



Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery

22nd October
2021

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Headteacher

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@PrimaryAshleigh

Message from Mr. McConnell

It's been a busy half term here at Ashleigh and I want to thank you all again for your support over the last half term. We've been working really hard to get the school back to its best after the challenges of bubbles and lockdowns and your kind messages of support and understanding go a long way to helping us as we keep working to get things spot-on.

A new summary of our school development plan is on the website so you'll always be able to see what we're working on as a school from now on. I'll also be posting videos from half term to explain why we're working on those things.

As you know, this term, we've been making sure that our provision for reading is strong and that's meant some changes to our phonics schemes and, for the older children, changes to the reading books they're bringing home through 'Accelerated Reader'. Over the last few weeks, we've really seen these new approaches start to make a big difference to the children's learning and I can't wait for you all to start seeing it too. Learning to read and being able to read to learn are things we will always keep very high on our agenda as a school.

At Ashleigh, we also believe that as well as English and Maths, it's important that the children receive the best teaching and curriculum across all of the subjects so that's why we'll be developing our curriculum all year. We really believe that primary school plays such an important role in helping children to find out about their interests and enthusiasms and we want to make sure that at Ashleigh we're giving them lots of opportunities to do just that.

Really importantly, because children spend so much time at school, we need school to be a place where children don't just learn about academic things; they should also get the best guidance on being great people. I've been so impressed with how kind, friendly, confident and polite the children are at Ashleigh – it is a genuinely stand-out-amazing thing about the school, and I want to make sure we keep that going as a whole school community. This is why this week's question of the week is:

What qualities do you think are the most important for young people to develop during primary school? [Please click here.](#)

We want to develop a shared language around this and a shared understanding of why children at Ashleigh are so great, so that even when they move on to high school and on to being young adults, they can all meet any challenge with a strong belief in themselves.

Before all of that though, have a wonderful half-term and see you in November!

Covid - Increasing Cases

- Government advice is currently that children can come to school if someone in their household tests positive, but the children are showing no symptoms.
- However, we are seeing a growing number of positive cases within school, and would very much appreciate that children with positive family members do not come into school unless they have had a negative PCR test.
- If this situation arises within your household please do call and speak to us so that we can decide the best course of action for everyone.

If you or your child has any of the following symptoms:

- **A high temperature;**
- **A new, continuous cough;**
- **A loss or change to sense of smell or taste;**

please self-isolate and immediately book a PCR test.

- If the PCR result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons) but we advise that they do not return to school if symptoms persist and they continue to be unwell.
- If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

Wellies & Coats

- At this time of year children are only allowed to play on the field whilst wearing wellies. Please ensure your child has a pair of named wellies in school for use outside.
- It's starting to get colder, and wetter!, so please can children have coats in school every day.
- Please remember to **name all items** so we can reunite lost property with its owner.

Thank you.

Welcoming Parents back

We've made the difficult decision to keep 'Parent Consultations' over the phone this time. We'd love to welcome you all in to talk face to face but it would be a lot of people indoors together, so we're keeping it to phone consultations.

We know it's important for you to be able to see what goes on in school so we would like to offer some 'Open Classroom' events in the Autumn Term where you could come and see your child's work. We'll let you know when we've worked out the details of this.

Christmas is also in our thoughts and we're currently working out how we can celebrate together as a community – possibly with warm coats and umbrellas - but definitely together!

Parent Telephone Consultations: 1st-12th November

You will receive an email link to book a telephone consultation with your child's class teacher between 8:30am and 6pm, appointment days as below. The links will be sent out later today, if you have any problems please email office@ashleigh.norfolk.sch.uk for assistance.

| | |
|----------|---|
| Nursery | Wednesday 3 rd & Wednesday 10 th (a.m.) |
| Hedgehog | Tuesday 9 th |
| Squirrel | Tuesday 2 nd |
| Barn Owl | Thursday 4 th |
| Bat | Monday 8 th |
| Deer | Thursday 11 th |
| Fox | Wednesday 10 th |
| Birch | Friday 12 th |
| Hazel | Tuesday 2 nd |
| Elm | Thursday 11 th |
| Maple | Wednesday 3 rd |
| Mulberry | Friday 5 th |
| Willow | Monday 1 st |
| Ash | Friday 12 th |
| Sycamore | Friday 5 th |

Reception Open Evening - Wednesday 24th November

- Is your child due to start school in September 2022?
- If you would like to look round our amazing school, please call or email the office to book a tour:
01953 602410 or office@ashleigh.norfolk.sch.uk
- Tours will begin at the following times:
 - 4:15pm
 - 5:15pm
 - 6:15pm

We look forward to meeting you then!

No Dogs on Site

Can we remind parents/carers that dogs are not allowed on the school site (including being carried). If you are securing them outside of the school gates please make sure you leave plenty of room for children and families to avoid them as they come onto, and leave, the site. Thank you.

Accelerated Reader Millionaire's Club

- We would like to celebrate Evan Round this week for reaching the AR 'Millionaire's Club' this half term.
- Evan has read an incredible 1,482,366 words! What an achievement, well done Evan!

