ASH HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Spring Term Bulletin

Issue 16: Friday, 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy new year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break.

Covid19
As you know, there have been concerns about the Omicron variant and the rising case numbers. We are aware of this and we will continue to follow the guidance to schools issued by the government. I wrote to you before our return to school to request that you support us in reducing numbers of Covid19 cases in the school community by undertaking LFT tests before the children returned. Thank you to all families who were able to do this. It would be useful to continue to test regularly throughout the school term. I appreciate it has been difficult to obtain home testing kits - I recommend trying to order at different times during the day if you are unsuccessful on your first attempt. Regular household LFT testing will allow more cases to be identified before they spread within the school and we are grateful to any families who are able to do this. A thank you also to you all for continuing to wear face masks on the school site.
It is important to continue to be vigilant about Covid19 symptoms, and if you child displays these you must keep them at home and obtain a test as soon as possible. We are keen to minimise the impact of the virus on children's face to face education, and these measures will help us to do so.

Wonderdome
We were delighted to finally be able to take Year 5 and 6 to the Wonderdome Planetarium experience yesterday. We were unable to do this last year due to Covid19, and before Christmas the event was postponed as the classes were remote learning, so this has been long awaited! Wonderdome is such a brilliant, hands-on way for the children to embed their Earth and Space learning, and they were able to show off their knowledge and asked excellent questions throughout the experience. We hope the children have enjoyed telling you all about it at home! I know many parents expressed their concerns in our survey about the lack of extracurricular experiences we have been able to offer throughout the pandemic. We have plans for many more experiences and events, and we hope the situation remains safe enough for them to happen!

Census Day
Our next Census is taking place on 20th January. As always there will be a special lunch for children to enjoy. We would like to encourage all children in Years R, 1 & 2 and children on Free School Meals, to take up the lunch as this affects our budget. Please see the separate attachment. Please note if you would like your child to enjoy Hot Dog Day, you must place your order on Parent Mail using the School Lunch option by the **end of the day on Tuesday, 11th January**. If you have already submitted your order for that day from the normal menu, you will need to change your order as this will be the only option. The Hot Dog Day menu is now available on Parent Mail. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, or your child is in Years Rec, 1 or 2, the meal will be free, but you still need to place your order on Parent Mail to enable us to order the correct quantity of meals. If you do not order from the Hot Dog Day menu, you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child. We apologise for the short notice but we only received the menu today.

Reading
I hope the children enjoyed their books sent home as Christmas presents at the end of term! A reminder that the children must be reading at home every day. This should mostly be their reading books sent home from school, but you can also make use of our Reading Eggs subscription to provide some variety - logins are in pupils' reading diaries. We continue to work hard on improving children's reading skills as reading opens the doors to all other learning. The most important thing you can do at home to support your child's education is encourage their reading, allow them to enjoy the experience. Please let us know if you need any support or advice for reading at home.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Manning
Headteacher

Growing minds for learning,crafting skills for life

Attendance W/c 13/12/21

Class	Attendance	Lates
Reception	78.6%	1
Year 1	82.7%	1
Year 2	89.6%	1
Year 3	87.0%	8
Year 4	84.4%	2
Year 5	86.1%	5
Year 6	87.0%	5

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 13/12/21

Year 1	3
Year 2	28
Year 3	23
Year 4	24
Year 5	29
Year 6	33

Coming Up...

Date	Event
15/01/22	Last day to apply for a Reception place for September 2022. Portal closes at midnight.
18/01/22	School Individual Photographs
20/01/22	Year 6 Height & Weight Checks
20/01/22	School Census & Hot Dog Lunch
02/02/22	Yr 5/6 Squash event @ JHGS 0930—1230
21/02/22-25/02/22	**Half Term**
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 reference)

- .Return to School (Parent Mail)
- Deadline for School Lunches w/c 17th January 2022 (Parent Mail).

This Week in School...

- **Nursery** have spent some time becoming familiar with existing routines and trying to remember our old nursery rules! Children have been busy making play dough and finding numbers in the environment. They have also enjoyed putting on dressing gowns and slippers in our home corner. Here, some children have enjoyed looking at magazines and chatting with their friends! The weather has caused lots of interest and the children had fun exploring the frost and ice in our garden.
- **Reception** have had a great start to the new term. We have written our holiday news in our books and have been learning about the number zero. We learnt about relay racing and some new football skills in PE with Mr Bell and have been practising them on our playground. Our teachers are very impressed with our phonics knowledge and how we are mastering blending—keep it up Reception! Word of the week: **'Relay'**. Key Song: **'5 Current Buns in a Bakers Shop'**. Key Book: **'I Forgot to Say I Love You'**.
- **Year 1** Happy New Year! It has been lovely to see the children again! In English, we have started learning our 'defeating the monster' story based on the story '*The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*'. We explored ways that the character, Mrs Grinling could protect the lunchbox. In Maths, we have been recapping our previous learning to prepare for our new units this term. In PE, we have started practising basketball skills.
- **Year 2:** Wow! What a wonderful week we have had. The children have settled in so well, I am really proud of them. This week in Maths we have been working on Identifying and understanding the multiplication symbol. Using this to write our own number sentences. In Topic we have had a tasty introduction to what is to come. The children had the opportunity to share the meals the like giving their reasons why. As we are now in Spring term 1 our timetable has been updated. I would like to inform our adults at home that **Year 2 Physical Education lessons will be on Mondays and Tuesday.** Kindly have children come in their P.E attires on these days. Thank you and wishing you all a wonderful New Year!
- **Year 3** Happy New Year! It is wonderful to have the children back and to hear all about their holiday activities! This (short) week back, we have read the most excellent story Where the Wild Things are. We read this to inspire us to write our cold write for our English unit and to start thinking about the different ways authors use language to affect the reader in our reading lessons. To further explore the story, we painted our own wild things! (They were not self- portraits!) ***A note regarding PE:*** Our PE days this half term will be **Monday and Thursday**. As before, please send the children into school in their PE kits.
- **Year 4** Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a relaxing break. The children have come back excited and ready to learn. This week we have begun to introduce our topic for this half term and we are all very much looking forward to exploring the island of St Lucia and Chocolate! We have spent some time looking at Chocolate packaging and I have asked the children to bring in any clean, empty chocolate wrappers into school. We have also begun to explore the geography element and our whole class reading book The Great Chocoplot. In Maths, we continue to learn about multiplication and division. Have a great weekend!
- **Year 5** What a great return to school this week! Thursday was our most exciting day yet - with our visit to the community centre to experience a Planetarium presentation. The presentation allowed us to truly understand the enormity of space and even made us feel like we were travelling through time. The rest of the day was spent consolidating our learning from our Space topic - including astronaut maths, constellation art and making space research presentations. What a wonderful way to jump back into learning! From Year 5- have a great weekend.
- **Year 6** have started the new year with great positivity and a fantastic ready to learn attitude. They have shown their maturity in all of their learning and I have been so impressed with how focussed they have been- particularly in Maths, where they have started to learn about percentages. The children have been able to draw on their prior knowledge about decimals and fractions and apply it to percentages. In Writing they have started their new topic; focussing on suspense. We have also started our new class reader, 'The Spiderwick Chronicles- The Field Guide'. Although a shorter week than usual, the first week has been busy, restarting all of our normal activities in full flow. The children also thoroughly enjoyed the Planetarium experience on Thursday. Ask them all about it! Have a lovely weekend.