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

Growing minds for learning, crafting skills for life

Spring Term Bulletin

Issue 24: Friday, 18th March 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have had a great week! I certainly have. My highlights have been seeing the children interact with the chicks, playing with Reception on their climbing frame at lunchtime, enjoying the sunshine on the field with Year 5 & 6 and seeing some of the fabulous learning going on in Upper School!

Safety

We have now had a number of accidents at the end of the school day, caused by children from Lower School running down the steps and hills towards the lower gate. I have spoken with our youngest children about this, but it is continuing to happen, and there are pupils that I need to remind every day to stay with their adults and walk safely. Please support me with this! I would appreciate it if you could remind your child to stay with you and to walk as they leave the site. I know they enjoy running and rolling down the hill, especially when leaving with their friends, and I do not want to spoil their fun! But, the hill and steps do pose a significant risk. I often say to parents and pupils that our main job at Ash Hill is to keep children **safe** and happy. Safety must come before all else, and this very much falls into that remit. I will be bringing some of my shiny stickers out at the end of the day on occasion to reward those children who are able to walk safely with their adults. Please let me know if your child has impressed you with this and I'll be happy to award them a sticker! Thank you for your support.

Clubs

There is much excitement amongst the children as our club list has finally been released! Many of you raised extracurricular activities as an area for development in our last parent survey, and we agree that this needs to improve now that covid19 restrictions have been relaxed. We have always offered a fantastic selection of clubs at Ash Hill, and our hardworking staff offer these at no extra cost. I am extremely grateful to them for putting together such an exciting selection of activities, and I look forward to seeing these start up again.

Parents Evening

We will be opening our booking system for parents evening very soon, and you will receive a notification on Parent Mail when this is ready. Please book as soon as you can as it is first come first serve. We are aiming to hold the meetings face to face, but there are likely to be some covid19 safety measures in place because we have seen a slight increase in positive cases recently. Please bear with us and respect any safety measures we ask you to adhere to. We would love for the event to go ahead as we are aware that you have not had a chance to see the children's books for a significant amount of time, but we need to be sure we can do so safely.

INSET Day Next Friday

Please remember that there will be no school for pupils next Friday 25th March. This is due to whole school phonics training.

Holiday Clubs

The Holidays and Food (HAF) Programme is funded by the Department for Education and provides free holiday activities and a healthy hot meal for children in Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals. There are some activities now being posted for the Easter holidays and spaces will be snapped up quickly. For more information look here Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) | Family Information Service (buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Manning

Headteacher

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Attendance W/c 28.02.22

Class	Attendance %	Lates
Reception	82.5	1
Year 1	90.7	6
Year 2	90.0	1
Year 3	95.2	10
Year 4	97.7	4
Year 5	95.2	4
Year 6	92.2	8

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

Community Mindedness Tokens

Year 1	32
Year 2	41
Year 3	23
Year 4	102
Year 5	61
Year 6	103

Coming Up...

Date	Event
25/03/22	**Inset Day**
28/03/22	Parent / Carer Consultations (Booking information to follow)
29/03/22	Parent / Carer Consultations (Booking information to follow)
30/03/22	Stay & Play Nursery & Reception
01/04/22	Hills Café Visit to Nursery
08/04/22	School Closes at **2.00pm** for Easter Holidays
11/04/22— 22/04/22	**Easter Holidays**
19/04/22	National Primary Allocation Day—Parents will be sent an email from Bucks CC.
25/04/22	**Inset Day**
26/04/22	School Re-Opens (Breakfast Club open at 8.00am)
30/05/22-03/06/22	**School Closed for Half Term**
06/06/22	**Inset Day**
05/07/22 & 06/07/22	Transition Days
20/07/22	School closes for Summer break **2.00pm finish**
21/07/22	Extra Leave Day

Letters This Week

Letters are sent via Parent Mail and available on the school website

- Easter Bonnet Parade
- Reception tea party cancellation
- Red Nose Day clarification
- Swimming reminder

This Week in School...

