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

Growing minds for learning, crafting skills for life

Summer Term Bulletin

Issue 28: Friday, 29th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful Easter break. We have had a great start to the summer term, and my particular highlight was our first whole school face to face assembly today! We've not held a whole school assembly since September, so I was delighted to see the children in the hall together. Our Ash Hill claps are much more enjoyable with other people in the room! We talked a little bit about our value of the term; community mindedness. We will be working on this throughout the half term and we'd love to hear about any examples of children or families demonstrating this value.
We have had some new families join us this week, so a huge Ash Hill welcome to you!

SATs Tests
Year 6 will be taking their SATs tests in the week beginning 9th May. We will write to parents soon with more information about the organisation of the week. Year 2 will also be taking SATs tests in May. I know many parents wonder about how best to support the children to be ready for these tests. In Year 6, Mrs Imreen will be sending home regular short homework tasks. The regularity of the homework not only prepares children well for the tests and is very targeted to the gaps in their learning, it also helps to prepare them for secondary school where homework expectations significantly increase. Please support your child by encouraging them to engage with this homework.
In Year 2, you can support your child by ensuring they read **every day**. This has a significant impact on pupil progress.
The key consideration for both Year 2 and 6 is to ensure that children do not feel pressured by these tests. The children's responsibility is only to approach tests positively and to try their best; they can only do this if they are feeling relaxed. If your child is feeling anxious, please let us know. We recommend supporting children with mindfulness and making time for relaxation at home.

Sing and String
We have been offered an amazing opportunity for our Year 2 and 3 pupils to learn violins with Sing and String! This is free of charge, and the children had their first lessons today. Learning a musical instrument has been shown to have significant positive impact on pupils' learning and we are delighted to be working with professional music teachers.

New Telephones
Over the Easter break we had a new telephone system installed in the school. This has brought our system up to date and we are enjoying its new features! The experience for parents and carers remains similar, but you may have noticed a new message when you call with some additional options. Please listen to the message carefully before selecting an option so that calls can be directed appropriately.

Personal Development
In our parent survey this year we identified providing a range of experiences and opportunities as a development area. We expected this, as we have been restricted significantly by the pandemic. We continue to risk assess covid19 throughout the term, but we are in a position to recommence many of our usual activities at the moment. We will share a more detailed plan for summer events in this weekly bulletin over the next few weeks, so keep your diaries handy! Please be aware that we will continue to monitor the covid19 scenario in school and may still need to be flexible to respond to this. I hope you have been pleased to see the increase in activity over the spring term - from cricket to violins, chess club, chickens, farm visits and everything in between, we've been working hard to get back to those experiences that make our school so special.

Curriculum
Another area we have identified from the parent survey was our varied curriculum. We have reviewed our curriculum over the last couple of years and we are very proud of the range of topics and subjects the children study at Ash Hill. However, we know that parents were sometimes unaware of the variety available to pupils, and as such we are committed to communicating with you as much as possible about our curriculum. You can see the whole Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum overview here, and please check back on our curriculum page next week to see the Medium Term Plan and Knowledge Organiser for each class for the summer term.

Eid—Wishing a very Happy Eid to our families who will be celebrating Eid on Monday or Tuesday next week.

Bank Holiday
A reminder that we are not in school on Monday as it is the May bank holiday. Have a restful long weekend!

Mrs Manning
Headteacher

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Attendance W/c 04.04.22

Class	Attendance %	Lates
Reception	96.8%	0
Year 1	88.7%	0
Year 2	92.1%	0
Year 3	97.3%	1
Year 4	926.2%	0
Year 5	89.3%	0
Year 6	93.3%	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

Year 1	62
Year 2	56
Year 3	22
Year 4	75
Year 5	85
Year 6	27

Coming Up...

Date	Event
19/05/22	Farm coming in to visit Nursery and Reception
19/05/22	Census Day
25/05/22	Year 3 trip to the Ashmolean museum
30/05/22-03/06/22	School closed for Half term
05/07/22 & 06/07/22	Transition days
20/07/22	School closes for Summer Break 2.00pm finsish
21/07/22	Extra Leave day

Letters This Week

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

- Payment for the Farm Trip
- Year 2 and 3 Violin lessons
- Reception Class—Woodland Walk (Tuesday 3rd May)
- Nursery Open Day
- Year 1 PE and Forest School kit
- Year 2 PE days
- Football club change from afterschool to lunchtime session (Friday 29th April session)

This Week in School...

