



ASHBROOKE HOUSE SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 3 TO 11

Ashbrooke House Newsletter

January 2017

A Happy New Year to you all!

WELCOME

We welcome three new children to our Nursery this term: Ayana, Jessica and Bluebelle. We wish them all a happy and successful time with us at Ashbrooke.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all the children for their magnificent performances in the Christmas productions and thank you for your support. You have raised a magnificent £320 to send to the Jiwan Jyoti orphanage in Nepal. Our collection for Save the Children on the last day of term raised £55.

OFSTED

Since our Ofsted inspection last year we have been working hard to implement changes in order to address the issues identified by the inspectors.

Key Issue 1: To improve teaching and learning in all aspects of English and Maths in order to accelerate progress and raise attainment in these subjects.

1. We have introduced a new computer tracking system; which will enable us to identify children who are falling behind or who are working at a higher than expected standard, thereby enabling us to introduce intervention strategies for these children. In order to do this the children will be doing regular assessment tasks so that the teachers can monitor progress.
2. As part of the new tracking system we have introduced regular end of term assessments in Maths and English in order to monitor pupils' progress throughout the year.
3. We are developing a new marking policy which encourages peer and self- assessment by the pupils as well as feedback from teachers.

Key Issue 2: To strengthen the effectiveness of school leadership, including School Leadership team, proprietors and subject leaders.

1. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have regular meetings to monitor the effectiveness of the School Development Plan.
2. In order to evaluate the quality of teaching the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher monitor teachers' planning and observe lessons.

Key Issue 3: To develop more effective and closer partnership with parents.

1. We have introduced new report forms for use during parents' evenings and at the end of term, in order to give parents the opportunity to see their child's progress and to ask questions.

Key Issue 4: Building maintenance.

1. We are looking at various scenarios to enable us to improve the outside space for the Foundation Stage; we have already purchase extra equipment for the children to use outside. This means that more outside learning is already taking place.

PTA

During the Christmas Holidays two interactive whiteboards were installed in Reception Class and Class 4, this was totally due to funding from the PTA, who have also provided money to enable us to buy some outdoor building blocks and some 'hand tennis' sets. Many thanks to the PTA and for your generosity in supporting the PTA events. The Christmas Fair was very successful and we hope you can support the Race Night at Batch Hotel on February 3rd. If you have any ideas for what to spend the money on to enhance the children's time at Ashbrooke please approach a member of the PTA (each class has a class representative on the committee).

HOT LUNCHES

Some parents have asked about the possibility of providing hot lunches for the children, we are happy to look into this, but there are many things to take into consideration.

1. We would need to find a company prepared to provide the meals; this may not be too difficult as there are state schools as small as us who do have meals delivered.
2. We may need to upgrade the kitchen, at a cost.
3. We would probably have to guarantee the number of meals, so parents would have to commit for, possibly, a term.
4. It may be necessary to employ an extra lunchtime supervisor.
5. The price may turn out to be prohibitive, taking into account all the costs.

As a school we are prepared to find out all the required information; we would ask that if you are interested in your child potentially having hot dinners please inform the school, either by coming into the office, or registering your interest on Facebook.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We are celebrating World Book Day this year by having a week of activities relating to the books of Roald Dahl, celebrating the centenary of his birth. On Thursday 9th March we will be asking the children to dress up as their favourite character from a Roald Dahl book.

CLASS 5 PAINTPALS

Miss Oxley and Class 5 visited Innisfree Nursing Home on Monday 16th January (this was their first visit as the December one was postponed). The children enjoyed the experience.

SAFETY

The children's safety is one of our main concerns therefore we wanted to give them the opportunity to learn how to keep safe, so we have arranged 2 courses.

BIKEABILITY

Years 5 and 6 will be taking a 'bikeability' course on Monday 6th February - Wednesday 8th February (during the school day); they will learn how to control their bikes and ride safely on the roads. The training starts in the playground, progressing to the road when the instructor feels the child is able and confident. When the children are on the road there will be a parent with them, as well as the instructor. If you would like your child's bike serviced before the event please let the school know and we will try and arrange it with the instructors. (Parents should have received information about the course, a letter was sent out at the beginning of term. If you cannot find your copy please ask at the office or look on Facebook).

PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

Classes 1 and 2 will be undertaking 'pedestrian training'; the course starts on Wednesday 25th February with adult training, followed by 6 weeks of half hour lessons on a Wednesday afternoon.

CLASSES 3 AND 4 NIGHT AT SCHOOL

On Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th March children in Classes 3 and 4 will be having an overnight stay in school and two days of action packed adventure, including a visit to the Somerset Levels. More details to follow.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Parents' Evenings will be held on Tuesday 21stth and Wednesday 22nd March. Appointment times will be sent out nearer the time.

PTA AUCTION OF PROMISES

As you may remember at the Summer Fair we had an Auction of Promises, some of which involved activities at school. In the summer term Class 3 had a non-uniform day and classes 3 and 6 had a non-homework week thanks to Scarlett and Daniel Johannsen. Next Friday Francesca Dudd and Frankie Hopkinson-Spark will be Headteacher for the day; they will give out headteacher's awards and take part in meetings.

FACEBOOK

As you may be aware, we have a school Facebook page where information and photos of school activities are posted; please be aware this site is for information not communication with the school (it is not regularly monitored). Currently there are no pictures of children posted on this site; it has been proposed by some parents that the site will be more interesting if there were; attached to this newsletter there is a form for you to sign indicating whether you are happy for your child's photo to be posted.

E-MAIL

Currently all communication with parents is via paper forms; as a paper and time- saving exercise we are proposing to send letters to parents via e-mail, as do the majority of schools. Please return the attached slip or come into the office and inform Mrs Downes of your e-mail address. If you would prefer to continue to receive paper copies then please indicate so on the form.

CONGRATULATIONS

Piano

The following children all passed their Associated Board of the Royal School of Music exams:

Erin Davies	Grade 1
Ewan Williams	Grade 1 with merit
Elizabeth Unwin	Grade 2 with merit

Music Theatre

Elsie Cooke passed her London College of Music Grade 1 exam with distinction

Tennis

Rose Brown has been selected for Avon County training for 8s and under.

Secondary School

Scarlett Johannsen and Katy Brown have passed the entrance exam for Wellington School.

Choir

The choir were runners-up in the Christmas competition on the pier, for which they were awarded £100.

Congratulations to them all.

HOUSE POINT CHAMPIONS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Reception	Hera Keating Cameron Russell
Class 1	Eleanor Keight Zac Sparey
Class 2	Bella Whiting William Whiting
Class 3	Benjamin Fellows
Class 4	Nellie Matthews Poppy Sharkey
Class 5	Maria Georgiou Francesca Briffitt
Class 6	Erin Davies Stephen Tancock

HALF TERM

School will be closed for half term from Monday 13th to Friday 17th February.

Photo permission form for Ashbrooke House School Facebook page

I do / do not give permission for my child's/children's photograph to be used on the Ashbrooke House School website page.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Mother)

Signed _____ Date _____
(Father)

Letters home form

My email address for school communication is:

Mother _____

Father _____

I would prefer to receive paper copies of all letters sent home for my child
(Please tick if this is your preference)

ASHBROOKE HOUSE SCHOOL
SPRING TERM CALENDAR 2017

Thursday January 5 th	Term starts
Monday January 9 th	PTA Meeting
Monday January 16 th	Paintpals Year 5
Friday February 3 rd	PTA Race Evening & Children's Disco
February 6 th – 8 th (Monday – Wednesday)	Bikeability Years 5 & 6

February 13th – February 17th – Half Term

Wednesday March 1 st	Choir trip to Milton Baptist Church (Women's World Day)
Monday March 6 th	World Book Week (Roald Dahl celebration)
March 23 rd & 24 th (Thursday & Friday)	Overnight stay at School & Activities (Yrs 3 & 4)
March 21 st & 22 nd (Tuesday & Wednesday)	Parents' Evening
Friday March 24 th	Red Nose Day
Friday March 31 st	End of Term