

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024



### A Message from Joanne Crocker

The term has run away from us and I am surprised half term is upon us already, it was great to see so many of you this week at parent consultations. The transition to the new trust has, on the whole, been a smooth process and thank you for bearing with us as we work out a few wrinkles and staff settle into the new processes.

After half term we will be adopting the ACE way of working. We have blocked our foundation subjects and will be working on a Science and English linked experience within journals. Some subjects will be continuing as weekly lessons, such as PE, RE, PHSE and French and of course, Maths and phonics will continue to be taught daily. I look forward to sharing with you later this term, the work the children are producing.

Attendance is something we monitor closely, and whilst we appreciate children do become ill the odd day here and there soon adds up. There are very few circumstances where a term time holiday would be approved and we would urge you to think very carefully before booking any holiday as this could incur a fine.

On 29<sup>th</sup> February at 9am Cheryl Weyman (CEO) and Nick Hind (Excellence Director) will be hosting an introduction to ACE for parents and carers with the opportunity for questions. This will be held at Ashill where you will all be very welcome.

Thank you to all those parents who are working with their children to promote home reading and maintain the reading records. February half term can often be a little wet and cold, so an ideal chance to go to the library and explore some ideas for world book day.

Thank you again for your support. As a staff we all really appreciate it. Have a wonderful break and we'll see you on **Tuesday 20th February**.

### **KS2**

Squirrel class have settled well into 2024, starting with a new book in English. This term, the focus has been on the wonderful book entitled 'How to live forever' by the author Colin Thompson. Using the book as inspiration, we have been working on speech in writing and descriptive writing.

Our topic in History has been exploring the Victorian era. The focus has been primarily comparing and contrasting the different experiences of children then and now, looking at classrooms and leisure time amongst other areas. Last week we looked at the rules and

expectations in Victorian classrooms, and explored the reality that education wasn't open to everyone.

I have been particularly impressed at the effort the whole class shown in their Maths lessons this term. It has been a privilege to share in a number of personal successes and achievements by a number of pupils, who have pushed themselves and shown improved levels of determination and resilience!

In RE we have been looking at the foundations of Islam while MFL has moved to French.

At the start of the term we looked at how to build structures in DT. We looked at how homes were built in Bangladesh to survive Monsoon conditions and used that as an inspiration for our small structures. Working in small groups we had great fun trialing different materials and designs to combat strong wind, rain and flooding.

It's hard to believe we are almost half way through this academic year. Year 3 have settled in so well, and Year 6 are working hard on their SATS preparations. We are looking forward to the upcoming Art and Science modules.

As always, we are thankful to our parent volunteers for their time and commitment!  
Mr Oliver and Mrs Newman.

## **KS1**

We seem to have hit the ground running this term and the children are working hard. This hard work is particularly obvious in their writing, which is really impressing me at the moment. Each child is challenging themselves, with neater handwriting, more interesting sentences and improved volume.

In maths, reception and year one have been learning about partitioning numbers and understanding addition and subtraction facts. For example, knowing that 5 can be partitioned into 2 and 3 or 16 can be partitioned into 13 and 3. Year 2 have progressed their knowledge of 2,5, and 10 times tables and the link with division. In the last couple of weeks all children have been looking at weighing and measuring. Answering questions about the tallest and shortest item and considering the difference between grams and kilograms.

Our History topic 'Schools Over Time' has been a great success and we have enjoyed learning about the similarities and differences over time. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the children's questionnaires, it provided us with a wealth of information. I think it is safe to say that school dinners were not very popular!

We were also incredibly fortunate to share some old art sketchbooks sent in by a kind Grandparent. These belonged to her parents and were nearly 100 years old. There was also a news article sharing how a young girl had progressed from student to teacher. The children were spellbound and I must admit to being a little nervous handling such precious items.

Reception children have had a little trip to space in the role-play area and have used the resources to act out familiar stories, such as Jack and the Beanstalk. These areas create great opportunities for children to be creative, work collaboratively, rehearse new vocabulary and learn through play.

In computing children have learnt about animation, through flip books and stop frame animation. The classroom was recently filled with laughter as children created their own stop frame animation. It was great fun.

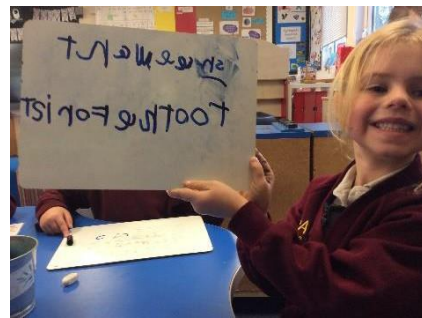
RE has explored elements of the Islamic faith and the belief that everyone has a responsibility to care for the world, including animals. There have been many conversations about caring for pets and forgetting to clean out cages!

We are still missing Mrs Evans, who is busy caring for her daughter. She keeps in regular contact and is helping out behind the scenes as much as possible. I know she is missing the children greatly and will be back with us as soon as she can. Mrs Newman continues to cover two days a week and we are extremely grateful for her time.

Once again thank you for your support and thank you to the wonderful team at school that support Hedgehogs everyday.

Best wishes,

Mrs Bulgin



## **Preschool**

It has been a very busy month in preschool with the children renewing friendships and making new ones as they welcomed Bradley into the setting. We are please to say that he has settled well and his cheeky character is definitely starting to show.

The children have been reading 'The Gruffalo' and 'The Gruffalo's Child'. They have been using the props to help retell the stories and they have been making their own Gruffalo pictures.

The children continue to use the outside spaces available to them and they are all enjoying the freedom of free flow play.

We look forward to what the next term brings.

## **Funding**

Many of you may be aware that as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 2 year olds with working parents may be entitled to 15 hours free funding. To check eligibility please go to the following website where you will be able to check.

[Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to a member of preschool staff and we will be happy to support you.

We hope you all have a wonderful half term break. Pam, Kali and Becca

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is high priority at Ashill Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

Our Designated Lead (DSL) is Joanne Crocker and our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Pamela Mount.

Our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at:  
[www.ashillprimaryschool.co.uk/1213/safeguarding](http://www.ashillprimaryschool.co.uk/1213/safeguarding)

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSLs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website – please follow [this link](#) to help keep your child safe.

## **Contact Information**

If you change any of your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we may update our records. It is imperative that we have up to date details at all times.

**School email address: [Admin.Ashill@acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:Admin.Ashill@acexcellence.co.uk)**

**School phone number: 01823480637**

## Dates for your Diary

### February

Monday 19th  
Tuesday 20th  
Thursday 22nd

INSET DAY 5  
Return to School  
KS2 Swimming lessons start x 6 every Thursday

### March

Thursday 7th  
Thursday 7th

World Book Day  
Parent Drop-in 3.15pm

### April

Monday 1st  
Tuesday 2nd  
Monday 15th

Bank Holiday  
Easter Holidays  
Return to school

Monday 22nd

After School clubs start

### May

Monday 6th  
Throughout  
Monday 27th  
Tuesday 28th

EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY  
KS2 SATS testing (Year 6)  
Bank Holiday  
Half Term (return Wednesday 5th June)

### June

Monday 3rd  
Tuesday 4th

INSET DAY 6  
INSET DAY 7