



# Ashley Junior School

Ready • Respectful • Responsible



**Bulletin 6— Friday 13th October 2023**



## Letters home link

Do remember all letters home are available on our new Website:

**Whole School  
PTA Letter -  
Sparkle and Shine**

[https://  
www.ashleyjunior  
school.co.uk/  
page/?  
ti=  
ti=Letters+Home  
&pid=71](https://www.ashleyjunior.school.co.uk/page/?ti=Letters+Home&pid=71)

## COMMUNICATION NEWS!



### The Arbor Parent Portal

Arbor is our school database, which holds all of your child's key data. This information includes your address and contact details.



Arbor can be accessed either through a web browser or an app on your phone. The app also allows you to confirm the contact details we have on file for you.

***PARENTS—Please look out for an email next week with information about how to set up your link to the AJ's Arbor Parent, using specific login details—thank you!***

*We would really appreciate it if parents could complete this term's 'Parent questionnaire'.*

*Click on the link below:*

[https://forms.office.com/e/  
bWYWZ3PELz](https://forms.office.com/e/bWYWZ3PELz)

**THANK YOU!**



## ARRIVE ON TIME!

Our school gates are open between 8.45—8.55am, and then they close.

Look out for **TOKEN TIME** next week, and be **READY** to pick up your token!



## MarvellousMe Badges

Recognising positive behaviours and awards



***142 parents(55%) have signed up to our MarvellousMe— make sure that you have downloaded the app so you can see the praise for your children!***

***Marvellous Me now also has links to our new website, the school calendar and newsletters...SIGN UP TODAY! DON'T MISS OUT!***

## **YEAR 3 PARENTS -**

***DON'T FORGET TO GIVE YOUR DONATION IN FOR THE EXPLORER DOME EVENT. THANK YOU!***



# OUR NEW AJS WEBSITE IS LIVE!

<http://www.ashleyjuniorschool.co.uk/>

We are very pleased to announce that our new AJS website is now live.

Please have a look to familiarise yourselves with the new layout.

*In particular, by clicking on the **top** section options, there is:*

- *the new 'Newsletters' drop-down option, which will take you directly to the latest Newsletters;*
  - *the new Contact Form under the 'Contact Us' option*
  - *the 'Letters Home' section under the 'News & Events' option*



## AJS CAKE SALE in aid of MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Thank you to the AJS community for donating money to our special cake sale two weeks ago. You helped to raise a grand total of **£397.99!**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH...**



Ashley Junior School  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
£5.00 per ticket

Ticket price includes a movie snack bag  
(Crisps, popcorn, bag of sweets and a Christmas gift)  
Children will need to bring their own drinks bottle.

# Christmas Movie Night

Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 Polar Express  
3:30pm – 6:00pm

Closing date for ticket purchase is  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Payments to  
be given to the school office in  
named, sealed envelope with the  
correct payment enclosed.

No tickets can be purchased on the  
door.

Parentkind  
Member Association





## WHATSAPP ISSUES

Recently, there have been **several incidents** related to the misuse of WhatsApp groups, by children, outside of school hours.

We would like to remind parents and children that the minimum age for using WhatsApp is **16 years old**.

As a school, we strongly advise you to remove your child from chat groups involving other children, as this can cause issues in and outside of school. We urge all parents to keep an eye on their child's mobile phone and online activities involving social media.

*Please note - It is parents' responsibility to monitor mobile phone use outside of school - this is NOT the school's responsibility. Thank you for your understanding and help with this.*



## Harvest festival 2023

Thank you for the donations to our Harvest festival.

**DON'T FORGET—**

Year 4 parents are welcome to join us in our  
Harvest assembly 9:15am - 9:30am on  
Thursday 19th October.

## PTA SMARTIES CHALLENGE 2023

Thank you to those who  
have returned their  
smartie tube.

Closing date - Wednesday 18th  
October



MEDICINE

## Medication

In school, we keep a supply of  
pain relief in the event of an  
**emergency.**

If you *know* your child will require pain relief during the school day, please send a supply in from home in its original packaging and make sure that permission has been shared directly with our office team.



THE ARNEWOOD SCHOOL

**Year 6 welcomed Mr Anderson, Headteacher of The Arnewood School, into their assembly this week.**

They had lots of great questions to ask him and loved finding out all about life in Year 7 at Arnewood.

*Thanks for coming, to visit AJS, Mr Anderson!*

## **YEAR 6 PARENTS: Countdown to secondary school application deadline**

*If you have not already done so the deadline is 31st October*

Parents yet to apply can now [go online](#), or alternatively request paper forms by emailing [admissions.team@hants.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.team@hants.gov.uk) or from any Hampshire school.

Parents who apply online and on time will be notified of the outcome of their application on 1 March 2024, and two to three working days later by letter if they applied using a paper form.

For more information about the admissions process, visit the [County Council's website](#).



## **CHILDREN NEED TO WEAR A COAT EVERYDAY!**

**AS AUTUMN HAS NOW FINALLY ARRIVED, PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS A NAMED, WATERPROOF COAT TO WEAR TO, DURING AND FROM SCHOOL, EVERYDAY.**

**THANK YOU!**

***If you need any support with providing school uniform please contact the school office***





## Ashley Family Hub

Dear families,

Ashley Infant School is delighted to re-launch the Ashley Family Hub from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Our new & improved Hub is focused on providing a fun and inclusive session aimed at babies, toddlers & pre-schoolers and their families. Each week there will be FREE craft, toys, a visiting interactive session (Rhyme time, movement and dance, Jiggy Wrigglers) and refreshments.

