

## Foundation Stage Newsletter

### Autumn Term 2021

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Ashby Church of England Primary School. We are pleased that the children are settling confidently into school life.

**Staffing** – The teaching staff are Miss Harrington (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays), Mrs Hughes (Thursdays and Fridays) and Mrs Lane (all week). The teachers are supported by Mrs Thorogood and Mrs Myatt.

Your child may come out of school with a card in their hand, this is a request to come and speak to their teacher. Please wait until all the children have been sent out before speaking to a member of staff.



### Curriculum~

During the first half of the Autumn Term, our class topic will be 'All About Me'. We will spend time focusing on their favourite things; where they live; their family and we will also learn about our senses too. During the second half of the Autumn term, our topics will include Space and Christmas. The children will enjoy learning about planets, the moon and stars. During our Christmas topic, the children will become familiar with the Nativity story and we will also spend time focusing on Christmas celebrations. Please see attached and the school website, for an idea of the areas we will be covering within the topics.



### Reading~

Next week, your child will bring home a reading book to share with you. **Please sign and date the Reading Record Booklet when you read with your child.** Reading at home is vital to your child's progress and will be monitored closely by staff. The children are encouraged to choose their own book, to help them to become more independent. This will be monitored by the staff. Your child will read their reading books periodically in school on a 1:1 basis.

### Read, Write Inc.

Each day your child will take part in Read, Write Inc. which is our Literacy programme. During this session, your child will be taught how to read in small groups and heard to read too. We have inserted a RWI alphabet sheet in your child's reading record. Please use this to practise recognising the letters. **Information about the Read, Write Inc. programme will be sent home soon to explain this in more detail.**

**Key Words** – Inside your child's Reading Record, you will find 'Set 1' key words on a sticker. We ask that you read these words with your child daily so that they begin to be able to read them by themselves whenever they see the word on the sticker and within their reading books too. When your child is confident in reading these, please practice spelling them too. We will then issue your child with the next set of words which will be stuck in your child's Reading Record. We suggest making flashcards for the key words. When your child receives a new set, please continue to read the previous sets too so that these remain in your child's memory. The key words are words which cannot be blended/'Fred Talked'.

**Formation Books** – Handwriting and name writing practise books will be sent home soon. We ask that these are completed alongside an adult. These will come home on Fridays and we ask that they are returned to school by the following Tuesday. The books will have a handwriting formation guide within them.



### Show and tell~

Each **Monday**, your child will have the opportunity to share an experience or a small toy from home which **must be able to fit in their book bag**. If your child would like to talk about a specific place they have visited or an event they have taken part in, we would be grateful of a small written explanation so that we can use it as a prompt to encourage your child. On other days, please keep toys at home as they can easily become lost or broken.



### Drinks and snacks~

If your child is under 5 years old, they will receive a free cup of milk each day. In order to receive this, **their name must be registered with [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)**. Once they turn 5 this will need to be paid for via the cool milk website. Your child is welcome to bring a piece of fruit to eat at morning playtime. They will receive a free piece of fruit each day (eaten in the afternoon).

We are a nut and kiwi fruit free school – so please do not send your child into school with any snacks which may contain nuts or kiwi.

As part of a Healthy School Campaign, children are allowed to bring in a **small bottle of water** to keep at school, which should be taken home each day to be refilled. Please note this should be **plain, unflavoured water and not juice**.



### Hot Dinners –

All children in Foundation stage and Key Stage one are provided with a free school meal. We encourage all children to take this up. Last year was a great success and we found that the children who persevered with this began to eat lots more vegetables and enjoyed a greater variety of food.

### Pupil Premium Funding–

*If your child is eligible for free school meals as part of the previous system, you will still need to apply.* Similarly, if your child received the 2 year funding, you will still need to apply separately for Pupil Premium support. Please can we ask that you see a member of staff about this as the deadline for this year is very soon. The school will then receive Pupil Premium funding for your child which means we can fund different types of activities or support for your child, for example, swimming, school trips etc. Pupil Premium also pays for extra teacher support in classes so we really do need parents to sign up for this as soon as possible, if it applies to you. Forms are available in the school office or ring County Hall and ask for Free School Meals 0116 2323232 . Please register or you will miss out on financial support and your child's extra classroom support.

Information is also available from [www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals](http://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals)



### PE ~

We will send PE plimsolls home each half term so that you can check to see if they still fit your child and replace them if necessary before the following half term. For safety reasons, **only 'stud' earrings are permitted to be worn at school, any other jewellery should not be worn.** 'Stud' earrings should be removed on PE days. If this is not possible, **please cover your child's earrings with 'Micro pore' tape** on PE days.