- Nursery have had fun making real tea outside! Here, the children showed good control of pouring and mixing with tools! They have enjoyed playing in the garden, creating picnics and reading books to the baby dolls. The children also demonstrated great scientific skills by investigating objects that would float or sink. Another fun week had by all!
- Reception have completed their work on the story 'The Little Red Hen' this week. They have learnt to retell the whole story and have been performing it each day. The children have been thinking about how the different characters in the story were feeling. They have been using their sound knowledge to write a question which the little red hen asked the characters in the story. For example, who will help me water the corn? The children have been cutting and creating their own hen out of coloured paper and have used their fine motor skills to carefully follow patterns to make a character from the story. We also watched some recordings of chicks hatching out of eggs, just like our chicks! They have loved the experience of holding or stroking our baby chicks in school. In PE this week, we had great fun with balloons, working with our friends to keep the balloon in the air and not touch the floor – a great activity could also be done at home! In maths, we have been practising forming our numbers correctly and have been continuing our work on combining groups of numbers and adding more. We have been looking at how to represent the numbers 9 and 10 and have used a 10 frame to help with this. Click here to watch our phonics video for this week.
- Year 1 have had a great week. The children LOVED our trip to the farm and they had a chance to experience seeing, feeding and petting lots of different animals. We were very lucky to have such nice weather and the children were great ambassadors for Ash Hill as their behaviour was brilliant! Thank you to our parent volunteers too! Not only did we see the animals in school but we also spent some time with our chicks in school. We looked at what they need to survive and even got to pet them! All of these experiences are great to support the children's science learning. As well as all these exciting things, Year 1 have been working hard on their writing. We are continuing our work on *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. In Maths, we have been practising counting in 5s and started our new unit all about measuring length.
- Year 2 have come a long way with their learning and it fills me with pride to reflect on their learning journey. Well done year 2! In Science, the children have learned more about the life cycle of chickens. They have created some lovely work showing each phase of their development. We have also learned about the habitats of living things and how this varies depending on their needs. In Writing, the children have learned to use conjunctions to extend their sentences and add more information We've also looked at reading from the eye of the reader and that of the writer. It was lovely to see the children being able to identify aspects of their toolkit in their model text. In Maths, we have moved onto fractions and are exploring what we mean by the terms; **part** and **whole**. In Reading, we are exploring words in context. Not only looking at the definition of the word but its meaning in a sentence or a particular part of a text. We are also working on spotting key information and / or words in a text. Keep up the great work year 2. Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine!
- In English this week, Year 3 wrote a letter as a new crayon. Our new crayon explained to Duncan why he quit, using conjunctions to extend our sentences, fronted adverbials to add more information to the verb and sentences of three to make our writing even more interesting! We really enjoyed coming up with silly reasons for why our new crayons quit! In Maths, we are showing Miss Bagguley true Ash Hill determination by measuring everything in sight! Sometimes, we find it a bit tricky to remember ALL the numbers but we know we have great learning resources around us that will help us work it out. In Science, we are busy learning all about skeletons and muscles so we can be the best personal trainer for Miss Killen!
- Wow! What a fantastic week for Year 4! They had their final swimming lesson, based around water safety, this week. I heard how amazing everyone was, so well done! You should be very proud of your children. We visited the chicks again, and they really have found their voice! The children enjoyed holding them. In maths we continue to explore fractions as decimals and in English we have innovated on the Zelda and the Rain Cat story to create our own tales. There have been some wonderful stories, using lovely descriptive language. In Science we started using classification keys to classify invertebrates. So a very busy, successful week in Year 4. I hope you all have a peaceful and enjoyable weekend.
- It's been another busy week in Year 5! We've continued looking at non-chronological reports and even started writing our own about sharks. In maths, we are becoming masters at adding fractions - we can fluently find common denominators to help us find the sum. We have carried on tracking the growth of the chicks and our plant clippings to provide us with scientific observations of different types of reproduction. From Year 5 - have a great weekend!
- Year 6 have been learning to understand and interpret line graphs and pie charts in Maths. In writing, we have been finishing off the imitation phase and are now ready to plan an innovation of the model text. We will be writing a sequel of The Night Fairy story! In science the children have learned about how water and nutrients are transported around the body and how a healthy diet and exercise can impact our bodies positively.

Year 1—Odds Farm