



ASHBROOKE HOUSE SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 3 TO 11

Ashbrooke House Newsletter

September 2016

Welcome back to school, we hope you had a relaxing summer break.

WELCOME

As always at the start of a new year as well as welcoming everyone back we welcome new pupils and members of staff.

Welcome to the new children in Nursery: Jacob, Christopher, Ellen, Richard, Hatti and Leo.

Welcome to the children in Reception class: Hera, Andrew, Robert, Evie, Cameron, Natalya and Riel.

Year 5 welcome Miss Oxley as their new teacher and Year 2 will be taught by Miss Peerzada; there is also a change in Year 4, where Mrs Munro is the class teacher.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to last year's class 6 on their excellent SAT results; their achievements were above the national average in all subjects. Special congratulations to Risuna Mabasa, who was awarded a sports scholarship to Wellington School.

Congratulations also to Elizabeth Unwin in Year 5 and Ava Cookeson in Year 4 who passed their grade 1 singing exams with very high marks.

Congratulations to Octavia Porter who won her class at a horse show in Wales, where her pony, Artemis, was crowned the best pony born in Wales.

Well done Nellie Matthews in Year 4 who won a rosette in her second dressage competition.

Benjamin Fellows and Daniel Johansen played in a football tournament and their team, Hutton Junior Under 8s, won. Benjamin won a medal for the best striker and Daniel won a medal for the best goalkeeper. Well done boys.

Well done to all children who took part in a variety of sporting tournaments throughout the summer and to those who took part in the Reading Challenge at the library.

THINKING THURSDAYS

Lower school have Wow Wednesdays, where all the classes join together to take part in exciting activities; this year they will be doing the same and upper school will have Thinking Thursdays, taking part in activities not necessarily related to their current topics; some weeks this will involve going off site to explore the local environment; craft activities; science experiments we hope this will be a stimulating, enjoyable addition to the curriculum.

UNIFORM

We apologise again for the confusion over the new uniform, we have been disappointed with the service we have received from John Lewis.

For clarification:

The new uniform is being phased in, so you do not need to buy everything now, only when your child grows out of anything. Unfortunately this means that the only second-hand uniform available will be pinafores for the younger children, trousers, tracksuit bottoms, boys' jumpers, ties and blazers.

Grey hats and caps may be worn if desired, but all children will need to have a school beanie hat to be kept in school and worn in the playground in the cold weather (i.e. to be regarded in the same way as school sun hats); they will not be allowed to wear their own 'bobble' hats.

There have been queries about whether the children may wear short-sleeved shirts - this is acceptable and the uniform list will be altered to reflect this.

As the weather changes children need to have their school raincoat in school at all times. It is only necessary to buy the new green raincoat if your child has grown out of the old blue one. We have been in contact with John Lewis, who have informed us that the new green coats will be in stock in 3-4 weeks; meanwhile please send the children into school with their old coats. If your child cannot fit into their old coat we do have a small stock of coats that can be borrowed until the new green coats are available. The new coats are thin raincoats to be worn over the blazer, there is no fleece.

WATER BOTTLES

Children are allowed to bring water bottles into school to have in the classroom.

WELLIES

As the whole school will now be doing some outdoor activities we are requesting that you send in a pair of wellies for your child, to be left in school.

GARDENING CLUB

Unfortunately Mrs Ball and Mrs Porter are unable to continue with an after school Gardening Club, we thank them for their hard work and dedication in creating the fruit and vegetable garden; however all lower school children will still have the opportunity to work in the garden with Mrs Ball as part of 'Wow Wednesdays'. Miss Freeman and Miss Peerzada are going to be running an optional gardening club for Years 3 and 4 on a Thursday from 3.30 - 4.00pm. Upper school children may also have the chance to help in the garden during 'Thinking Thursdays'.

TOPICS FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

Nursery: All about me;

Reception/Year 1/Year 2: Ourselves and other animals; Light and Dark

Year 3: Tudors; Healthy Eating and Teeth; Light and Shadows.

Year 4: Tudors; Electricity; States of Matter

Year 5: Victorians; Light; Sound

Year 6: Victorians; Earth and Space; Electric Circuits

PTA AGM MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 7.30PM SCHOOL HALL

At Ashbrooke House we have an active PTA, who organise various events throughout the year, raising a lot of money to enhance your children's time at school. In previous years they have raised money to enable the playground to be completely re-furbished; contributed towards the cost of the new computer suite and tablets; bought various games for classroom use; subsidised special activities. As always at the end of a school year we lose parents from the committee so we are currently in need of new members with new ideas. Even if you can't commit to being a member of the committee please still come along on Monday to hear about our plans and maybe put forward your ideas, especially if you are new to the school, it is a good way to meet other parents and staff in an informal environment. If you are contemplating joining the committee all it entails is meetings once a month (but you do not have to attend them all!) and helping at PTA events.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday - if you have any questions about the PTA please ask Miss Wallington or Mrs Ducker.

DATES

The full list of term dates will be sent out separately as some dates need to be confirmed.

Friday 23rd September - Classes 3-6 will be taking part in a rugby tournament at Drove Road from 1.00-4.30pm, parents are welcome to come and support. More details to follow.

Monday 26th - Friday 30th September - Scholastic Book Fair in the hall after school. A great opportunity to buy early Christmas presents and enable the school to earn new books for the library.

Friday 30th September - Class and individual photos. If your child is in Nursery and does not normally attend on a Friday morning you are welcome to bring them in from 9.15 am for the photo and then take them home.

Friday 30th September Class 6 will be hosting our annual Macmillan coffee afternoon from 3pm. The children will be baking, but we will also be asking for cake donations. We hope you will be able to join us, supporting such a worthwhile cause. More details to follow.

Friday 14th October 9.30 am - Harvest Festival at Clarence Park Baptist Church

SPORTS CLUB

Unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange a Sports Club this term

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The following children have been awarded positions of responsibility:

Head Girl	Katy Brown
Head Boy	Myles Bliss
Prefects	Erin Davies
	Owain Edwards
	Scarlett Johannsen
	Catherine Smith
	Stephen Tancock.

House Captains and Vice House Captains

Corinthians	Stephen Tancock Myles Bliss
Dolphins	Owain Edwards Katy Brown
Harlequins	Catherine Smith Ewan Williams
Forresters	Scarlett Johannsen Erin Davies