◦ Resilience ◦ Determination ◦ Consideration ◦ Community Mindedness ◦ Responsibility ◦ Honesty ◦

Autumn Term Bulletin

Issue 08: Friday, 22nd October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy half term! It seems like only yesterday we were opening the gates for the first day in September! It has been a brilliant start to the year at Ash Hill and we have all appreciated being able to return to normal in many ways.

Covid19
As you are aware, we have had some positive covid19 cases this half term. Throughout the pandemic we have been fortunate as we have not had many cases directly in the school community. The recent rise in numbers is likely due to the removal of most of our previous safety measures in line with the government guidance to schools. We hope that the half term will act as an interruption to the chain of transmission. Please do continue to be mindful of the virus over the break and consider any measures you may be able to put in place to avoid transmission, such as socialising outside and maintaining social distancing. We hope that things will improve after the half term, but please be aware that we may have to reintroduce some safety measures if cases continue to rise. This will allow us to continue to offer uninterrupted education to as many of our pupils as possible. As always, I will keep you updated as the situation progresses.

Road Safety
As we move into the autumn and winter months, it is important to consider road safety. The roads outside of the school can be very busy and the hill and bends of the roads present further dangers. We are looking at how we can integrate road safety into our curriculum, but it would also be beneficial to work with your children at home on how they can stay safe. This website has some useful resources and information for parents: Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents (rospa.com)

Absence Reporting
If you are reporting an absence from school for a child in years Reception to Year 6, please remember to call the school office before 8.30am and leave a message clearly stating your child's name and class, your relationship to them and the reason for their absence. Please be very specific and don't just say they "are not well" as if we don't have enough information we will need to follow up with a telephone call. If you wish to speak to someone about your child's absence, please call the office between 8.30am - 9.00am."

Friends of Ash Hill
Our wonderful Friends of Ash Hill (FOAH) have begun to plan for this year's activities now that we are able to think beyond covid19! We are very lucky to have FOAH at Ash Hill. Their work for the school ensures we remain community minded, have lots of fun and they also raise much needed funds for the school. Being a part of FOAH allows parents and carers to be involved in the school community, to support fundraising and to have a say in how these funds will be spent. FOAH members enjoy being an active and valued part of our school community – if you would like to get involved in FOAH, please let us know!

Parents Evening – Telephone Appointments
Due to the current number of positive covid19 cases, we have unfortunately had to make the decision to offer telephone appointments for our parent and carers' consultations. A letter will be shared soon with further information.

Reading and Phonics
We are working so hard on developing pupils' reading skills, particularly for those pupils still working on the phonics programme. As half term begins, please do not forget daily reading. A week is a long time for a child learning to read, and if their reading skills are not practised daily this will impact negatively on their progress. We will be assessing pupils' phonics after half term, so it is vital that they practice as much as possible next week! Half term is also a great chance to make use of the library and to help your child find books they will enjoy. Pupils who enjoy reading generally make better progress than those who don't, and we are always telling the children that if they don't like reading, they just haven't found the right book! Finally, thank you for your support and engagement over this first half term. We wish you all a happy, safe half term break. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 2nd November.

Best wishes,

Mrs Manning
Headteacher

Growing minds for learning, crafting skills for life

Attendance W/c 11/10/21

Class	Attendance	Lates
Reception	85.7%	1
Year 1	91.7%	2
Year 2	91.9%	3
Year 3	95.6%	7
Year 4	96.1%	2
Year 5	99.3%	3
Year 6	89.9%	1

Hero—Here Everyday, Ready On time!

100%	Excellent
96 – 99.9%	Good
90 – 95.9%	Needs to improve
89.9% or less	Really needs to improve

Community Mindedness Tokens W/c 11/10/21

Year 1	18
Year 2	8
Year 3	10
Year 4	28
Year 5	131
Year 6	48

Coming Up...

Date	Event
25/10/21—29/10/21	**Half Term**
31/10/21	Deadline for completion of secondary school applications
01/11/21	**Inset Day**
02/11/21	School reopens
03/11/21	Primary portal opens to apply for a Reception place for September 2022
08/11/21 & 09/11/21	Parents' Telephone Consultations Years 4, 5 and 6
10/11/21 & 11/11/21	Parents' Telephone Consultations Nursery, Reception & Years 1—3
30/11/21	Year 6 Height & Weight Checks
30/11/21	School Photographs
03/12/21	Flu Vaccinations (to be confirmed)
17/12/21	School Closes for Xmas Holidays
20/12/21 - 03/01/22	**Xmas Holidays**
04/01/22	**Inset Day**
05/01/22	Children Back to School
15/01/22	Last day to apply for a Reception place for September 2022. Portal closes at midnight.
19/04/22	National Primary Allocation Day—Parents will be sent an email from Bucks CC.

Letters/Parent Mail This Week

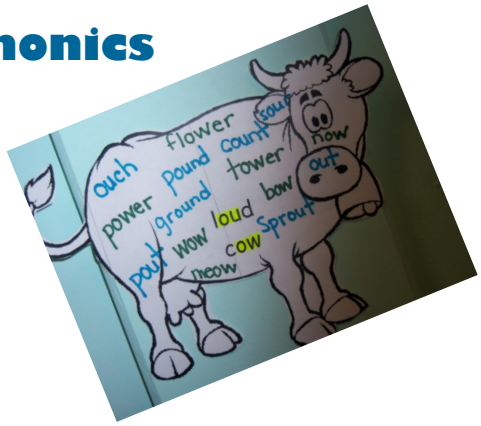
(Please note—letters are also placed on the school website under the parent tab for your

- Secondary School Applications (PM)
- Close Contact of a Positive COVID19 Case at Ash Hill Primary
- Reading in Year 2
- Inspire Sports Coaching—Half Term Week
- Parent & Carer Consultations—Telephone Appointments

This Week in School...