Staff News

- Mrs. Durrant, our Forest School Teaching Assistant, is leaving Ashleigh this week. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication during her time with us, and wish her all the very best for the future. Her work with our Forest School and the Farm will be greatly missed.
- We'll let you know about what we're doing next half term when we come back.
- We would also like to welcome Mr. Goldstone to our MSA Team!

Lost Cards

- If you have lost My Waitrose and Argos cards this week, they have been handed in to the office. The My Waitrose card is named, please bring some i.d. with you when you come to collect.

Half Term Free School Meal Vouchers

Vouchers will be emailed out to eligible families on 25th October 2021.

Transfer to Secondary School - September 2022

The easiest way to apply is on line at www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk or call 0344 800 8020 to request an application form.

31st October 2021: Closing date for parents to make an application for secondary school places September 2022

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|------------------------------|--|
| 1 st March 2022: | School place decisions are made available. |
| 22 nd March 2022: | Closing date for appeals against allocated places. |
| May-June 2022: | Appeals heard by the Independent Appeal Panels. |

Ashleigh Friends PTA AGM - 2nd November 7:30pm

- Ashleigh Friends will be holding their PTA AGM meeting on Tuesday 2nd November, 7.30pm via Zoom. Log in details will be sent nearer the time. Everyone is welcome to attend.
 - At the meeting we will be appointing the committee for this year and are looking to fill the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair. Both roles could be shared if there was more than one person interested. This is a really exciting time to join the PTA. Due to the restrictions of Covid we have not been able to hold face to face fundraising events for a while. This means there is plenty of opportunity for new members to bring in new fundraising ideas and to shape the future of the PTA.
 - If you are interested in either role and want a chat about it first, please feel free to email us at ashleighfriendspta@hotmail.co.uk
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Ashleigh Teacher Book Recommendation

Book title: The World Around Me

Author: Charlotte Guillain

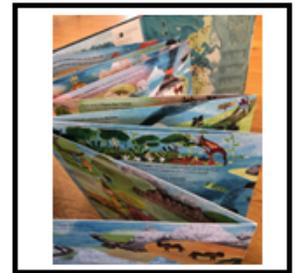
Illustrated by: Oliver Averill

My recommendation is this non-fiction book which has the whole world inside! I found this book in the library and I immediately loved it because there is so much to see; every time you open a page you will find something new. The book is filled with detailed illustrations of cities, landmarks and natural landscapes. Younger readers will enjoy noticing all the tiny details in the illustrations, older readers will find interesting facts to read on every page.

From the front cover, the book takes you on a journey through the world. The best part is that the pages have a surprising secret—they concertina out to 2.5 metres long, so you can see the entire journey! A world map inside the back cover shows the reader where they've been throughout the book.

The same author also writes "The Street Beneath My Feet", which takes the reader on a journey from the street to deep underground. Any budding archaeologists are sure to be enthralled!

I hope you enjoy it as much as I do! Please post on twitter with the hashtag [#ashleighbookclub](#) to let us know your thoughts on our book recommendation of the week.



@PrimaryAshleigh



#ashleighbookclub

Half-Term Tennis Session - Ages 5-8

Sam Howlett, is offering a Mini-Tennis session to children aged 5-8 years, on Tuesday 26th October from 9:30-11:30am, £10 per child. Please see link below if you would be interested in booking.

[Samuel Howlett Coaching / Tennis Fun Days \(Ita.org.uk\)](#)

Diary Dates

New or updated events

2021-2022 Dates

Autumn Term

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Fri 22 nd Oct | • 3:00/3:15pm School/Nursery close for half term |
| Mon 1 st Nov | • 8:30am/8:40am Nursery/School reopen |
| Tues 2 nd Nov | • 7:30pm Ashleigh Friends PTA AGM via Zoom |
| Wed 3 rd Nov | • Year 4 Swimming - Elm class |
| Wed 10 th Nov | • Year 4 Swimming - Elm class |
| Tues 16 th Nov | • Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations |
| Wed 17 th Nov | • Year 4 Swimming - Elm class |
| Wed 24 th Nov | • Year 4 Swimming - Elm class |
| Wed 1 st Dec | • Year 4 Swimming - Elm class |
| Wed 8 th Dec | • Year 4 Swimming - Elm class |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Fri 17 th Dec | • 3:00/3:15pm School/Nursery close for Christmas Holiday |
| Spring Term | |
| Wed 5 th Jan | • Staff INSET Day |
| Thurs 6 th Jan | • 8:30am/8:40am Nursery/School reopen |
| Fri 11 th Feb | • 3:00/3:15pm School/Nursery close for Half Term |
| Mon 21 st Feb | • 8:30am/8:40am Nursery/School reopen |
| Fri 1 st Apr | • 3:00/3:15pm School/Nursery close for Half Term |
| Summer Term | |
| Tues 19 th Apr | • Staff INSET Day |
| Wed 20 th Apr | • 8:30am/8:40am Nursery/School reopen |
| Mon 2 nd May | • Bank Holiday |
| Fri 27 th May | • 3:00/3:15pm School/Nursery close for Half Term |
| Mon 6 th Jun | • 8:30am/8:40am Nursery/School reopen |
| Fri 22 nd Jul | • 3:00/3:15pm School/Nursery close for Summer Holiday |

Previous Newsletters

If you would like information from any of our previous newsletters, please contact the office who will be able to help you.
