

Friday 18th December 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, please find attached some information you may find useful.

Diary Dates: Spring Term 3

Please check the calendar on the school website as additional events or changes will be uploaded regularly.

January	Monday 4 th	Spring Term 3 begins
	Thursday 14 th	Y3/4 Key Steps Gymnastics @ THS 3.45-5.15pm
	Friday 15 th	Y5/6 Egyptian Market – time TBC
	Monday 18 th	Student Support Survey
	Thursday 28 th	Bronze Ambassador conference 1.00-2.30pm
	Friday 29 th	FoS Lottery Draw
February	Tuesday 2 nd	Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics @ THS 3.45-5.15pm
	Thursday 4 th	Y1/2 Multi-skills @ THS 3.45-5.15pm
	Thursday 11 th	Non-uniform day Ukulele and Keyboard concert : 2.30-3.15pm
	Friday 12 th	INSET DAY
	Monday 15th-Friday 19th	HALF TERM
	Wednesday 24 th	Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 25 th	Parent Consultation Evening
	Friday 26 th	FoS Lottery Draw
March	Thursday 3 rd	World Book Day
	Monday 21 st	Y3/4 Dress rehearsal
	Tuesday 22 nd	Y3/4 Performance
	Wednesday 23 rd	Y3/4 Performance
	Thursday 24 th	Disco FoS Lottery Draw
	Friday 25th March – 8th April	EASTER BREAK

Children's News

In November, the whole school enjoyed a fun packed day with author Chris White during which they wrote superb poetry! Our thanks go to Friends of School who funded this fun packed day.

Thirteen members of our school choir sang beautifully and brought festive cheer to Ashgate Hospice and Grove House earlier this week; thanks to Gemma, Amira, Lucy (Y5), Evie, Simmie, Isobel, Polly, Estee, Aviva, Sophie, Lucy (Y3), Emily and Shona.

Children in Reception have settled in well this term and are really impressing Miss Stanway and Madam Chapman! To further encourage independence, when we return after the Christmas break, please can parents and siblings of children in reception wait on the main playground with other parents and not in the outdoor learning area. The children will line up with the rest of the school on the main yard and Miss Stanway will come onto the playground to escort them into school as she does following each playtime and lunchtime. On collection at the end of the day, please also wait on the main playground and Miss Stanway will release the children from the classroom to meet you at the outdoor learning area gate. Thank you.

Building News

Our new office and reception area is taking shape and we hope to have Mrs Cooper and Mrs Watson 'moved in' during February half term.

Please find attached a letter from DCC regarding the kitchen replacement.

Work has begun on the school house garden which is being re-developed as an outdoor learning area for EYFS – this will continue the first week back after the Christmas break.

Our School House Library is coming along really well and we hope to launch this with the children early in the Spring Term.

Adverse Weather

In preparation for wintery weather conditions after the Christmas break, I thought this would be a good time to remind you of our procedures in the event of bad weather.

I will endeavour to keep school open as I understand the disruption closing school causes to families and businesses. The only reasons we would have to close are: a severe shortage of staff resulting in insufficient staff:pupil ratios, failure of the heating or water system, hazardous conditions around the school and, due to the situation with the kitchen, we will be liaising closely with Holmgate School as we will have to close if they do.

The decision to close is not taken lightly, but should it be necessary, you will be informed by text and announcements will be made on 'Peak FM'. Furthermore, details will be available at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures where you can sign up to receive email alerts directly to your inbox. This link will also be made available on our school website <http://www.ashover.derbyshire.sch.uk/>

In the event of bad weather during the school day, children will not be sent home but will be kept in school until you can safely collect them. Again, text messages will be sent out keeping you informed. This may be a good time to check you are receiving messages from school and to notify us of any changes to mobile numbers.

Parking

We have had an increasing number of complaints from local residents regarding their driveways being partially blocked at drop off and pick up times. May I remind you that the Village Hall Car Park, which is a short walk away from school, can be used by parents dropping off in the morning or collecting children at the end of the day. Please make use of this facility where possible.

Fundraising

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to our fundraising activities this half term. Our Children in Need Day raised over £450! Activities organised by Friends of School have included; tea towels, calendars, lottery and Christmas Disco – all of which have raised approximately £2000! Our sincere thanks go to the Friends of School, without whom, activities such as the pantomime may not take place.

If you are as organised as me and just about to start your Christmas shopping, don't forget to do your online shopping through easy fundraising – school shopping to date has currently raised in excess of £500! To register;

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!

We are also collecting used ink cartridges and old mobile phones for recycling – please deposit any relevant items in the box just inside the door from the playground outside the staffroom.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all staff, governors, pupils and parents for supporting me during my first year at Ashover – a considerable amount of changes have taken place and I hope that you will continue to support me in moving the school forward.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 4th January 2016.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Mrs V Spender
Headteacher

Ashover School, Narrowleys Lane, Ashover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S45 0AU. Tel: 01246 590 207.

Headteacher: Mrs Vicky Spender | **Assistant Headteacher:** Mrs Sharon Hallsworth | **Chair of Governors:** Andrew Coates

