



ASHTON KEYNES C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gosditch, Ashton Keynes, Nr Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6NZ

Head Teacher : Mrs S Saville | Tel/Fax : 01285 861436
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Friday 19th September 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you:

I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for making the new morning routines run so smoothly. It is such an improvement on the start of the day, meaning that we can get the day started promptly and maximise the learning time for your children. It is a pleasure to see you all in the morning, thank you for your support. As the weather is starting to become more Autumnal, we may encounter some rainy starts to the day. If it is raining when you arrive at school from 8.45am in the morning, please deliver your children directly to their classroom where a member of staff will be waiting. So far, we have been very lucky with the weather. Thank you also to the parents who have offered to come and hear readers at school, the staff should be responding to your offer and arranging classes for you to support.

Wow:

I have been very impressed with the learning that has been taking place in school. With Maths and English being taught at the same time each day across the school, (with the exception of Class R as their area of learning and day are structured differently), it is excellent to see the progression from class to class and the variety of activities being used to engage and stimulate the children in these core subjects. I was also very excited to see the WOW launch afternoon of Class 5 & 6's topic 'In our element' where they worked together to create a carousel of activities to stimulate the children at the start of their topic. I observed very exciting volcanic eruptions by teams of children using purple sand volcanoes. There certainly is a healthy balance of creativity to stimulate and ignite the children's learning across the curriculum. I am pleased that you will get the opportunity to share in some of these learning experiences during your child's class assembly to parents and carers which are scheduled across the year (see earlier newsletter).

Church Links:

I am pleased to inform you that we now have some great materials for parents and carers who would like follow up with some activities with your children around our whole school value, which is currently Trust. We aim for these to be put onto the school website for you to access if you would like to do so, but you may receive a paper copy to begin with. Reverend Shirley would like to remind you that the church Harvest festival is on Sunday 5th October starting at 11am. If your child would like to take an active part in the service, please can you let the office know or arrive at the church at 10.40am on the day. The church are very keen to involve children in their services. All are welcome.

Celebration:

We have been having weekly Celebration assemblies on Thursday mornings and I have already sent you the dates of the Heroes and Heroines Assemblies which you would be welcome to attend. We have designed and made some great bookmark certificates to reward to the children for their achievements at our school. Thanks to Adam Loveridge for his support designing and providing these for the school. This will mean that you will be able to see if

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your child has received an award in celebration and it is my hope that children will love collecting these and be proud to show you and talk about why they have achieved them. They will be known as merits and there will be 2-3 per class each week. In addition, to celebrate excellent manners and behaviour at lunchtimes, our Midday Support staff will be awarding merits for lunchtimes too. At the end of each term, there will also be very special Headteacher's merit awards given. We are keen to reward children who always work hard and behave well as well as children who have made improvements in a variety of areas. I am looking forward to giving these out and will ensure that those who have already had celebration awards at the beginning of term will get a special merit bookmark too.

Home learning:

We are almost ready as a staff to send out our new brochure format homework. We have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes on this and it is important that these are issued consistently across the school. I will write to accompany these brochures and explain how they will work. I hope they give good direction as to how you can support your child's learning at home and show how homework is purposeful and valued. Please, as a matter of importance, continue to hear your children read and record in their yellow reading diaries or encourage your children to read and record themselves in Upper KS2. Don't forget those ever important multiplication tables too.

Breakfast club: We are really pleased that the Breakfast club is starting to be well supported.

Mrs Sampson and Mrs Morton are certainly enjoying the challenge and I am very grateful to them both. I loved to hear how the children have been enjoying the food available and even trying new foods. The staff team provide a wide range of foods including fresh croissants which seem to be popular. Please don't forget to use your free voucher if you would like to book your child in for a trial session at the club.

Safety:

Please be reminded that the village hall car park, at the end of Gosditch, is available for you to park in during morning and afternoons, enabling you to walk/ scoot your children to school. This way it lowers the amount of cars driving past the school when so many children and adults are walking. If it is necessary to drive down Gosditch we do try to operate a voluntary one-way system entering from the High Road end. Safety of our children is paramount and although the school cannot be held responsible for the traffic outside school, we can suggest helpful ways to prevent incidents occurring. Thank you for your support with this.

I know I probably risk becoming known as the Headteacher with the longest letters in History, but I really value communication and am very keen to let you know what is happening in your child's school.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.L.Saville

Mrs S. Saville
Headteacher



