

Ashley C of E Primary School

Newsletter Autumn Term – No.02 – w/e 25th 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!"

Children walking home

Preparing children for independence and giving them responsibility is important, and many parents feel their child is ready to come to school or leave school without an adult. Although this decision is made by a parent/carer, we have a duty of care towards all our pupils. We have updated our policy, called 'Collecting children from school and children walking to and from school alone'. The policy includes what happens if a child is not collected at the end of school, and explains our position on children leaving school without an adult. In summary, we will allow children in Y5 and Y6 to walk/cycle home, providing the journey time is less than 30 minutes and the child is 'received' at the other end. Children in Y4 and below must be picked up by someone 16 or older, with the exception of a teenager collecting if the parent is waiting outside/in a car. Anyone collecting a pupil must be registered to do so. Please do read the policy carefully.

Parents/carers of children in Y5 and Y6 who wish their child to have permission to leave should print, complete and return the form in the policy. If we already have your permission you do not need to complete a new form, but an assumption is made that you accept this new policy (24th September 2020).

The policy is [here](#) or on our website on the Policies page.



Conker challenge

The date is Friday 23rd October. No cheating!

Further details will be provided by phase teams nearer the time.

Local Governing Committee (LGC) news

Your Local Governing Committee members are:

Rev Cathy Blair (acting Chair) – joined Sep 15
Gina Broadhurst (parent) – Jul 18
Alex Clark (ex officio) – Jan 20
Martyn McCarthy (Foundation) Sep 17
Karola Zakrzewska (parent) – Jun 20

Karola Zakrzewska's appointment was not formally announced in a newsletter, so here is my opportunity to welcome and thank her for giving such a commitment to the school.

A staff member election is taking place at the moment, and we are also seeking three further general members through various governor recruitment organisations.

The LGC created a new governor role for Mental Health and Wellbeing and Martyn McCarthy is working through the appropriate training and courses.

'Governors' Fund'

Our 'Governors' Fund' gives parents/carers an opportunity to contribute to the school and has been supportive of many projects over the years. The latest report on the fund (2018 – 2020) is now on the LGC page on our website [here](#). In the past year the

fund has paid for the new lunch tables in the hall and a complete IT infrastructure upgrade of servers and computers. There is a note at the bottom of the report that we are proposing some changes to the fund. We will communicate that when decisions have been made.

Parking warning!

From time to time our school neighbours get in touch to comment on Ashley parents' parking! We have also had a parking enforcement officer on Ashley Road regularly over the past week. This is just a helpful, polite reminder not to obstruct anyone's drive and only park where permitted.

Laptops for lockdown

We are preparing for isolating a class or year group, or going into lockdown again. Last term we were happy to loan a laptop or iPad for children to use where they did not have access to learning. Where this happened, we had loan agreements with parents, etc.

The Government has allocated some funding which we may be able to access in the event of disruption. This is particularly targeted at disadvantaged households (eligible for the Pupil Premium) and we may be able to access the fund for households:

- with no digital devices in their household
- whose only available device is a smartphone
- with a single device in their household that's being shared with more than one other family member

To help us plan and to enable us to respond quickly to a lockdown, please complete the [form here](#) if you will need a device on loan from school.

Harvest Festival

Events and activities this year will look very different from previous years. Our Harvest Festival this year will be led by Y6 pupils and will be filmed and available to be used across the school and shared with parents during the week of 12th October.

This year we would like to collect for the [Walton & Hersham Food Bank](#), supporting our local community. If you are able to donate items, please bring them to school on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October. Their most needed food items are: Custard (tinned or carton), tinned meat, pasta sauces, tinned peas and carrots, tinned potato and instant mash, fruit juice (long life), and sponge puddings. They would also be pleased to receive washable face coverings, small hand sanitiser, shampoo and shower gel. Other items would also be gratefully received, but no alcohol, opened food or items that are out of date.

Clubs for children

We are pleased to provide details of the clubs that staff have planned to run over the course of the year. Individual letters will be given to the children in the appropriate year groups who are interested in the club (the teachers will ask the children). There will be no charge for most of the clubs, although those where consumables specifically for that club are required, will incur a small charge to cover costs.

The table of clubs is attached to this newsletter.