

Ashley C of E Primary School

Newsletter Autumn Term – No.03 – w/e 9th October 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!"

BIM2020

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Black History Month

Conker challenge

The date has changed to **Monday 12th October** as the conkers seem to have mostly fallen now and no one likes a wrinkly conker! Phase leaders have organised how the challenge will run for their phase.

Harvest Collection

We look forward to receiving your donations on Monday or Tuesday – please bring them to the playground at the start of school.

This year we are collecting for the [Walton & Hersham Food Bank](#), supporting our local community. 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 Other items would also be gratefully received, but no alcohol, opened food or items that are out of date.

Ashley Parent Partnership

Minutes of the meeting that took place in March were agreed at the meeting this week and are published on the website under [Ashley Parent Partnership](#). The most recent meeting (Monday) took place online and was attended by the Trust's CEO, Paul Kennedy. Your representatives will feed back to you about the positive discussion that took place. The main topic for the meeting was the discussion about Ashley's bees, and we were guided by expert

knowledge from our parent bee keepers. It was a unanimous decision that we all support keeping the bees, and we will now work to enhance the children's understanding of bees in the curriculum and take the opportunity over the winter to improve the bee area, which will require some financial support.

Friends of Ashley

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM online. We were delighted to see so many of you and appreciate your input. The minutes will follow soon.

As many of you know we have received a generous donation of nearly £5k. Our thanks go to Richard Dunne and the entire Ashley community for their kindness and continued support.

In other news we are excited to announce we will shortly be launching an order process for Preloved Clothing! More information to follow soon on how this will work. Thank you to the team who are working hard on this.

We are also in the process of arranging a [Happy School Bag](#) clothing collection, where you will be able to bring in your unwanted, good condition items and they will be reused in other countries. A brilliant green initiative and at the same time we will receive cashback depending on the weight of items we donate. This is an exceptionally popular service and unfortunately the earliest collection date they have available is in January 2021. We wanted to let you know now however so that you could start collecting and full details will be provided closer to the time.

As the weather turns wintery, we can't help but think about Christmas! We are very much hoping to spread some Christmas cheer and are looking into various ideas. We'll be sure to keep you posted.

Contributing to Mandy's leaving present

Mandy, the youth minister at St Mary's, known well by the Ashley community, is leaving this month. There is an opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Mandy in services on Sunday 18th October. If you would like to contribute towards a leaving gift, please either leave money in a clearly marked envelope in the church office post box or you can make a donation through [My ChurchSuite](#).

Autumn term parents' evening

Teachers are looking forward to a discussion with parents later this term, which will take place online this year. Now that we have become used to online meetings, this is a safe way to have a parents' evening. There are also advantages that parents may join the meeting from different locations.

These meetings will take place via Zoom and during the first two weeks after half-term (2nd – 13th November). Different phases will have their meetings on different days as we do not think that we will be able to have 20 concurrent sessions. You will need to book your 10 minute slot with your teacher via Scopay and details will be sent out in the next few weeks when the booking system is live.

New parents – please ensure that you have set up your Scopay account ready to do this.

If you have more than one child at Ashley, you do not have to book meetings close together. Indeed, it is likely that your children will be in different phases, and therefore on different days.

Learning provision for self-isolation

If we are directed to close the school either partially (ie a year group) or fully, we will switch our learning to Seesaw. Children will be expected to engage with their learning each day (if they are well) and this will be monitored by their teachers.

In the event of a child having to self-isolate because they are waiting for a test, or their household is isolating, and the child is well, we have provided 'isolation packs' of learning for each year group. These have been carefully put together by the teachers in each year group and provide guidance and support with learning for up to two weeks. It is expected that parents/carers will support the child with the learning. When the child returns to school, the

class teacher will wish to see the great work that the child has done, perhaps in the form of a project book or folder. They will not mark the work but will be able to use it to judge the next steps for the child. The pack will be returned to the child.

Please do not use the material in the packs for any other purpose. We do not have the capacity to provide additional work for children who have already used this material.

The files are stored on our Sharepoint system and are live ([access here](#)). Teachers will make changes to material, so it is best to wait until you need it before downloading any of it.

Virtual tour for Reception intake 2021

Like most schools, our tours for new parents will be taking place virtually this year and therefore we will not be booking tours for parents. When the video is ready it will be available on our website. Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, we are planning to open the Reception classroom area on a Saturday in November to show new parents our facilities.

Letter from 1939

We shared a letter with Y6 (whose Learning Enquiry is 'What can we learn from life on the Home Front?'), sent to parents of our school (Walton Junior School) on 25th September 1939. I thought it might resonate. The letter reads:

Until shelters for all are provided this school will not re-open and, as the resulting loss to the children's education is so serious, I earnestly solicit your co-operation in minimising this loss by:

- 1. Letting your children listen in, if a wireless set is available, to the Special Broadcasts to Schools each morning and afternoon.*
- 2. Letting your children take part in the following scheme...*

Mr Swallow, the head teacher, goes on to describe a plan for four classes of 10 children at a time, resulting in children attending school for two hours a week, with "definite instruction in the *three Rs*".

Congratulations to Mrs Rayner and husband Scott on the birth of their baby boy last week. They are all doing well.