

# Ashley C of E Primary School

Newsletter Autumn Term – No.06 – w/e 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Our value this half-term is: respect  
*'At Ashley School we are learning to be respectful'*



Romans 12:10 "Love each other as Christian brothers. Show respect for each other".

## Charities



Thank you for your support for Children in Need. Your cash donations, which we have passed on, amounted to £306.

As we encouraged online donations directly to Children in Need, we won't know our total community contribution, but the national figure is now reported as over £41M.

To help parents, our charities for the year are planned in advance. In the Spring Term, we will be supporting Red Nose Day (19<sup>th</sup> March). Our Summer Term charity is an international charity – [Rory's Well](#). This charity provides new wells and refurbishes old wells in Sierra Leone. Their other projects include a bee farming initiative. More on this charity after Easter.

## COVID-19

A reminder that, if anyone in your household exhibits a symptom of COVID-19: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste (see [NHS](#)) – your child **must not** attend school. If the person with the symptoms has a test and it is negative, your child may return to school.

## St Andrew's Day

As this falls on a school day (Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November), children in uniformed organisations are able to wear their

uniform to school instead of school uniform (only if they wish to, and if they know why they are doing it).

## Harmony - Learn the Principle, Live the Principle

One of nature's principles of Harmony is 'adaptation' and this half term Year 2 and Year 6 have this as their focus principle. As we approach what will probably be quite a different Christmas for us all, we should remember that we will need to 'adapt' this year. We can learn so much about adaptation from our natural world; from the Alaskan Wood Frog that has learnt to go into a semi frozen state in order to survive the winter, to the cuttlefish that can change colour and texture in order to blend into their surroundings. How else can we look to nature to help us to adapt ourselves this year?

Former professional boxer, Floyd Mayweather Jnr said, "A true champion can adapt to anything". Ashley school is definitely full of champions!

Let us ask God for the strength we need to adapt to the changes that this year is bringing and help us to make the most of them where possible.

## Safeguarding

[Ollee](#) is a digital friend for children aged 8 – 11, created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's *A Million & Me* initiative, which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing. It is

designed to help children reflect on how they feel and to process their experiences with the support and help of their parents and carers. You may want to take a look.

## Christmas from the FOA!

### Mince pies

Don't forget if you would like to order a box or two of mince pies, supplied by The Gingerbread Man Bakery, the deadline is 25<sup>th</sup> November. We cannot extend this date we're afraid as the bakery needs the final order numbers to be able to make them in sufficient time. So get in early; don't leave it until the last minute and risk missing out.

### Ashley Christmas Virtual Bazaar

We have lots in store for the Virtual Bazaar and are really looking forward to it. The silent auction prizes and hampers are coming together, as are other surprises for the day. Please see the poster [on our website](#). We hope you will join us!

### Ashley Bake Off

We have now launched the Ashley Christmas Bake Off! Sadly we cannot taste your baked delights this year, however we would still love to see photos of your creations and there will be prizes for the top 3 entries. Please either email a photo to [thefriendsofashley@gmail.com](mailto:thefriendsofashley@gmail.com) including your child's name and class and we will display them on the Facebook page on the day of the Virtual Bazaar, or you can enter by posting it directly on the Facebook page on the day of the bazaar, up until 2pm.

### Ashley Baubles

Thank you for confirming interest in the Ashley Christmas baubles! As they are popular, we have arranged for an early December delivery. The baubles will be a beautiful silver with a green Ashley logo, 6cm wide and cost £5 each. Numbers are limited. Please order soon to avoid disappointment. [Order form here](#).

### Art Competition

Thank you for the fantastic entries received so far for the Christmas Art Competition for the Virtual Bazaar. Keep them coming in! We would love the children to create a lovely Christmas picture and send this to us at [thefriendsofashley@gmail.com](mailto:thefriendsofashley@gmail.com) We will be displaying these on the Facebook page and the winners in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive a £5 WHSmith voucher. Please provide your child's name and class. The closing date is 2<sup>nd</sup> December, ready for the bazaar on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Festive Pet Competition

We are also running the first ever Ashley festive pet competition! Dress your pets up as Christmassy as you like, and these will be put up for the Virtual Bazaar on Facebook. The best dressed pets will receive a prize!

## Advent and Christmas at Ashley

Unfortunately, as we are unable to visit the church for our advent walk or services, Christmas will come to Ashley via an advent trail and an online *Encounter Christmas*.

### Advent Windows Project

(Message from Reverend Cathy Blair)

#### What if??

This year we will all need a lift around Christmas time, but how can we celebrate in the usual way? What if we could take Christmas out into the streets of Walton on Thames...? What if each of us could display a bit of the story of Christmas in our front window or front garden...?

**The Advent windows trail** – will take the Christmas story all over Walton on Thames. We can all take part by creating a display of one part of the story in our front window or front garden. Each household may do one day in December, starting on 1<sup>st</sup>, until the story is completed on 24<sup>th</sup> December at the churches in Walton with the birth of Jesus, the baby king. Details of how to sign up and be part of the Advent

windows will be available shortly following this link [www.waltonparish.org.uk](http://www.waltonparish.org.uk)

Your child will be receiving set of instructions from school with a number on the back. Taking part in this activity is entirely voluntary.

### **What each child does**

Create a display in a window at home depicting the part of the Christmas story for their day number. The display needs to be ready for that day in December (so a child with a number 1 needs to have the number 1 displayed in a window visible and the window decorated in time for 1<sup>st</sup> December).

Those families who wish to can register to get the Advent windows trail guide and search for all the windows in Walton on Thames. The whole story is available on registration. No names will be given out - only addresses and the day number.

Watch the fun in our town as our windows tell the story of Christmas!

### **In School**

Amongst other class-based activities, each class will be taking part in creating part of a life-size nativity picture to be displayed in our windows at the front of the school.

There will be a special Advent assembly taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> November led by Reverend Cathy and watched in each class.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December '**Encounter Christmas**' will be a special assembly led by Reverend Cathy from the church and watched in our school. This will be a longer assembly than usual and will depict the story of Christmas in four stages as if we had visited the church.

### **Wrist watches**

We have changed our policy on children having a wristwatch in school. Children from Y2 (not Reception or Y1) may now

wear either an analogue or digital watch. This could be a fitness tracker, but must be of low value; no Apple watches, or similar. You must accept that the watch may get damaged or lost.

During PE/sports wristwatches, etc. must be removed – this is for safety reasons. Only devices for medical reasons are permitted. It would be sensible not to wear a watch on a day that it has to be removed.

### **School lunches**

From Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November, those children receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception to Y2), who eat in the hall, will be served their food at the hatch on plates. Junior children who have a school meal will continue to have their food in their classroom, served in the boxes. We have met with the Caterer and raised some concerns from parents (thank you for your feedback through the APP). Portion size is being addressed and we are discussing some menu changes for the new year.

Some internal issues have already been improved, such as getting the food to the classrooms quickly to avoid temperature problems.

The children are still getting at least an hour's lunch break (no change from pre-COVID), and each sitting in the hall is 30 minutes.