

# Ashurst Wood School Newsletter

## Week 12 – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

### THIS WEEK'S DATES TO REMEMBER

#### Tuesday 3rd

Year 1 Forest Schools  
(AM)  
Reception Forest  
Schools (PM)  
Art Club (3.20pm to  
4.20pm)

#### Wednesday 4th

Football Matches -  
Boys & Girls (3pm to  
5.15pm) @ EG Sports  
Club  
Football Club (3.20pm  
to 4.20pm)

#### Thursday 5th

Falcons Forest  
Schools (AM)  
Kestrels Forest  
Schools (PM)  
PTFA Plate  
Decorating (3.30pm)

#### Friday 6th

**No Achievement  
Assembly**  
PTFA Hot Chocolate  
Friday (3.20pm)  
Computing Club  
(3.20pm to 4.20pm)  
Christingle Service @  
St Dunstan's Church  
(3.30pm)

Attendance last week: 91.49% 🙄  
Attendance from September 2024: 94.87%

### Polite Reminders & Notices

#### Christmas Events

Please refer to the end of this newsletter for details of all our Christmas festivities. Also attached is a poster of the PTFA events.

#### Football Matches (Girls and Boys) – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Please could the teams be collected at **2.30pm** and be transported to the East Grinstead Sports Club for 2.45pm where Mrs Pitcaithly will meet you. All the matches should finish at **5.15pm** and we ask that parents collect their children at this time. Please refer to the letter sent out on 27<sup>th</sup> November for further details. **We would be grateful to receive all consent forms by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December to allow your children to take part.**

#### Forest Schools for Year 1 and Reception – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Ms Smethurst has been asked to attend a course on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December so there will be no Forest School session for Year 1 and Reception children on this date.

#### Mrs Blake-Hatton's Coffee Morning – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

We would like to invite all families to this Coffee Morning on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9am. The focus of the Coffee Morning is Child Anxiety with Paula Betsworth, who is our school's Enabling Families Support worker. Paula will be offering advice and sharing information and resources. If you would like to attend, please email the school office by **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you.

#### Polite Request: History (Owls Class) – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

In history next week, Owls Class would like to invite someone from the older generation to come to talk about their childhood (i.e., the toys they played with, the clothes they wore, the food they ate etc). If you have a grandparent or an older member of your family who would be willing to come in and talk to the children, please do let us know. The date would be **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at **2.45pm**. Thank you.

#### Universal Free School Meals/Census Day (Reception to Year 2) – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Further to our letter sent out on 19<sup>th</sup> November to **KS1** families, please can we remind parents/carers to order a hot school lunch for their children for **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**. The amount of money our school receives to cover these meals is dictated by the number of **KS1** children eating a hot meal on Census Day (**16<sup>th</sup> January**). We would therefore, like every child in KS1 to have a hot meal on this day as a one-off so that we receive the full funding. As a school we are already funding a shortfall for every meal, as the funding we receive has remained the same and the cost of the meals has risen twice since the last census day.

Please can we ask parents to login to ParentPay to order the meal. Details on how to set this up can be obtained from the office. If you require a further copy of your activation code, please request this from Mrs Fish too. If you are unable to order the meal, Mrs Fish will do this automatically **for every child** by **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** in order to receive the full funding (the two-week cut-off date is 2<sup>nd</sup> January, but we will still be on the Christmas holidays at this time). If you know your child will not eat the meal, they are still welcome to bring in a packed lunch. **The menu is attached.**

## Curriculum Vocabulary

### Maths: 'Axis'

A fixed, reference line along which or from which distances or angles are taken

## Meet your Member of Staff

Hello, my name is Debs Hawe, and I have been working at Ashurst Wood for 9 years as the School Business Manager.

My role includes financial management, human resources, premises and assisting with health and safety compliance. I have been associated with the school since 2007 as both of my boys attended up until 2015.

I was a member of the committee involved in the Pre-school build, before joining the school team in 2015, and have been a staff governor since 2020.



