



Spring Term Newsletter

Thursday 5th February 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

My News!

Firstly, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the children, staff, parents and Governors who have made me feel so welcome in what has been a very short, yet snowy, first half term! I have spent time in every class over the half term, not only observing the high quality of teaching and learning in every class, but teaching each class myself to ensure I can quickly get to know all the children as soon as possible. I will continue to teach at least one lesson in each class over each half term.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Clay Cross food bank – school donated 336.15kg of food which equates to 800 meals.

Read for My School

Read for My School is a national schools reading competition that promotes reading and philanthropy by challenging pupils to read as many books as possible across two months of the spring term. Throughout the competition there are prizes and awards to be won for schools and pupils taking part.

Read for My School will run from 19 January to 20 March 2015 and is open to all children in primary school Years 3 to 6 and secondary school Years 7 and 8 throughout England. Children have been provided with their passwords and there are lots of free books to choose from.



BBC Radio Two 500 Words

This is an annual short story writing competition for children aged between 5 and 13. The competition has two age categories: 5 – 9 and 10 – 13. There are bronze, silver and gold prizes in each category. The final this year is being held at St James' Palace.



To access either 'Read for My School' or '500 Words' websites, please use the links through our school website <http://www.ashover.derbyshire.sch.uk>

Diary News

Friday 6 th February	Inset day
Thursday 19 th February	Friends Meeting – all welcome, please come and join us!
Week beginning 2 nd March	Book Week – Mrs Rhodes will provide further details of activities being held during the week, notably: Thursday 5 th March – book character dress up day and family reading session and Friday 6 th March – book swap
Tuesday 3 rd March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 4 th March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 11 th March	Class photographs
Week beginning 23 rd March	School Science Week – further details to follow!
Wednesday 25 th March	Y4 Trip to Derby Open Centre – further details will follow after ½ term.
Thursday 26 th March	Swimming gala



Staff News

Mrs Harvey is expecting her baby VERY soon and we will be saying a very fond farewell to her on 6th March (maybe sooner!) I know that you will join all the staff and children in school in wishing Mrs Harvey and her family a very healthy and happy maternity leave. We look forward to welcoming her back to school as and when she is ready! In the meantime, we also look forward to welcoming Mr Luke Roberts who will join us to teach the Y4 class when Mrs Harvey begins her maternity leave.

We are also pleased to inform all parents that Mrs Greenway is expecting a baby and will be start her maternity leave at the beginning of June. We are delighted to share her happy news and wish her continuing good health throughout her pregnancy.

We would also like to extend our grateful thanks to all the staff and parents who have contributed to the collection for Mrs Parsons who continues to make a steady recovery. The money raised is being collected to provide Mrs Parsons and her family with a well-deserved family break to enable them to enjoy some quality family time together. Please feel free to contact Mrs Cooper if you would like to contribute to this collection.

Children's News

The staff and children have been very busy over the term. Some children in Y5 have attended the Bronze Ambassador Training, Y1 and Y2 children have taken part in the RSPB Bird Watch and children in Y3 and Y4 have taken part in a sportshall athletics competition and came 4th out of all the cluster schools which is a great achievement! Well done.

Friends of Ashover School News

The Friends of Ashover School are a committed and vital part of our school community. In the short space of time I have been at school, I have come to recognize the invaluable work this group of committed parents and carers do to ensure that all children in school benefit from funds raised.

One way you can help to raise funds is by using a website called easyfundraising.org.uk. Whenever you buy anything online via easyfundraising - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you'll raise a donation. There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, and Sainsbury's who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Ashover Primary School to say thank you for shopping with them. Using easyfundraising will not cost you a penny. There are no catches or hidden charges and we will be really grateful for your donations.

1. **Go to** www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofashoverschool
2. **Sign up for free**
3. **Get shopping** - your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to school. It couldn't be easier!

Attached to this newsletter is a parent questionnaire (some questions taken from Ofsted's Parent View). I would be most grateful if you would take some time to complete this to enable you to share with me some of your thoughts and ideas about how we can continually improve the academic, social and emotional well-being of all children within our school. Please return to me during the first week after half term.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy and safe half term break.

Yours faithfully

Mrs V Spender
Headteacher

Derbyshire Ready 
Children and young people's enterprise project

