



ASHTON KEYNES C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome you all back to a new and very exciting school year at Ashton Keynes C of E Primary. I am delighted to say that I am already feeling very settled and I am very much looking forward to the future of our school. The children have quickly settled to routines, embracing the positive changes and I am really impressed with their behaviour and manners. I would also like to warmly welcome our ten new pupils and their families who have joined us across the school (Dylan Albright-Burrows, Kayleigh Armiger, Abigail Claridge, Matthew and Evelyn Dyson, Hana Fletcher, Niamh and Patrick Griffin, Joseph Northcott-Fenwick, Elliott Nothcott-Yoxall, and Henry Powell), all of our 25 new reception pupils and parents, along with our two new teachers, Miss Redman (Class 3) and Ms Langer (Class 1). I would like to welcome back and congratulate both Miss Bailey who returns as Mrs Voss and Miss Huntingford who returns as Mrs Moreton.

Communication:

I am writing this letter to inform you of procedures and thoughts for the start of the year. This is an unusually long letter as I already have so much to tell you as I explain new systems and thoughts. I aim to write to you every 2 to 3 weeks with a briefer letter, to keep you informed of life in the school. Communication is vital and my team and I are keen to make sure we are keeping you well informed. I will be sending home a weekly diary sheet each Friday to remind you of events for the following week. Long term key dates will be sent out in advance. Class teachers will be sending home class letters today to let you know more about the learning in each class. We also will keep you informed of any interventions your child may be involved in and how you can support these at home. As you know, we also put all relevant information on our school website for you. Every morning, class teachers will be on the playground should you need to catch them quickly and if you require a longer conversation, they are very happy to book in to see you after school. My door is always open if you would like to come and talk to me and I will be out on the playground daily.

Key dates:

Date	Event
Wednesday 22 nd October	Teacher Training Day – no pupils in school. Half term starts the next day (Thursday 23 rd October and we return to school Monday 3 rd November)
Tuesday 11 th November	Parent consultation evening 4.30-7.00pm
Thursday 13 th November	Parent consultation evening 3.40-5.30pm

All of our teacher training days are linked to our School Improvement Plan. Parents evening sign-up sheets will go up one week before and we will send out a reminder nearer the time.

Parent involvement:

The partnership between parents/carers and the school is vital. We have been thinking about ways we can give you more opportunities to come in and share in the learning experiences of your children. We would like you to continue to come into school for *Hero and Heroine* assemblies if you are able to join us, the dates and times are below.

New for this year, we would like to invite you in to your child's class assembly once during the school year where each class will get to share their exciting learning with you. We are aiming for the assemblies to last around 30 minutes. We hope to give you a flavour for what goes on in school. This will be in addition to team productions and any other opportunity the class teachers plan for you to come in to the classrooms. We are sure you will enjoy these assemblies and look forward to welcoming you in. Please put the date for your child/ children's class assembly into your diary.

Here are the dates for the first two terms. Classes 5, R 1 and 2 will be after Christmas in the Spring and Summer terms, dates will follow.

Class assemblies:

Class	Date	Start 9am (lasts approx. 30 mins)
Class 6	Tuesday 21 st October	
Class 4	Tuesday 11 th November	9am start in the hall
Class 3	Tuesday 25 th November	9am start in the hall
Nativity (all of KS1 – Class R, 1 and 2)	Tuesday 9 th December	1.30-2.30
	Wednesday 10 th December	1.30-2.30
	Thursday 11 th December	6.00-7.00 (more details will follow)
<i>Heroes and Heroines</i> Whole school celebration	Thursday 16 th October, Friday 28 th November and Friday 19 th December	starting at 9am in the hall

If you would like to volunteer to hear readers, you would be very welcome. I would ask that you support classes other to the ones your children in as, in my experience, this works better. We would really welcome your help.

Sporting News:

We are delighted that Mr Brown will be in school on Monday and Thursday afternoons and all day Friday taking a variety of classes for games and PE. In addition, we are pleased to welcome Miss Lawrence from Superstars all day Tuesday to work initially with years 1,2 and 5 and to offer a range of active games at lunchtime to encourage children to take part, share and work as a team. The lunchtime activities will be open to all children on a Tuesday and will form part of our lunchtime routine, weather permitting. Miss Lawrence made an excellent impression during her first day on Tuesday. To ensure your child benefits fully from our excellent PE provision, please send in a named PE kit to be available daily.

After – School Clubs

Club	Year Groups	Day	Time	How to Join	Venue	Payment/Free
Phoenix Martial Arts	All	Tuesday (Start 9 th September)	3.20-3.50	Turn up for first free lesson if interested then details at session.	Hall	Payment required
Netball	Y4,5,6	(start Monday 15 th September)	3.15-4.00	Form from Office Miss Igoe	Playground	Free
Art Club	KS2 Classes sent invitations	Tuesday (start 16 th September)	3.15-4.00	Letter from Miss Thomas	Year 5 classroom	Free
Singing Club	Y2-6 Classes sent invitations	Thursday (start 6 th November running until final session on 18 th December)	3.15-4.00	Letter from Mrs. Crowley	Class R	Free
Lego	Years 2 & 3 Classes sent invitations	Tuesday (start 16 th September running until final session on 14 th October)	3.15-4.00	Letter Mrs Kibblewhite	Class 2	Free
Multiskills	KS1	Thursday	3.15-4.00	Mr Brown letter	Hall/Outside	Payment
Multiskills	KS2	Friday	3.15-4.00	Mr Brown letter	Hall/Outside	Payment

There will be a range of clubs on offer for the first two terms. Staff offer clubs voluntarily and I am thankful to them for ensuring our pupils have a range of exciting activities. Here is a timetable of clubs for the first two terms and how details of the clubs will be sent out.

