



Aycliffe Drive Primary School

Spring 2020 Newsletter / Information sheet number 8

Welcome to the new school term! We hope that you are refreshed and feeling positive about the opportunities that the New Year offers. This is a fantastic term for the children to knuckle down and achieve great things and we are all looking forward to seeing what that will be.

As always, as we move into the New Year, there will inevitably be a higher risk of inclement weather, linked with the possibility of school closure or later opening. In the event of heavy snowfall, parents should check for closure notices on the school website, Facebook, listening to local radio and www.hertsdirect.org as well as looking out for emails and texts from the school.



Any decision to close is not taken lightly. We make decisions that we think are for the best at the time and at the heart of everything is the health and safety of the children in getting to and from school, the safety of staff and ensuring there is adequate supervision. Decisions are made with senior staff, the chair of governors and other local Head teachers.

Please be assured that we always have the health and safety of the children uppermost on our mind. We continually risk assess, consider and evaluate what we do in snow and icy weather. Thank you for your support in advance with what inevitably is always a difficult time.

Decorate a Plate and Cake Sale



We are looking forward to seeing all your entries for the "decorate a plate competition", We have already had lots of brilliant entries. All decorated plates to be in school by Wednesday 22nd January for judging on Friday 24th January. There are some fabulous prizes on offer.

The children organising this would also like to run a cake sale for children at break time on Thursday 23rd January and they are looking for donations of cakes to sell. Children will be able to buy any cakes left over after school.



Nursery Volunteer



Do you love the outdoors? We are looking for a parent volunteer to help our Nursery class with Forest School on a Tuesday. If you are interested and can help, please contact the school office.

Safeguarding



On a sad note, this week we were alerted to some awful cyber bullying that has taken place on a WhatsApp chat group. Your children should not have access to platforms like this, but if they do we recommend that you regularly check your child's messages. We also advise taking your child's phone off them before they go to bed, as they will inevitably use it. Protect your child from cyber bullying by encouraging them to tell you if anyone says anything nasty to them online. Please read the following <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp/> for some top tips. We are currently working closely with the local police on this matter.

School Office

Please ensure that any slips returned to school in an envelope are clearly marked with your child's name, class name, details of the event and the correct money.

Ski hats are now on sale in the school office at £1.50 each.

It's Week 1 for school dinners after half term. School Dinners can be paid via the school office or the School Gateway. 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

Special Awards & Achievements

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 your child arrives after this time but before 9.00am please knock on their classroom door. Doors may be closed because of weather and as safeguarding procedure. After 9.00am, please report to the school office.

Holidays in Term Time, 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, using Option 1 and leaving a message. 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.

Weekly Attendance



Congratulations to Maple, this week's winner of our attendance cup with a very impressive 100% attendance. They were closely followed by Willow and Redwood who tied for second place with 99.3%, with Sycamore in third with 98.7%. Overall our weekly attendance for the whole school was 96.2% which is slightly above the Government recommended target of 96%. Well done everyone.

Overall Attendance

	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
Ash	93.0%	☹	Hawthorn	96.9%	☺
Elm	93.5%	☹	Willow	98.2%	☺
Birch	94.7%	☹	Maple	95.9%	☺
Sycamore	96.8%	☺	Redwood	98.0%	☺
Chestnut	96.2%	☺	Oak	97.2%	☺
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!!

Coming up so far next term	
20 th January	Nursery Open Morning for new parents 1.30pm
22 nd January	Year 5 & 6 Trip Harry Potter World Last day for Decorate a Plate entries
23 rd January	KS2 Choir to the O2 Cake Sale during school
24 th January	Year 5 Mini police Decorate a Plate judging

27 th January	Year 6 Health Survey online
31 st January	Year 5 Mini police
3 rd February	Nursery Applications Open Year 6 SATS information Evening
5 th February	Nursery Open Morning for new parents 9am
7 th February	Year 5 Mini police
11 th February	Willow Class Assembly to parents
12 th February	Chestnut Class Assembly to parents
13 th February	Nursery Open Morning for new parents 9am
14 th February	Year 5 Mini police
3 rd March	Nursery Open Afternoon for new parents 1.30pm
11 th March	Reception Assembly to parents
13 th March	Nursery applications close
25 th March	Parent Consultations
26 th March	Parent Consultations
31 st March	Maple Class Assembly to parents

Term Dates for 2019-2020

Spring Term 2020	
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)
Autumn Term 2020	
Wednesday 2 September	Staff training day
Thursday 3 September	Pupils return to school
Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October	Half Term
Friday 27 November	Occasional Day
Friday 18 December	School closes at 2.00pm for Christmas Holidays

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.

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