



Ash Croft Primary School Newsletter  
Autumn 2 2016 - Issue 2



Enjoy Achieve Succeed

We have jingled our way merrily to the end of a very busy term!

### **Goodbye**

We are sorry to say good bye to Mrs Jones. Mrs Jones has been with Ash Croft for over 30 years. She has made an immense impact on the children, families and the achievements at Ash Croft. Her tireless energy and endless enthusiasm will be missed.

Congratulations to Mrs Woodward who will be leaving us and starting her new role as Assistant Head teacher at her new school in January. Mrs Woodward has made a number of excellent contributions to school life over the past 17 years.

We thank them for their hard work and dedication to the children of Ash Croft and wish them the very best of luck.

### **Children in Need**

It was lovely to see both children and staff dressed up in their spotty outfits last month. The children had been very creative and even decorated old tops and made eye patches. Our total raised was **£340**: Wow! Thank you everyone.

### **Christmas Productions**

What talents do some of our children have! KS1 performed an excellent version of the Whoops a Daisy Angel. FS2 have enjoyed performing for the first time in school and were delightful. KS2 gave an interesting take on the nativity through a Strictly Come Dancing show. There were outstanding children in each show but all staff and children contributed and worked hard to make them all a great success. Well done and thank you to everyone.

### **Playtime and Lunchtime for FS2 children**

As our FS2 children have now settled in so well they will be joining the rest of the school on the playground for breaks and lunchtime play in the New Year. They will continue to receive additional support from our TA's throughout playtimes, but it is important for them to gain confidence and be able to integrate with the rest of the infants.

### **JoJoe Crow**

We have recently had a lunchtime visit from JoJoe Crow, who was promoting our fantastic school dinners. All the children sampled pieces of cake which tasted delicious and amazingly had carrots, beetroot, cauliflower and beans in them. What a great way to eat your vegetables!



### **Anti-bullying Week / Safeguarding**

This year's focus for Anti-Bullying Week was the **POWER of GOOD** which focusses on making the right choices if you witness someone being bullied; it is about having the confidence to **speak out** and know where to get the right support. As always, we have had a huge focus on cyberbullying, at the appropriate level, for each year group to ensure the children are aware and fully understand the consequences of using social media sites. Have a look at our website for some of the work the children have been doing. In line with helping pupils to stay safe online, we'd like to ensure you are aware that the minimum age to open an account on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Kik, and Snapchat is **13**. For Vine, Tinder and Yik Yak it's **17**. YouTube requires account holders to be 18, but a **13-year-old** can sign up with a parent's permission. It is essential that you are aware of what your

child is accessing at home and know how to use the security settings to protect your child when using the internet. Below are some useful sites for you to browse if you need support or advice about how to ensure your child is safe using the internet at home:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/>

<http://www.childnet.com/>

Safeguarding is given a highest priority at Ash Croft. There may be times when adults are concerned about children in the community. Please don't ignore concerns; child protection is everyone's responsibility. If you have a concern, please speak to your Inclusion Managers Mrs Haddon or Mrs Twigg.

### **PE Kits Outdoor**

All classes continue with outdoor PE throughout the year so make sure tracksuit/jogging bottoms, trainers and sweatshirts are in school for correct days. Please ensure that your child has their kit in school at all times and make sure PE t-shirts are white round necked **NOT** polo shirts. Do remember to send them back washed on the first day after the holidays.



### **Winter and Asthma**

You may find your child's asthma gets worse in colder weather. Make sure they always carry their inhaler with them out of school. Please also make sure your child has an inhaler in school - inhalers save lives!

All inhalers and medication must be prescribed by a doctor. You will need to complete a consent form when bringing in medication to school. The school cannot administer medication bought over the counter. Speak to the office staff if you have any questions.

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## **Awards/Achievements**

We would like to celebrate your child's achievements outside school as well as within. Please let your child's class teacher know of any achievements and awards.



Congratulations to class 4CM who have won a poetry competition. They will be having their poems published in a book.

The class with the best attendance this term goes to class 3AR, they have won £50 to spend on classroom resources.

## **Focus on Reading**

One of our main school targets this year is to improve the standard of reading across the school. Your children read, and are read to, regularly in class and we ask that you read with them as often as possible at home. Do remember that this is not just about sharing a book, it could be reading a shopping list, a takeaway menu or instructions on a game. Every time you sign your child's reading record, they have a chance of winning a book in assembly each week.



## **Being ready to learn**

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been observing teaching and learning across the school. Unfortunately, there are a significant number of children who are not ready to learn at the start of the school day. Some children are very tired and it is affected their ability to learn effectively. Please could you encourage your children to go to bed reasonably early? Thank you.

## **Mathematics calculations policy**

We are often asked how we teach formal methods of calculations in school. In order to answer this, we have put an updated calculations policy which will be on the school website by the end of this week. This explains the progression for teaching the 4 rules of number and the expectations by year group. A link can be found here:

<http://www.ashcroftandcottonsfarm.co.uk/> – Curriculum – National Curriculum – Maths.

## **Parent Governors**

We are still looking for parent governors. Governing Bodies of schools make decisions which are in the best interests of the children. Keeping the decision making as close as possible to those who are affected by the decisions makes for sound and efficient leadership and governance. The role is both a serious undertaking and extremely rewarding. Full training is provided. Please contact our School Office for further information!

## **Strike Action**

A reminder that there is no Breakfast Club for the rest of the term. Children will need to be collected from school at 12pm and returned to school at 1.15pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>. There are further strikes on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January when we return after Christmas. We are closed at lunchtime and for Breakfast Club on those days.

We look forward to seeing all children return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017. *We would like to take this opportunity to wish all families a peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year.*

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries or discussion points.

Mrs P. Brown – Executive Head

Mrs M. Ubhie / Mrs W. Jones – Head of School

**Listed below are the other important dates for your diaries this term.**

#### **AUTUMN TERM 2016**

19.12.16	Trip to Sinfin Church @ 1.45pm
20.12.16	<b>FINISH FOR CHRISTMAS</b>

#### **SPRING TERM 2017**

4.1.17	<b>Start of Spring term</b>
13.1.17	6LB Class Assembly
3.2.17	5CW Class Assembly
7.2.17	Safer Internet Day
10.2.17	<b>FINISH FOR HALF TERM</b>
20.2.17	<b>INSET DAY</b>
20.2.17	Start of Spring 2
28.2.17 - 1.3.17	Parents Meetings
2.3.17	World Book Day
10.3.17	3AR Class Assembly
24.3.17	Red Nose Day
31.3.17	2AG Class Assembly
7.4.17	<b>INSET DAY</b>
7.4.17	<b>FINISH FOR EASTER</b>