



Spring Term 4 Newsletter

Thursday 26th March 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Many thanks to all the parents who took the time to complete the questionnaire issued with the February Newsletter. I have responded individually to parents where necessary. Needless to say, it was very reassuring to receive such positive support and suggestions for the future. I hope that you will allow me the time to implement some of these ideas and changes into school over the forthcoming terms.

School Website

Many parents commented on the school website and made suggestions as to how this could be improved. Please be assured that, over the Spring term, I have been making minor improvements, for example adding a calendar to the front page and uploading class homework/spelling requirements. Further changes are 'work in progress'! (ie letters and newsletters being available, policies are being reviewed and updated, leaflets and information for you to support your child's learning at home will be available).

Diary News

In order to improve communication and in response to parental feedback, I am detailing key dates for the forthcoming term which are also being updated on the school website. Please note that these dates are subject to change and will be updated on the school website accordingly.

Friday 27 th March	INSET DAY – school is closed to pupils.
Monday 13 th April	Summer Term 5 begins.
Tuesday 14 th April	Football vs Sharley Park (A).
Tuesday 21 st April	Football vs Holmgate (H).
Wednesday 6 th May	PACES (parents and children exercise simultaneously) afternoon.
Monday 11 th May	SATS week.
Tuesday 12 th May	Blue Bag collection day.
Monday 18 th May	Y6 rivers trip.
Tuesday 19 th May	Y5 rivers trip.
Friday 22 nd May	School breaks up for half term.
Monday 1 st June	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils.
Tuesday 2 nd June	Summer Term 6 begins.
Monday 8 th June	Arts Week (Africa theme). Should any parents have a specialism in this area and would like to help out during the week – please let your child's class teacher know.
Tuesday 9 th June	Provisional date for new parents meeting.
Friday 12 th June	Open Arts Week Gallery for Parents from 3pm.
Tuesday 16 th June	Sports day afternoon.
Monday 29 th June	School journey.
Wednesday 8 th July	Provisional changeover day (children in new classes).
Friday 10 th July	Summer Fair: 3.30-6.00pm.
Monday 13 th July	Safety Awareness week. Please contact Mrs Spender if you work for an organisation and you/they would be willing to help us during the week in any of the following areas: <i>road safety, fire safety, quarry safety, water safety, e-safety, electrical safety, railway safety, first aid, emergency services.</i>
Friday 17 th July	Quad Kids.
Friday 24 th July	School breaks up for summer.



Monday 7th September

INSET DAY – school is closed to pupils.

Staff News

Miss Hambleton joins us after the Easter break to teach Year 4. Miss Hambleton is currently in Australia and will be returning to the UK over the Easter holiday. The Y4 children have been in contact with her during the last week and have had the opportunity to chat to her via Skype. Miss Hambleton is very excited about joining our team at Ashover.

Children's News

It has been a VERY busy term!

Children in Year 2, 5 and 6 were able to perform their dances at the Winding Wheel in Chesterfield and were reported to be a credit to the school, not only for their high level of dance skills but in terms of their behaviour and sportsmanship – well done everyone.

Year 4 children visited the Derby Open Centre this week where they had the opportunity to experience sacred places of different religions.

Bronze Ambassadors attended a conference and have actually won a prize for their contributions - we have yet to be notified what the prize will be but well done to George, Adam, Lois and Francesca.

Sixteen Year 6 children took part in 'Go Ride' at Tupton Hall School which was an exciting event! One of our school teams has been put through to the District Competition and we would like to congratulate Will Marriott who was the overall winner – well done Will!

Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a tag rugby tournament and enjoyed the opportunity to compete against other schools.

Book week was fantastic! Thank you to everyone who dressed up on World Book Day and took part in our Extreme Reading competition – well done to our KS1 winner Caitlin and our KS2 winner Oliver, both of whom received a £10 book token.

A sea of red swept into school on Red Nose Day and, thanks to all your donations and all red noses that were sold in school during the week, we have raised a total of £426 for Comic Relief – thank you so much for supporting this very worthwhile cause.

In the lead up to the Easter break, all KS2 children have been learning about different aspects of the Easter story and this learning was presented to the whole school in an Easter assembly on Friday.

Our 'Is science magic or magic science?' week has been going with a whizz, pop and a bang – literally! Children have been working really hard to perfect their magic tricks over the week and this was celebrated in a whole school assembly earlier today.

Lunch Time and After School Clubs

We are lucky to be able to offer the following clubs after the Easter break – please note that letters will be issued to the relevant year groups during the first week back with clubs starting the week commencing **Monday 20th April**. In addition to these clubs, Y6 children are looking into organising clubs for younger children including: cross country, football, dancing and art/craft which I am delighted to support and relevant year groups will be advised of these as and when they are agreed.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Lunch Club Football	Lunch Club Cross Country (Y6 run)	Lunch Club Handbells / choir	Lunch Club Chess Y3-6, Netball
After School Club Dance Y1/2 Craft Y3/4 Cooking Y4	After School Club Code it Y6	After School Club Mad Science	After School Club Fundamentals KS1 Athletics KS2 Make it, break it Y1-3 Football Y3/4 – changing to cricket

Medicines

Hopefully all medicines in school will have been collected and taken home today. We are currently reviewing the administration of medicines policy and there will be some changes to current procedures over the next term, notably that any un-prescribed medicines (eg Calpol) will not be able to be administered by school staff unless part of a long term care plan, therefore I request that you do not send these medicines into school following the Easter break. Thank you.

Afternoon Pick-up/Buses

Please could you advise your child's class teacher or Mrs Cooper if there is a change in arrangements for picking your child up from school – another parent advising us that they are collecting your child is not sufficient, please ensure that you speak to a member of staff personally if this is the case.

I have received several comments from different members of the school community and members of the public regarding the behaviour of our pupils on bus journeys to and from school. Whilst this is outside of school time, I would respectfully request that parents of children using the buses emphasise the necessity of good manners and safety on their journey to and from school. Any incidents should be reported to the relevant bus company concerned.

Friends of Ashover School News

The Friends of Ashover School have raised funds this half term through a disco, an after school Easter Egg Hunt later today and through promoting easyfundraising.org.uk which is a very easy way to raise funds for school. If you have not already done so, please register using the details below:

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!

There are hundreds of shops within the scheme – including ones which sell chocolate ready for Easter!

Supermarket vouchers are also a really easy way to help school in obtaining all sorts of equipment. Using supermarket vouchers last year enabled us to equip the school house kitchen with enough equipment to run a cooking club and for classes to take part in cooking and baking activities. So please collect as many as possible from family and friends.

I hope that everyone has a happy and healthy Easter break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 13th April.

Yours faithfully

V Spender

Mrs V Spender
Headteacher

