

## **Newsletter 4.11.21**

### **Staffing**

It is with great sadness that I have to announce that Mrs Kelsey is retiring at the end of this term. She has worked at Ashchurch for 27 years and has been an inspiration to pupils and staff alike.

Her humour, friendship and support will be greatly missed by all of her colleagues. I am sure that many parents, past and present, will share that sentiment and join us in wishing her all the very best for her future endeavours.

Following a rigorous interview process, I can also announce that we have appointed Mrs Elly Finley who will join us as Navigators Class Teacher from January 2022, working for 3 days alongside Mrs Willis. Mrs Finley is an experienced teacher who impressed in interview and I am sure will fit in brilliantly. Children in Navigators will meet her later this term.

### **Events**

#### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Non-Uniform Day**

All children in all classes can wear their own clothes instead of uniform on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. No payment is required but the PTFA would be really grateful of any wine and/or chocolate donations which they can use in their tombola at the Tewkesbury Christmas Lights event on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Children can hand any donations to their teachers at morning registration.

Explorers will not do a normal forest school session on Friday. They should wear non uniform the same as the rest of the school.

Navigators will take a break from gardening now until Spring.

#### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November - Individual & Sibling Photos**

Third time lucky! Any families who have younger siblings who don't attend our school and would like a photograph of them with their Ashchurch sibling(s) are welcome to come to the hall from 8.30am to have their photos taken. Please use the gate at the front of the school near the office. There may be a queue so your patience would be appreciated. One adult only per family and please wear a face covering.

All other children will have their photos taken throughout the morning. We are using the same company as the class photos in the summer. Proofs and instructions for ordering will come home at the end of the day.

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November – National Measurement Programme & Remembrance Day**

School nurses are in school for the national height & weight measurement programme for Reception and Year 6. Reception children will also have vision screening. To opt out [please use this link](#).

We will gather in front of the war memorial at the front of the school for an act of remembrance at 11am. You are welcome to join us, but please remember to keep a social distance from others and wear a face covering if you can.

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Clubs**

After school clubs will resume from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Monday : Adventurers Rugby & Navigators Netball (4.15pm)

Tuesday : Adventurers & Navigators Football (4.15pm)

Wednesday : Y2 Multiskills (4.15pm)

Thursday : Y1 Multiskills (4pm)

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Parents Evening (online with School Cloud)**

We will send booking instructions in the next couple of weeks. Appointments will be 3.30 – 7pm.

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Fair**

Given the outbreak of COVID19 we experienced before half term, we have taken the difficult decision not to hold an in-person Christmas Fair this year. We know that this is disappointing, especially for our amazing PTFA who have been working hard behind the scenes making preparations. We can't run this event safely given the numbers who attend, the space available and being unable to rely on the weather in late November. The PTFA are however working on organising a replacement 'virtual' Christmas fair with stallholders advertising their products and services in an online group. More details to follow.

The online raffle will still go ahead and the PTFA have once again sourced some amazing prizes. Prize details and link coming in the next few days – watch this space!

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Disco 3.15 – 4.45pm**

Not quite a Halloween disco but chance to have some with their friends after school nonetheless! £1 entry paid in advance via School Spider (if you paid for the postponed Halloween disco, this can carry over). Children can bring a maximum of £5 spending money in a named purse or wallet for drinks and snacks. They should bring a change of clothes in a named bag into school in the morning ready to change at the end of the day. Unfortunately, Reception parents will be unable to stay as is usually the case but there will be staff on hand to make sure that they are OK and we will have a trial run beforehand with the disco set up so they know what to expect.

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Productions**

Similar to the Christmas Fair, we have taken the difficult decision not to hold a traditional Ashchurch Christmas production this year. We are in 'bubbles' that do not mix for the first two weeks which leaves just 3.5 weeks to rehearse. Our shows involve the whole school and tickets always sell out. Packing 130 children and 120 parents into the hall just isn't feasible this year. Those of you who have attended our shows before will know just how 'cosy' they are!

We had considered putting on a show 'behind closed doors' and filming it for parents, but without the income from ticket sales, it would make a sizeable dent in the school budget. We also feel that the younger children wouldn't cope with spreading the performances out over more days to limit the size of the audiences.

Instead, our plan is to produce a 'Christmas wishes from Ashchurch' montage video of classes singing, dancing, acting and being festive which we will share towards the end of term.

Again, we know that this will be disappointing, but please be reassured the decision wasn't taken lightly and a range of options were considered.

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch**

This will go ahead as planned.

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Class Parties**

These will go ahead as planned.

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Carols in Church**

We are leaving this one pencilled in for now! It's right at the end of term and minimal practise and preparation is needed so we have a bit of time to see how things pan out. It may even be that we can do something creative outside. Fingers crossed!

### **180 Years of Ashchurch**

2022 marks the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ashchurch Primary School and we are very keen to mark this occasion and celebrate the history of our school. Some of our parents and siblings who attended Ashchurch themselves may well remember previous celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup>, 160<sup>th</sup> and 170<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. We are working on plans and will share these early in the new year.