The Hub is fully inclusive and welcomes all children from the local area to our friendly and fun sessions.

The Hub is run by our fabulous volunteers who have a wealth of experience to support families and signpost them to local events and family centred support. We are proud to be chosen as this year's Mayor's Charity.

We'd love you to come along with your little ones (ages 0-5) and bring your friends, every Tuesday at Ashley Baptist Church, BH25 5AA from 10.30 – 12pm during term time.

This term at the Hub:



Rhyme Time - 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December



Sing and Move with Candice - 10<sup>th</sup> October, 21<sup>st</sup> November



Dancing with Michelle from NM Academy of Dance - 17<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> November



Jiggy Wrigglers - 31<sup>st</sup> October, 28<sup>th</sup> November, 12<sup>th</sup> December



# SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

## A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Israel, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

### 1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.

### 2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

### 3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

### 4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

### 5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

### 6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

### 7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example), it's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

### 8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

### 9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

### 10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

### 11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

### 12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

## Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

<https://www.nos.co.uk/resources/10-tips-for-supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/> <https://www.nos.co.uk/resources/10-tips-for-supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. Notability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.10.2023



## STAR READER

Wren  
Sophie

Kestrel  
Oscar

Kingfisher  
Iris

Skylark  
Theadora

Barn Owl  
Marley

Eagle  
Iris

Hawk  
-

Osprey  
Hollie

Merlin  
Isabelle

Robin  
Isabelle



## TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Wren  
Sophia

Kestrel

Kingfisher  
Iris

Skylark  
Liam

Barn Owl  
Thomas

Eagle  
Iris

Hawk  
Samuel

Osprey  
Daniel

Merlin  
Lois

Robin  
-



## HIGH FLYER



Wren  
Jake

Kestrel  
Louis

Kingfisher  
Iris

Skylark  
Harry

Barn Owl  
Thomas

Eagle  
Faiz

Hawk  
Freya

Osprey  
Hollie

Merlin  
Jeffin

Robin  
Raymond

## TOP DOODLERS

Wren  
Maths Sophia  
Spelling Arya

Kestrel  
Maths Darcy  
Spelling Oliver

Kingfisher  
Maths Luca  
Spelling Kaitlin

Skylark  
Maths Amber  
Spelling Grace

Barn Owl  
Maths Will  
Spelling Erik

Eagle  
Maths Finley  
Spelling Sisi

Hawk  
Maths Alex  
Spelling Alex

Osprey  
Maths Kajetan  
Spelling Aliou

Merlin  
Maths Jeffin  
Spelling Joey

Robin  
Maths Tom  
Spelling Molly







Attendance Matters



**Families can take various steps to support pupils' attendance, so that every child is READY for school:**

- create opportunities, after school, for children to talk about their time at school
- staying up to date with all communications from school
- avoiding school absences where possible – for example, by arranging GP and dental appointments outside of school hours
- building consistent bedtime routines – sleeping well, for the right length of time, helps improve energy levels, mood and concentration
- establishing good morning routines at home to help children arrive at school on time, having had a good breakfast and ready to start the day

**Attendance Figures**



**Did you know? 90% attendance may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss 19 days of the school year ...which is nearly 4 weeks!**

**97% and above** - Less than 6 days absence in a school year. Pupils with this attendance should achieve the best possible outcomes.

**96%** - 8 days absence in a school year. "Good attendance". Pupil with this attendance are more likely to achieve their targets.

**92%** - 15 days absence in a school year. Pupils with this attendance are missing 3 weeks of school per year; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best. AJS may ask for medical proof to authorise absences.

**90%** - 19 days absence over the school year. Pupils with this attendance are missing approximately a month (19 days) of school per year and may fall behind academically and socially. With this level of attendance, the Department for Education consider children to be a 'Persistent Absentee'. Parents will receive letters about attendance and be asked for a meeting to discuss attendance.

**85%** - 29 days of absence in a school year. These pupils are missing approximately 6 weeks of school a year. It will be very difficult for them to keep up and achieve their best and build relationships in school.

**80% - 75%** - Pupils with this attendance are missing a day for every week of school! It will be almost impossible to keep up with their work. Parents of pupils with this level of attendance will be made known to the Hampshire local authority Attendance Team and also may face legal action if there is no medical or other authorised reason for their child's absence.



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....** *NEW EVENTS IN RED*

19th October

Harvest Festival Whole School Assembly 9.15am  
(Year 4 Parents Welcome)

**23rd—27th October**

**Half Term**

**30th October**

***Inset Day - School closed to all children***

10th November

Remembrance Assembly (Year 6 Parents invited)

1st November

PTA meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm parents welcome

3rd November

PTA Doughnut Friday

(more details to follow)

13th—17th November

Anti-bullying week

17th November

Children In Need—SPOTacular—wear something spotty for a donation

20th—24th November

Maths week

22nd November

Flu immunisation (pupils)

29th November

Year 3 Onsite event—Explorer Dome

1st December

PTA Sparkle and Shine Day - donate raffle prize

5th December

Poetry performance—Lower School 2-2.45pm  
Year 3&4 parents invited( details to follow)

7th December

Poetry performance—Upper school 2—2.45pm  
Year 5&6 parents invited( details to follow)

12th December

Whole School visit to Ashley Baptist Church (children only)

13th December

Christmas lunch & Christmas Jumper day

13th December

PTA—Movie Night

15th December

Sing-a-long and Carols (children only)

15th December

School finishes 1:30pm