



Ashton Hayes Primary School News

ASPIRE TO BE AMAZING! October 2020

What a half term we have been through!

To begin the term with the happy, smiling faces of our children, delighted to be back in school with their friends was fantastic. To end the half term with remote learning and seeing your faces on Zoom each morning is such a disappointment. We started September with optimism and new systems in place to reduce the risk of infection. The children got off to a fantastic start to their learning. The progress made by every one of them was amazing and proved that being back in school was absolutely the right place to be. The children adapted to changes well, morale was high and lovely, friendly, working atmospheres developed in classes. Sadly though, at the beginning of October our worst fears were realised. The first symptoms of coronavirus were identified in a member of our school community, meaning that following the advice of CWAC health protection team, we had to close our first bubble. More cases have since followed and as we reach half term all children in our school have been affected by the closure of a class bubble and have had to isolate at some point.

All of this means that after half term we have a fresh start. All children will have had the chance to have time away from school, to refresh, feel well and be ready for the new half term. The whole school will have a huge deep clean over the holidays and new improved systems will be in place to further reduce the risk of infection spreading between us. Whilst we are realistic that some factors are out of our control, we really do not want to find ourselves in the position of having to close classes again and take learning on line.

Along with the existing systems that have already been communicated with you previously, including adult social distancing, hand washing, class bubbles, one way systems, staggered drop off, break and lunch times, to mention just a few, we will be tightening and introducing further measures that will help to reduce the risk of infection. We will:

Work only in our classrooms or outside.

Allow only 1 child in the toilets at a time.

Eat lunch in our classrooms.

Adults will not move between classes.

Face coverings will be worn by adults in corridors and communal spaces **but not in classrooms.**

Quarantine any shared resources for at least 72 hours.

Use the staff room facilities 1 at a time.

This whole episode has really made clear to me, the need to take the virus even more seriously. Compared to the start of the term, the number of infections in the community has clearly risen. I would like to encourage you, over half term and going forward to think really carefully about what you choose to do outside of school. We all have a responsibility to try to keep the spread of infection to a minimum, to keep people safe and avoid having to isolate at home for continued periods, thus having a potential impact on children's learning and mental health.

May I also remind you that self-isolation does not only mean that children cannot attend school, but that it means that the child/staff member should:

- Not go to school, work or public places
- Not attend any other out of school activities or go around to a friend's house
- Not use public transport or taxis
- Not go out to shop – order it online or ask a friend to bring it to your home
- Not have visitors in your home except for people providing essential care
- Not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if you have one
- Inform GP practice or hospital or other healthcare setting that they are self-isolating if they must attend in person.

Remote Learning and Communication

As children have isolated, learning has moved online. Staff have expertly put into place activities that support the children's learning at home, matching as closely as possible to the learning that would be going on in school. The staff have provided valuable feedback to individuals through the home learning email addresses.

Once the children have returned to school, communication returns to the usual admin email address. Emails from the admin and head accounts will be regularly monitored and responded to within 48hours. Expect your response during reasonable weekday working hours. If you wish to report a confirmed case of Covid-19 out of school hours please use the dedicated covid@ashtonhayes.cheshire.sch.uk address which will be used as an out of hours contact for the purpose of reporting covid cases. Any other emails to this address will not be responded to.

Parent's Evenings

Thank you all for signing up to our remote Parent's evening. This is a bit of a trial really and we hope it works! In the first week after half term you will receive the Zoom link. Please make sure you are in the waiting room 5 minutes before your time slot. You will be admitted punctually by the teacher and therefore also will have to leave the meeting right on time. If more time is needed we will arrange a follow up call.

9/11/20- Owl, 10/11/20- Sparrowhawk, 11/11/20– Kestrel, 12/11/20– Peregrine, 16/11/20- Buzzard

Uniform— Don't forget, winter uniform after half term please. Make sure you bring a coat as the weather turns more wintery! Forest School Hoodies are arriving very soon too!



A Fond Farewell

We would all like to wish Miss Oats the very best of luck for the future as she moves on to a new role. Miss Oats has been a very valuable member of staff at Ashton Hayes for over 6 Years now, working with lots of children 1:1, as ELSA and as our Kestrel Class teaching assistant. She will be missed here, but will be fantastic in her new role as a Family Support Worker for Cheshire West and Chester. Good Luck Miss Oats and thank you for everything!



Be True to You

On 9th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day by coming to school in our own clothes and expressing ourselves. 'Be True to You' was the theme for the day with a range of activities exploring individuality and self-expression. Thank you to the PTFA for organising. Much of the work in all classrooms this half term has had a heavy mental health emphasis and has really paid off.



St John's Church is planning a 'Nativity Trail' around the village this Christmas, inspired by the resounding success of the community 'Scarecrow Trail' in the Summer. We are inviting residents to be creative and display biblical Nativity figures or scenes outside their homes over the school Christmas holidays (which begin on Friday 18th Dec).

As half term is approaching it would be a great project for families and friends. It doesn't need to be a professional scene - just be creative and have fun! We are extending the invitation to the school. Further information will be on St John's Facebook page and the School Facebook page.

Please help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus in these strange and unusual times

I do hope you are interested and I would love to hear from you and include you on the trail guide.

Contact me by email: margaretpapworth@icloud.com or call/text on 07803242783.

Finally, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to you, our wonderful staff, great governors and fantastic children. Thanks for your understanding over the last half term and for all the messages of support.

I hope that you and your families have a peaceful and restful half term. Mr Gilbert.

European Day of Languages

On Friday 25th September we explored life in other European countries. Classes explored the sights, sounds and tastes of Spain, France, Germany and Denmark, there was a wide range of activities in classes but of course we all tasted some of the lovely international cuisine.



Kestrel's First Half Term

Kestrels have made a brilliant start to school. Things have been very different this year, but they have taken it all in their stride. We have been exploring through our whole school topic of change, as well as following the children's lead with their great interest in dinosaurs! The children have been really enthusiastic about our work on the gingerbread man, which has led to lots of storytelling, puppet making, outdoor adventures and problem solving. We are very much looking forward to continuing our learning adventure after half term.

