



Ashby Hastings Primary School

Head of School – Mrs Rachel Mckeown

Senior Teacher – Mrs Amy Foster

“Inspiring minds to foster confidence”

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Newletter 2023/2024 Autumn Term 2



What a busy term we have had! It is great to see the buzz and excitement around school. Looking back over the past 9 weeks, we are amazed by all of the exciting things that have been happening in school. Lots of learning has been taking place and it is great to hear the children talk about different subjects with confidence. A big thank you to our amazing staff who deliver our curriculum with enthusiasm and inspiration, all working together to 'inspire minds to foster confidence'.

Thank you for your generous donations to Ashby Food Bank as part of our Harvest Celebrations. All donations were gratefully received in what has been an extremely hard year for so many.

I am sure you agree that our children shone during their recent productions of Christmas Counts and The Fireside Nativity. Our school value of confidence oozed during both performances.

A big thank you to everyone that joined us for our recent Christmas decorations morning too. We hope you enjoyed the many crafts on offer – creative talents were shining!

Another big thank you to all members of our new PTA who have already organised two wonderful events this half term. An amazing £280 was raised from the cake sale and £153 from the fabulous Christmas disco. These events have been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

I am very happy to let you know that work will be starting on our Forest School area in the new year. The assigned area will become a usable space for the children and we look forward to enhancing our outdoor learning opportunities.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a relaxing Christmas break and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming children back into school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Best wishes,
Rachel Mckeown

EYFS

This term we have been finding out about the different people in our community who help to keep us safe and healthy...real life superheroes! We loved turning on police car lights and sirens and finding out how to keep ourselves healthy after a visit by the dental nurses.

As part of our Christmas celebrations, we enjoyed a virtual author visit from Nick Sharratt and Pippa Goodhart. They read their new Christmas 'You Choose' book and taught us all how to be an illustrator.



Class 1

It has been a busy half term for Year One and we are amazed with the progress we are making! We are becoming experts at using our numbers to 10 in Maths and adding and subtracting independently. Stories have helped us to develop our writing skills and we can now create story maps to sequence our thoughts and bring our ideas to life! It has been great fun learning about our local area in Geography and it is so lovely to see the children applying their map skills in other areas of learning too (e.g. plotting a route for Santa's special deliveries!) Our Science knowledge of materials has been handy in designing and making our windmills in DT and we now know lots about the properties of materials and their uses. We are extremely proud of the resilience, hard work and determination shown by our Year One children and can't wait to watch them continue to shine in January.



Class 2

The last half-term has been full of exciting activities including a Christmas craft morning, our nativity rehearsals and exploring different materials and their properties in Science. The Christmas craft morning was a great success with the children baking and decorating their own gingerbread - wow, they were so yummy, even if we do say so ourselves! Science in particular has been a huge highlight; we explored materials and their properties and finished our learning with a HUGE problem! Poor old Splodge had broken his umbrella and we helped to mend and test the patched-up umbrella to see if it was still waterproof - luckily nobody got too wet!

In English, we have been exploring newspaper reports and presented our knowledge of 'The Great Fire of London' as a newspaper article and report. It was great fun watching the children present the latest Ashby Hastings News. We have also developed our fictional writing; the children wrote about a fire giant and ways in which their fire giant could be defeated - it was great to see their imagination and vocabulary... 'Using icy, cold water trickle it slowly over the menacing fire giant' was a great phrase that shows the ambitious vocabulary the children are beginning to use.

TT Rockstars has been a fantastic addition to our school, the children have really enjoyed taking on the challenges, especially those against the teachers! We are looking forward to launching our TT Rockstars in the new year with a TT Rockstar day, and I am particularly looking forward to seeing the children in their 'rock star' outfits!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2024!



Congratulations to children in our **red house** for collecting the most house points this term.



A big thank you to everyone that supported our visiting book fair. Thanks to all of your purchases we were able to stock up our library with almost £1000 worth of books for our children.



Anti-bullying Week 2023

'Make a Noise about Bullying'



We launched anti-bullying week 2023 with our Odd Socks Day. In assembly and in class we discussed what we can do if something happens to us or we see something that we are worried about. We discussed our school values of 'kindness' and 'teamwork' and looked at the definition of bullying.



Children in Need 2023



Mental Health Day #helloyellow



Cross Country

We are very proud of all of our runners and look forward to seeing our children run again in the new year.



Our annual sponsored Santa Fun Run 2023!

Dates for your Diary

17th January – Maths Information Evening – **6pm start** (Whole School)

8th March – 'Mums' to School – **9am – 10:15am**

11th March – Parents' Evening – appointments between 3:30pm and 6.00pm

13th March – Parents' Evening – appointments between 3:30pm and 7:30pm

22nd March – Easter Workshop – **9am – 10:15am**

3rd May – Class 1 Assembly – **9:10am start**

23rd May – Class 2 Assembly - **9:10am start**

14th June – EYFS Class Assembly – **9:10am start**

25th June – Sports Day – **EYFS – 9:00am start**

25th June – Sports Day – **Class 1 and Class 2 – 1:45pm start**

More information regarding each event will be sent to you closer to the date.



Merry Christmas from all at Ashby Hastings!