### Labelling –

To avoid losing items and to help re-home any lost property, **please ensure your child's name is on all items of uniform and personal belongings** such as water bottles etc.

### Book bags~

**Please ensure your child brings their book bag to school every day.** Your child may be required to read on any day of the week, therefore we need their books in school each day. Also book bags are handy for carrying letters home. **Please do not put water bottles in book bags, as they tend to leak and this will ruin their reading books etc.** As we have a limited space for the children's belongings, we ask that children **do not bring ruck sacks/school bags** to school.

### Hair~

To avoid any 'unwanted visitors' we ask that **all** long hair is tied up for school.



### Reward System~

The children collect 'Happy Teddies' for good behaviour. These earn them stars for their star chart. When the children have enough stars they receive a Head Teacher's sticker in assembly. Unfortunately the children may receive a 'Sad Teddy' for any unsatisfactory behaviour. If your child receives two 'Sad Teddies' in one day they

will miss a playtime on that day. The teddies are given out sparingly so they retain their importance. If the children show exceptionally good behaviour or create a particularly brilliant piece of work, they may receive a 'Rainbow Teddy' which will earn them an extra star for their chart.

The children can also earn a point for their 'House Team' by trying their best with their schoolwork and making a great effort during class activities.

### Achievosaurus ~



In class and throughout the school, we encourage the children to think about *how* they learn. In Reception, we praise and encourage three main characteristics of learning and link these to cartoon type dinosaurs – 'Achievosaurus'. They are: Creative & Thinking Critically ('Thinkosaur'), Playing & Exploring ('Exporosaur') and Active Learning ('Tryosaur'). The children are encouraged to think about which Achievosaurus they have been that day.

### Twitter ~



Please follow us for updates and photos of school life. @ashbycofe

### Email ~



Please keep an eye on your emails; this is our primary means of contacting you. Please check your junk folder too as they may appear there. We WILL NOT send texts to tell you there is an email.

You may choose to contact the Foundation Stage team via our email address. Please be aware that the teaching staff check and reply to these emails, so there may be a delay as most of our time is spent with the children.

### Spare underwear ~



Starting school is a daunting time for many 4 year olds; it's at this time that we see an increase in wetting accidents, even for those children who normally have good control over this. Please send your child a spare pair of pants and socks into school. These will be kept in PE kits, in case of an accident.

**Modesty Shorts** – We have noticed that quite a few girls have started to wear these over their pants when wearing skirts. The decision is entirely down to parents as to whether these are worn and is **not a school directive**. We have found that many of the children are finding these difficult to manage when toileting and when getting changed for PE.

### Wellies ~



– Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies in school, labelled with their name. We will be wearing these more often in our garden now that the weather has turned wetter and it also prevents their school shoes from getting muddy!



**'Talk About Tin'** – As the children settle into school, we encourage them to speak about their immediate and wider family plus any other significant people or animals in their lives. To aid this, we are asking parents to send in a 'Talk About Tin'. This is an empty tube of Pringle type crisps, covered in paper of your child's choosing, with photos of their special people stuck around it. We would really appreciate these as soon as possible as it is sometimes a comfort to the children too.

#### **Folders -**

Your child will soon be given an orange folder which needs to be kept in their book bag. Each Friday, your child will bring home some work they have completed at school that week during independent activity time. We ask that you remove the work on a Friday and leave the orange folder in your child's book bag, ready for the following week's work. We hope that their work each week will provide you with an insight into some of the learning at school.

#### **Timings -**

Once your child is full time, the school gate will open at 8:35am. Your child is welcome to arrive any time up until 8:45am. The classroom door will close at 8:45am. If you arrive after this time, you will be classed as late and must go to the main school office to register your child. Please note that Foundation Stage class's entrance time closes 5 minutes before the rest of the school. The end of the day is 3:15pm. Please note, Foundation Stage finish 5 minutes before the rest of the school. We ask parents to make a line along the fence. This makes handing out the children one by one, a little easier. The process will be quite slow to begin with as we get to know faces of not only parents, but grandparents and child minders too. We always pick up speed once we are more familiar with those faces.

#### **'Welcome to Our School' event Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am-10:00am –**

We would like to invite you to a small event to say a huge 'Welcome' to our new families. The children will be singing a couple of songs and showing you some of their artwork. We ask that **only one adult** per family attends, so that the classroom is not overly busy.

#### **Dates for your diary –**

- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am – Welcome to Our School event (see above).
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Alien end of topic celebration – for the children, within school time.
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 9:30am – Christmas Nativity performance 1 (more details to follow)
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 9:30am – Christmas Nativity Performance 2 (more details to follow).

Finally, we believe in working together for the benefit of your children. If you have any questions, queries or problems, please talk to us.

## *Foundation Stage*