



Aycliffe Drive Primary School

Autumn 2019 Newsletter / Information sheet number 6



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... The Christmas tree and decorations have been put up around the school and we are all getting into the Christmas Spirit. We are really looking forward to the nativity plays from Ash & Elm and Birch, Chestnut and Sycamore and a Christmas Concert from our Nursery Classes. The classes will all soon be enjoying their Christmas

Fires, singing carol, decorating the woods and toasting their



marshmallows.



The Christmas Post Box is already accepting delivery of all your cards. We request that all cards be sent via the Aycliffe Drive Christmas postal service, please ensure that envelopes have the recipient's name and class written clearly on them. The postal Elves can only deliver to pupils and staff at Aycliffe Drive Primary School.

We are having a Christmas themed non Uniform Day for our colour tombola donations on the 6th December and a Christmas jumper day on 11th December to coincide with the Christmas lunch. These days are designed to be a day of fun for everyone. Some children may already have Christmas jumpers, but if you do not, we do not expect you to go and buy one. Why not turn an old jumper or T-shirt into a Christmas one. Have fun!

On Saturday 14th it is our Christmas Fair and we look forward to seeing you there. There will be tombola's, Mrs Claus Christmas Crafts, refreshments, market stalls and lots of Christmas Games, Our wonderful KS2 choir will be performing at the Fair and we will be having a visit from Father Christmas himself.



The Sun Books for Schools

The Sun has teamed up with HarperCollins to provide primary schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland a free pack of 106 books, worth more than £600! We have registered and would love you all to help us. Tokens are available from Saturday 23rd November until Saturday 18th January. Please return your tokens to the school office.



School Office

Lost Property, we have an increasing amount of lost property, if you are missing any items please check the lost property boxes outside the school office. All lost property will be recycled at the end of term if it is not claimed.

There are a large number of **reply slips** coming back into the School office, please ensure that any slips are returned to school in an envelope, clearly marked with your child's name, class name, details of the event and the correct money.



Please remember that all School Dinner accounts must be paid in full by the end of the term. School Dinners can be paid via the school office or the School Gateway. The School Gateway is central hub of information for our parents - so to stay up to date with what's going on at school make sure you download the app for free. Just search *School Gateway* in your App store and download. Please make sure all your contact details are correct with the school office.

Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Remember School Milk for next term is due by Friday, late forms will not be accepted, but don't forget you can pay via the School Gateway too.

Special Awards & Achievements

Congratulations to Jenson from Ash for passing his Duckling 2 for swimming.



We have an extremely talented group of children at Aycliffe Drive School. Many of our pupils are able to develop their talents through the wide variety of clubs we have on offer in school and many more are fortunate enough to participate in a range of clubs and activities outside of school.

If your child has received any special achievements or awards outside of school, let us know. Please send details to admin@aycliffedrive.herts.sch.uk, we would love to hear what the children are doing outside of school.

Attendance from the start of the Autumn Term



Please remember school starts at 8.45am and ensure that your child is ready to line up on the playground or enter their door for this time. If you child arrives after this time but before 9.00am please knock on their classroom door. Doors maybe closed because of weather and as safeguarding procedure. After 9.00am, please report to the school office.

Don't forget the school does not authorise holidays in school time and we do fine parents for taking children out of school unless there are unavoidable, extreme circumstances when the school may authorise this.

The school office must be notified if your child is ill or unable to attend due to a medical appointment or other unavoidable reason. Absences can be reported by calling 01442 404008 and using Option 1 and leaving a message. If you are calling early and not using this option there may not be someone available to take your call. If your child is absent without notification you will be contacted by telephone and asked to provide a reason for the absence.



Medical Appointments - We request that, where possible, routine medical and dentist appointments are arranged outside school hours as these appointments will affect your child's percentage attendance. We do understand that some appointments, such as hospital consultations, are not always possible to arrange outside of school hours. However, if your child's appointment time allows your child to come to school for registration and then leave this will have a positive impact on their attendance figure. This also applies if they are able to be back in school for afternoon registration.

Overall Attendance

| Class | Attendance | | Class | Attendance | |
|----------|------------|---|---------------|------------|---|
| Ash | 93.5% | ☹ | Hawthorn | 96.1% | ☺ |
| Elm | 93.6% | ☹ | Willow | 98.0% | ☺ |
| Birch | 94.4% | ☹ | Maple | 95.9% | ☹ |
| Sycamore | 96.5% | ☺ | Redwood | 98.5% | ☺ |
| Chestnut | 96.6% | ☺ | Oak | 97.1% | ☺ |
| Laurel | 96.6% | ☺ | Overall total | 96.2% | ☺ |

Attendance over 96% - a smiley face ☺

Attendance below 96% - a sad face ☹

Please remember to provide a confirmation letter for sickness and evidence of medical appointment, without this information the absence will not be authorised!!

| Autumn Term Events | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 5 th December | Hawthorn Christmas Fire |
| 6 th December | Christmas themed non Uniform Day for colour tombola donations |
| 10 th December | Redwood Class Assembly (parents invited) |
| 10 th December | Reception Play to parents |
| 11 th December | School Christmas Lunch Redwood Christmas Fire Gardening Club Christmas Fire |
| 12 th December | KS1 Christmas Play to parents Chestnut Christmas Fire Willow Christmas Fire Oak Christmas Fire |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 14th December | Christmas Fair |
| 17th December | Nursery Christmas Concert Laurel Christmas Fire |
| 18th December | Science Day Reception Christmas Fire Birch Christmas Fire |
| 19th December | Sycamore Christmas Fire |

Term Dates for 2019-2020

| Autumn Term 2019 | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Friday 20 December | School closes at 2.00pm for the Christmas holidays |
| Spring Term 2020 | |
| Monday 6 January | Staff training day (pupils not in school) |
| Tuesday 7 January | Pupils return to school |
| Monday 17 to Friday 21 February | Half term |
| Friday 3 April | School closes at 2.00pm for the Easter holidays |
| Summer Term 2020 | |
| Monday 20 April | Staff training day (pupils not in school) |
| Tuesday 21 April | Pupils return to school |
| Friday 8 May | May bank holiday - 75 th anniversary of VE day |
| Monday 25 - Friday 29 May | Half term |
| Friday 17 July | School closes at 2.00pm for the summer holidays |
| Monday 20 July | Staff training day (Pupils not in school) |
| Tuesday 21 July | Staff training day (Pupils not in school) |

School Governors

We are currently looking for new co-opted and parent governors to join our friendly governing body. Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:-

- ❖ Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school
- ❖ Is community spirited and would like to represent the community
- ❖ Has spare time and energy for the role
- ❖ Is able to work well as part of a team
- ❖ Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school
- ❖ Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements. These are volunteer positions and are open to parents/guardians or other people from our community. Co-opted governors are not elected by a parent election but are instead appointed directly by the governing body.

If you are interested, please contact the school office for an application form.