Breakfast Club

I am really excited about the start of our breakfast club on Monday 8th September. Mrs Sampson will be responsible for planning and running the club, working closely with me. She will have an assistant, who to begin with will be Mrs Moreton as I am in the process of arranging additional staffing for the club. Breakfast club will be open daily from 8am and available for you to drop your child/children and they will be given breakfast, supervised to take part in calm activities and delivered safely to their class circles as the bell goes. I am hoping this will prove popular to enable it to continue to run. Mrs Sampson has put together a healthy breakfast menu for the children and is very excited to welcome the children who can come. If you are interested, let us know and we can send paperwork home. The cost is £3 per child and will be need to be booked ahead. We will always cater for last minute emergency but have to insist on booking in advance (at least 24 hours notice) to ensure we have the correct staff ratio as safety if paramount.

Morning Routine

I am really impressed with our new morning routine. It is slick and enables our children to get into class quickly for registration, into assembly on time and maximise their learning time. Thank you for your support with this new system. You will notice that the staff and I are out at 8.45am and when the bell rings at 8.50 the children quickly form circles and file into class beautifully. I would like to confirm that you may drop your child into the playground at 8.45am when the staff are present and leave (please do not leave them before 8.45am as staff are not able to supervise them before this time). For the safety of your children, only the small bottom playground gate will be unlocked and a member of staff will be positioned by the gates to ensure no children leave the playground via the gates. Also, Year 6 pupils will lock the gates promptly at 9am to ensure everyone is in safe and the only way into the school is through the main door. I am sure you can appreciate that safety of your children is paramount which is why we have these systems in place. If for any unforeseen circumstance you are late arriving, you will have to enter through the school office. Attending on time is really important for all of our children. Thank you for your co-operation.

Safety

At the end of the day, the staff and I will come out onto the playground to ensure everyone leaves safely and to be available should you need us. An important reminder for safety reasons: please do not let any of your children, including pre-schoolers play on the play equipment, including the slide area as we do not want any accidents happening during this time. Staff will ask children to leave the equipment if seen playing on it. The children get ample time to play on the equipment when supervised during the day - thank you for your co-operation with this. I would like to say a big thank you to all children and adults who refrain from riding bikes and scooters on the playground, again preventing accidents. I really don't like to moan or keep on, but it is my job to ensure the safety of all of our pupils whilst on the school premises and I really appreciate your support.

Presentation

I am really working hard on ensuring that all children give their very best presentation and support is in place to help children with their handwriting. I have asked that pen licences be reviewed after the Summer holidays to ensure that children are giving their very best to earn a pen. Of course, as soon as your child is ready, they will be reissued with their pen licence or be given the opportunity to work towards earning one. I am sure you are keen for your children to write clearly and the neatest they individually can. Improving presentation is one of my key school improvements so it is important I review this from the start.

Home learning

The staff and I are looking with fresh eyes at our home school learning and homework provision. We want to provide the very best for your children and clear guidance for you. In the next few weeks, you will receive homework in a new brochure style format which clearly outlines weekly homework and gives option for support or challenge tasks. It is more prescriptive but relates directly to the children's learning, enabling you to support better and for homework to have a higher profile in school. Until then, we would like to ask you to continue to read daily with your child, recording this in their new reading diaries. I will write to you soon with some updates on reading at Ashton Keynes as we are working hard on this at the moment, to ensure that we are providing the best resources and systems for all of our children. On Monday, we will send home for Years 2-6 a special times table booklet to help you support your child to learn their tables. This is something I have devised for in school use but thought you may like to use at home as well. Obviously only learn what your child is able to, but here is a guide from our new Calculation policy:

By the end of:	Multiplication
Class 2	1,2,5,10
Class 3	1,2,3,4,5,8,10
Class 4	All times tables up to 12x12
Class 5	Fluent and rapid recall of tables up to 12 x 12
Class 6	Fluent and fast recall of all tables up to 12 x 12 at the three star levels on the booklet. You may challenge beyond 12 x 12

Multiplication tables are so important in all areas of Mathematics so we would appreciate your help with learning them. Your support at home with this will make a difference. Children can learn them by song, rote, games, visually or the best method for them and use the booklet to help you record progress. The star system is for challenge and to reward the children by colouring in the stars. In school we have planned lots of regular exciting methods to help your children embed these multiplication tables which I am sure they will be able to tell you all about soon. Once the home-school agreement is ready, we will send it to you, along with the new style homework brochures which the staff team are currently working hard to develop. We look forward to sharing with you the outcomes of this already tried and tested successful homework system which I bring to you.

Church Links:

The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit from our Open the Book team this morning with an interactive sharing of the Story of Noah. We are currently working closely with our Open the Book team to deliver a two week school theme: Who Put the Colours in the Rainbow? The Church would like to invite you to a family service this Sunday 7th September 10am at Holy Cross Church. They would also like to give you advanced notice of a 'Teddy Parachuting off the top of the tower' church event at 3.30pm on Sunday 21st September, followed by Messy Church at 4pm in Holy Cross Church. All are very welcome.

Thank you for your patience with this lengthy letter. I felt it was really important to share with you all of the recent news and thinking. This is a very exciting time for the school with all of the changes being focussed around school improvement, and us trying our best to make the school an even better place for your children whilst building upon its many successes.

On behalf of all of the staff team I would like to say that we are really looking forward to working together with you this year and beyond to make this school the best it can be for all of our children.

Enjoy your weekend and thank you for your support.

S.L.Saville

Mrs S. Saville, Headteacher