## Achievements

### Mid Sussex Cross Country Finals

Congratulations are offered to Ellie, Sofia and Theo who took part in the East Grinstead Cross Country Finals back in October. They are now through to the Mid Sussex Cross Country Finals taking place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

## Project Joy

Filippa Brundish (Mum to Ben in Y6 and Millie in Y3) has recently set up a non-profit organisation called The Kindness Cooperation (**further details are attached**). We are delighted to announce that Filippa is currently working with us to see how we can get involved with Project JOY (Joining Old and Young). This is a project that aims to bring together primary-aged children and more senior people for joint activities, to deliver significant benefits on all sides. We will be looking to involve up to 10 children at a time, with support from Miss Sally Edwards and our teaching assistants. More details on this in due course.

Most importantly, to make this happen, we need your help to sign up some older adult participants please. If any of your children's grandparents, aunts and uncles (or friendly neighbours!) live in the area, and would like to join us for an hour of intergenerational fun in Ashurst Wood Village Hall, then we are proposing to hold two taster sessions from 2-3pm on **Thursday 5th and Thursday 12th December** (mince pies and Christmas carols are on offer too). Please spread the word! To sign up, please email Emma in the office, or message Filippa on 07815 048080. Thank you.

## Christmas Events

### **PTFA Christmas Plate Decorating Workshop – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

This will take place after-school in one of the classrooms on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Please refer to PTFA 'Festive Dates for the Diary' for further details (attached). <https://ashurst-wood-school-ptfa.sumup.link>

### **PTFA Hot Chocolate Friday – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

This will take place after-school in the playground. Please refer to PTFA 'Festive Dates for the Diary' for further details (attached).



## Christmas Events

### **Christingle Service at St Dunstan's Church – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

St Dunstan's Church in Ashurst Wood are inviting local families to come and join them at their Christingle Service on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm. The children will have the opportunity to make their own Christingle and there will be pizza and hot chocolate provided after the service. Please see attached poster.

### **Decoration Afternoon – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our Decoration Afternoon on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December to make decorations with your children. We then invite you to enjoy a mulled wine and mince pie in the hall at the Christmas Café while the children entertain you. There will be a donations pot to help cover costs (with any profit going towards the library project). We look forward to you joining us from 1.15pm onwards for a fun filled afternoon.

### **Y6 Singing at the Community Café Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

The children in Y6 have been invited to sing at the Community Café Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. The children will be walking to the Church after their lunch and will sing carols to the community.

### **Chartwells Christmas Lunch – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas lunch is being served on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### **PTFA Rotary Club Father Christmas Evening – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

The PTFA will be supporting the Rotary Club on their annual charity collection around the village. If you are able to volunteer, please contact the PTFA direct. Please refer to PTFA 'Festive Dates for the Diary' for further details (attached).

### **Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

We are looking forward to holding this annual event on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. We want to make families aware that we do not expect parents to purchase jumpers for this event, as long as the children have something festive to wear (e.g. Christmas hat, tinsel, hairband etc) for a small donation of £2.00. This will be split between the school library project and [Dogs for Autism](#).

### **PTFA Elfridges – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Elfridges will run on the afternoon of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December and the PTFA would welcome volunteers to support the younger children to wrap and write their labels on the gifts they choose for their family. Please refer to PTFA 'Festive Dates for the Diary' for further details (attached). We are now collecting unwanted gifts, smellies, novelties, chocolate and anything else that can help give a varied shop for the children to choose from. Please drop these to the office or pass to a PTFA member. Please don't forget to book your child's shopping list and use notes to give us their name and class.

<https://ashurst-wood-school-ptfa.sumup.link>

### **KS1 Nativity – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Our KS1 Nativity will be taking place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December for Owl Class families and on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December for Hawk Class families. The PTFA will be selling individual professional photographs of each child (available only to parents and carers) at both performances. They will also be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win one of the amazing festive hampers. **Both will commence at 2pm.**

### **KS2 Carol Service – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

We look forward to welcoming families to a traditional evening of Carols on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. This is being held at **Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row**. Please do come along and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. The PTFA will also be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win one of their amazing festive hampers. **Please could the KS2 children arrive by 5.45pm.**

### **Christmas Parties – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Parties will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. The children can wear party clothes, but please remember that they will be playing outside at break times – so warm clothes and no high heels! They will have an afternoon of festive fun and there may even be a visit from a special person! As the children will have had their lunch in school and to save food waste, please can we politely ask that each child brings in a £1.50 donation if they possibly can so that we can provide them with a small snack and a drink – thank you.

### **End of Term – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Please note that we break for the end of term on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November at **1.30pm**. We return to school after the festive period on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**.

**We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**