchtime apart from very exceptionally poor weather. This means that all children should come into school with a warm, waterproof coat. I would also recommend that your child brings wellies into school which they can change into for break and lunch times if it is wet. If you are concerned about your child getting their uniform dirty or even if you know your child likes to get involved in muddy play, it will be worth sending your child in with a spare set of clothes to change into in case they get very messy.

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.

Year 4 Parent Presentation 1 – Wednesday 23rd October pm

Year 4 Parent Presentation 1 – Thursday 24th October am

End of Term 1 – Thursday 24th October

INSET – Friday 25th October

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

Individual Photos – Thursday 14th November

Children in Need - 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)

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

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 – Monday 21st July – Children wear sport clothes to school

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 can come into school wearing unusual trousers, shorts or skirts)

End of Term 6 Tuesday 22nd July

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Yours sincerely,

Chris Penny
Headteacher

