

Ashurst Wood School Newsletter

Week 13 – 9th December 2024

THIS WEEK'S DATES TO REMEMBER

Attendance last week: 95.35%
Attendance from September 2024: 94.91%

Monday 9th

Decoration
Afternoon
(1.15pm onwards)

Tuesday 10th

Y6 to sing at
Community
Christmas Lunch
(PM)
Art Club (3.20pm to
4.20pm)

Wednesday 11th

Football Club
(3.20pm to 4.20pm)
Karate Club (3.25pm
to 4.25pm)

Thursday 12th

Coffee Morning
(9am)
Falcons Forest
Schools (AM)
Chartwells
Christmas Lunch
Kestrels Forest
Schools (PM)
PTFA Rotary Club
Father Christmas
Evening

Friday 13th

No Achievement
Assembly
Christmas Jumper
Day
Elfridges (PM)
Computing Club
(3.20pm to 4.20pm)

Polite Reminders & Notices

School Photos

Proofs were sent home with last week. Orders for the digital photos can be made via MCAS or in the school office with cash or card payments.

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.

Forest Schools for Year 1 and Reception – Tuesday 10th December

Ms Smethurst has been asked to attend a course on Tuesday 10th 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 12th December

We would like to invite all families to this Coffee Morning on Thursday 12th 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 9th December**. Thank you.

Clubs

Karate Club will resume for the last session of the term this week on Wednesday 11th December from 3.25pm to 4.25pm.

Sadly, Kicks Dance have advised that due to staffing issues and Jess the coach being needed elsewhere, they will not be running their final Kicks Dance session on Friday 13th December or in the spring term. We are aware that they have offered children other sessions to make up for this, but please contact Kicks directly if you are owed a refund.

Please note that school clubs will finish on **Friday 13th December** for the term. Dates for spring term clubs will be circulated the first week of January.

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

Further to our letter sent out on 19th November to **KS1** families, please can we remind parents/carers to order a hot school lunch for their children for **Thursday 16th 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 (**16th 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 17th December** in order to receive the full funding (the two-week cut-off date is 2nd 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.**

Chartwells – New Phone Number

Please note that Chartwells have a new phone number: 01243 774175 in case you ever need to contact them.

Curriculum Vocabulary

Maths: 'Mensuration'

In the context of geometric figures, the process of measuring or calculating angles, lengths, areas and volumes

Achievements

Football Matches

Our girls & boys football teams played on 4th December. The boys team played against St Marys, St Peters's & Blackwell. The girls team played against St Mary's and Estcots. Everyone played fantastically, with the boys scoring against St Mary's. A special mention to Leo S who saved many shots at our goal. The girls drew against St Mary's and represented the school in a very professional way.

Congratulations & thanks go to: Leo S, Leo B, Theo, Wilfred, Hugo, Ben, Max, Callum, Ozzie, Harry, Evie, Ella, Iris, Poppy, Haven, Sofia, Mollie, Delilah and Amira. Thanks are also offered to Mr Gowers & Mrs Shuttleworth for supervising the children at these matches.

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.

Meet your Member of Staff

Hello, my name is Katie Bober. I'm a Teaching Assistant and Individual Needs Assistant at Ashurst Wood. I've worked here for two and a half years, but I've been part of the school community for longer as my eldest, Elijah aged 13, went through Ashurst Wood before moving onto Sackville School.

My other son Osian attended too and now I have Tabitha here in year 2!

I've been lucky enough to work with a lot of the children across the year groups and really enjoy getting to know them all. I have become part of the local SEN community having been through a journey of understanding autism through Osian myself.

I grew up in Wales near the sea and went to a Welsh speaking school through my primary years. I also speak French having studied that and English Literature at Warwick university. And I lived near Dijon in France for a year which was a great experience!

In my spare time I love listening to music, playing the flute & piano, dancing, reading, walking in the South Downs and spending time with my lovely family - packing a picnic and seeking out adventures!



Decoration Afternoon Monday 9th December

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your family to our **Decoration Afternoon** on **Monday 9th December**.

Please join us at 1.15pm to make decorations with your children. At 2.15pm we will transfer to the hall to enjoy a mulled wine and mince pie 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).

Having their parents and family members in school for this event is one that our children look forward to and we look forward to you joining us for a fun filled afternoon.

Christmas Events

Y6 Singing at the Community Café Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 10th December

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

Chartwells Christmas Lunch – Thursday 12th December

Christmas lunch is being served on Thursday 12th December.

PTFA Rotary Club Father Christmas Evening – Thursday 12th 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 13th December

We are looking forward to holding this annual event on Friday 13th 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 13th December

Elfridges will run on the afternoon of Friday 13th 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 17th and Wednesday 18th December

Our KS1 Nativity will be taking place on Tuesday 17th December for Owl Class families and on Wednesday 18th 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 17th December

We look forward to welcoming families to a traditional evening of Carols on Tuesday 17th 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 19th December

Christmas Parties will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 19th 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 can so that we can provide them with a small snack and a drink – thank you.

End of Term – Friday 20th December

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

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