- **Nursery** has had a fun week using the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff to help them in their play. They have thought about size and position. The children enjoyed using the puppets to help retell and role play the story. We even made a huge bridge outside and practised walking and balancing on it very carefully. Key book: **The Three Billy Goats Gruff**. Key vocabulary: **on, under, big, middle size and little.** Key songs: **nursery rhymes**
- Our first half term in **Reception** has gone really well; many of the children are writing their names independently and have learnt lots of sounds that we are beginning to blend to form words. This week the children have been looking at the story 'A Piece of Cake' and have spoken about healthy and unhealthy foods. In Maths, we have looked at patterns and weighing and the children have weighed various objects and used the language heavier and lighter. This weeks sounds were **f, e, l, h, sh**. After half term we will be learning **r, j, v, y**.
- **Year 1** have made it to the final week of term and I am so proud of the hard work they have done! This week, we practised our poem and performed it to the rest of the school in assembly. In English, we have been practising writing sentences using our always tools – capital letters, finger spaces, full stops and forming our letters correctly. In Maths, we have been doing lots of learning around addition. In PSHE, we learnt about the importance of looking after pets and in Computing, we practised our typing skills.
- This week **Year 2** have worked really hard learning how to add and subtract 2-digit numbers. I am proud of their dedication in trying their best. In Topic, the children have recreated some wonderful Tudor houses. We enjoyed the opportunity to present our brilliant recital of the poem London's Burning. I'm sure they will love sharing this with you at home. In Writing, the children have written some lovely poetry. Do ask them about the 'Magic Wand'. It's been a lovely first term back to school and the children have settled in very well. Have a splendid half term!
- **Year 3** have had a great start to the year and I couldn't be prouder of them. Please continue to read with your child every day during half term, it is a lovely way to spend time together. We will be taking on the 3, 4 and 8 times tables in Autumn 2 more concretely using our knowledge of Column Method (don't forget the cheat sheet in your homework books!) We will also be taking on some new learning in the form of bus stop method for division. Stay safe this half term, relax and HAVE FUN!
- **Year 4:** This week in English, we have been very busy. The children have been identifying the features of a newspaper report from our Model Text and Innovating the text, as well as publishing their Hot Write. In Maths, we have been finishing off our addition and subtraction module. In History, the children have been consolidating their knowledge of The Romans by writing an essay. I have seen some fantastic research from the children, not only about our topic but also about Nelson Mandela. It has been a great start to the academic year. I hope you all have a restful week and I look forward to seeing everybody after half term.
- What an eventful final week of the first half term of **Year 5!** We have learnt so much these last 7 weeks and have spent time celebrating our accomplishments. After completing the book Holes, we watched the film in class and were intrigued to see the characters come to life on the screen! In Topic, we created a text-book page all about Anglo-Saxon Crime and Punishment - lots of thought went into these beautiful pieces of work. We also celebrated our Ash Hill Values by spending our hard-earned tokens at the Smart Cart. From Year 5, have a well-earned peaceful half-term break.
- This week **Year 6** have been working hard to complete their second big write for this term. They have been writing modern stories inspired by Greek myths. In Maths, they have been working hard to master the four operations and apply this to word problems. In Topic, they have finished their Greek vases and they are looking great. In Reading they have been able to apply their retrieval skills to create questions based on a text they had not read before. Year 6 you have been working so hard this term and I really wish you a very restful half term.

Reception Phonics



As you know, we have started learning our phonics sounds in school. Please support at home by watching the videos with your child that we will include in this section each week.

The videos for this week can be found at the following links:

'f' sound - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7DsIfZGf/UKfN2GSp

'e' sound - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/A8cDEUFk/4oHG16pQ

'l' sound - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/czaGPutS/jL9HxTY2

'h' sound - https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/VcLTaoMq/a0CKsBFT

Sports News

Wow - what a half term! It is finally great to see competitive sport back as well as giving so many children opportunities to challenge themselves through sport. With Football season well underway we have competed in 8 events in the last 5 weeks with more to follow after half term. Congratulations to all those involved and a huge thank you to everyone for your support even if you were not participating - this makes our team stronger!

The last week has seen our Year 4 girls play a football match vs Kingswood which I was unfortunately unable to attend. I cannot express how pleasing it was to hear how our 10 girls positively conducted themselves and played so well together. So much so the score ended in Ash Hill winning 8-0. I was told our girls showed our Ash Hill values throughout, which for me is the most pleasing part. The girls showed great determination and a huge amount of community mindedness and sportsmanship throughout the match. Well done to all and thank you to all the supporters who attended last Friday.

Our Year 6 girls football team keep going from strength to strength. From winning the preliminary event of the District finals against 4 other schools to then attending the District finals at Disraeli last Saturday. This event included all the winning schools around our District competing against each other for 2 places to proceed to County Finals. In our group, we played Bledlow Ridge and Hamilton & Burford. We WON the group!!!! This meant we advanced to the semi-finals playing Loudwater & we won 1-0. The 2 teams who reached the final automatically advance through, however we still played the final match against Carrington. This was a thrilling end to end game with chances every 30 seconds. Carrington managed to score in injury time giving them a 1-0 win. Carrington and Ash Hill proceed to the County Finals in Aylesbury on the 6th November. This is such a huge achievement - well done girls!!!! Again thank you to all our supporters who came and cheered us through.

Lastly our U11 team played in a cup match this week against Oakridge but were sadly knocked out losing 3-0. This game had many challenges throughout that normally would not occur however our superstars dealt with these situations superbly. We look forward to continuing after half term within our School Football League.