

Ashley C of E Primary School

Newsletter Autumn Term – No.01 – w/e 18th September 2020

Our value this half-term is: joy
'At Ashley School we want to be joyful'

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Whole school newsletters

Our new structures in school mean that we can target communications with you in a more meaningful way – ensuring that parents receive more relevant material for their children's classes or year groups. Where there are more general aspects to inform or to celebrate, we will present these either in whole-school emails or in newsletters. This is the first of the year.

Our collective acts of worship have been based around our value this half-term, which is 'joy'. We are able to come together once a week in phases, keeping the two year groups in the phase completely separated to protect our 'bubbles'.

School meals

I have been buying a school lunch regularly this term and eating the same food as the children – I am reassured that Kate and her team are providing a good quality meal in very difficult circumstances. Twelve15 review their procedures on a weekly basis, and we can look forward to the time when we can switch back to plates and cutlery, with everyone eating in the hall. Until then, I can assure you that, as before, the majority of food being used is certified organic.

Breakfast and after school care (ASC)

We have had a great start to Breakfast Club with new food choices of hot food available such as scrambled egg or beans on toast. See our website for more details. Please note that this is now a 'drop in arrangement' and does not need to be pre-booked. Breakfast Club is available from **7:30am** and food is served



between 7:45 and 8:15am. The cost is £5.00, which is charged to your Scopay account.

After School Care now has a new weekly menu all supplied by Twelve15 with a variety of healthy options. Fruit is always available. Tea is served between 5.00pm and 5.30pm. Places need to be booked please as this facility is oversubscribed. The cost is £12.50 per session. If you booked a place last term and no longer require it please let our office know so that it can be offered to someone else. Booked places at ASC are charged to your Scopay account, whether or not your child attends.

Conker challenge

Ah – that old chestnut again! It's an Ashley tradition (I am told!) – further details later, but conkers will be falling from the trees soon, so it is time to search for that winning conker.



Photo by Artur Łuczka on Unsplash

Residential trips

Whilst we would like to continue providing residential opportunities for our junior pupils, we are instructed by Government that we cannot do so at the moment. It is clear that Chamonix (and all international travel) by school parties is not allowed this academic year. At the moment, UK residential trips should also not take place. We still have a

booking held for the current Y6s to enjoy their postponed Y5 Bude adventure, but this will only take place if the rules change and if the activity centre is still operating. We have guaranteed 100% refund to those parents when we have a final decision later in the year.

Staff and the local governing committee (LGC) will continue to monitor the situation and take decisions on our curriculum development and opportunities for children.

Ashley Parent Partnership

The next (virtual) meeting of the APP is on Monday 5th October – 6.30pm. Paul Kennedy, The Good Shepherd Trust's (GST) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will join the meeting as an introduction to the Ashley community. Your APP representatives will be canvassing your opinions on a number of topics over the next few weeks, including supporting a discussion about our bees.

Local Governing Committee (LGC) news

We were disappointed to receive the resignation of Melvyn Mills from our LGC during the summer holiday. Rev Cathy Blair is acting Chair for September and October, and we hope to be able to announce a new Chair and other general LGC members later this half-term.

Signing children in when late

If you arrive with your child after 9.00am (either late, or following an appointment), you will be asked to sign them in as the responsible adult on our InVentry system. This ensures that they are immediately recorded on the register at school, for safeguarding. You need to know their year group, class, and birth date!

Clubs for children

We will be sharing this year's clubs opportunities shortly. Staff have offered to run some exciting clubs before school, at lunchtimes, and after school. Different clubs will be available to different year groups (as bubbles).

Staff news

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Crinall on the birth of their son last week. Mother and baby are doing well, although the dad is complaining of being tired!

Mrs Rayner begins her maternity leave today – we look forward to her news soon.

Events and activities 2020-21

We hope to be able to give you a provisional calendar and update our online calendar in the next few weeks. We are trying to plan events that are COVID-19 secure yet continue to offer a broad range of opportunities for children.

COVID-19 update

We've had around a dozen in our school community reporting a negative COVID-19 test result so far this term. Attendance is currently at 96.85%, showing a slightly higher absence rate than normal, but to be expected. Thank you to everyone for supporting us in maintaining social distancing and following all of our COVID-19-secure procedures.

To help with decisions about keeping children off school or requesting a test, attached to this newsletter (and on our website in the COVID-19 section) is a flow diagram that should help.