- Nursery have had an enjoyable first week back. The children were happy to see their friends and spent lots of time in the nursery garden talking and playing with a range of equipment, including the pushchairs and dolls! We have been looking at the story 'The Enormous Turnip' and have been busy digging and developing the mud kitchen area. The children have enjoyed transporting the mud in their wheelbarrows! Next week we are hoping to plant some seeds, any donations would be appreciated! The children have also used the story to think about size and weight. Core book this week: The Enormous Turnip. Key vocabulary, wife, turnip, enormous, push, pull, (ask you child to teach you the Makaton signs!) Key song: I dig my garden

- The Reception children have had a lovely week learning about the traditional story Little Red Riding Hood. They have made up the actions to be able to retell and perform the first part of our story map. To start off our work on this story, the children enjoyed a character hunt around the classroom - finding pictures of the characters in the story. They have also been writing labels to describe the items in Little Red Riding Hood's basket and have worked as a class to write descriptive words about Little Red Riding Hood. They used a picture of the forest to write a sentence using descriptive words such as cold, deep and dark and worked hard to remember to use a capital letter at the beginning, finger spaces between words and a full stop at the end of the sentence. The children especially enjoyed our come and play session on Wednesday. All of the children worked hard to show the parents the special ways we learn in Reception and all of the activities they enjoy doing both inside the classroom and in our outside area. The children have painted some fantastic pictures from our class story this week and have created their own 'basket of food' by carefully colouring the food items they would like to include in their own picture of a basket. In maths this week, the children have been using number cards 11-20 and have been representing the numbers in different ways, using cubes, Numicon and objects in 10 Frames. They have been trying to describe the number they have represented by saying "I have 1 full 10 and 6 more - the total is 16".

https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Gwy6lgcS

- Year 1 It has been lovely to seen all of the children after what I hope has been a restful break. This week, we have been looking at weight and mass in Maths. In English, we received a special box with something 'fragile' inside. Ask us about it! We started learning our new text map *How to Catch a Star*. This has been sent home so you can practise the story. We also made our own star decorations. In PSHE, we looked at our own and our classmates 'star qualities'. The children who went to Forest School had a great time! And the rest of the children had a very active PE lesson playing Cricket. A reminder that our new PE days are Tuesday and Friday.

Phonics videos this week:
https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gFMP1sY8

Phonics videos this week:
https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gFMP1sY8/JXsqHOHuhttps://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/HmTVMB6C/oWE7s9Rihttps://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Zfn0O6M2/wwJY0v7ghttps://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2g78a2iB/8QjsNDRB

Year 2 have had a brilliant week back at school. We've had fun learning this week and the children have really enjoyed getting into our Geography Topic 'Beside the Seaside'. The children were able to share their thoughts and ideas of the seaside but most of all they are eager to discover more. In Maths, we are learning about length and height. The children learned the skill of measuring with rulers as well as comparing lengths of objects, describing which items are shorter and which are longer. We also discussed the most efficient way of measuring the length of objects, in centimetres (cm) or metres(m). In Writing, our cold task took us to the end of the rainbow full of great adventures and incredible things to explore. I'm sure the children will enjoy sharing their creative ideas with you. During the Summer term, our PE sessions will ne on Mondays and Wednesdays. Kindly ensure that children come in their school PE attire. Well done all on our first week back! Enjoy a lovely weekend.

- Year 3 are really looking forward to our trip this half term to the Ashmolean museum in Oxford! We are eager to learn all about the Ancient Egyptians in our history unit and put this knowledge to use when we go on our trip at the end of half term! In English, we are learning all about traditional tales, but some of them have been changed! In Maths, we are continuing our learning journey in fractions and are starting to master counting in tenths. Next up, converting tenths to decimals!

- Year 4: What a brilliant start to a new term! In English, we are learning a warning tale called The Caravan. This week we made warning signs to go around the school. In Maths, we have started a unit on decimals using our prior knowledge of number bonds to 100 to help us. Our new reading book is called The Lightning Catcher and we made predictions using the front cover and blurb using evidence to support our answers. We also had a

- Year 5 It's been a great week back in Year 5! We've started reading our new class reader: Beowulf and have been quickly gripped by the dynamic and tenacious characters. Our new model text: Grendel, follows the story of one of these characters closely. In maths, we've started exploring decimals and understanding the meaning of the words 'tenths' and 'hundredths' when naming decimal place values. In topic, we considered why the Vikings would have wanted to leave their northern homes to raid, invade and eventually settle in Britain. From Year 5

- Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the Summer term and have been ready to learn. They have been extremely busy revising their previous learning in the build up to the SATs. This week, they have revisited their learning about geometry and measures as well as completing daily arithmetic questions. They have also started their new unit in writing- Explanation texts and the children have started this with fabulous enthusiasm and engagement. They have written an explanation text all about how to keep an 11 year old happy in their cold writes and a persuasive letter to their adults asking them to buy them a new pet.