



Ashley Junior School

Ready • Respectful • Responsible



Bulletin 4— Friday 29th September 2023



Letters/email/text home this week...

Do remember all letters home are available on our website

Whole School
Marvellous me

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

Please note the school website is currently being upgraded and may not contain the latest information

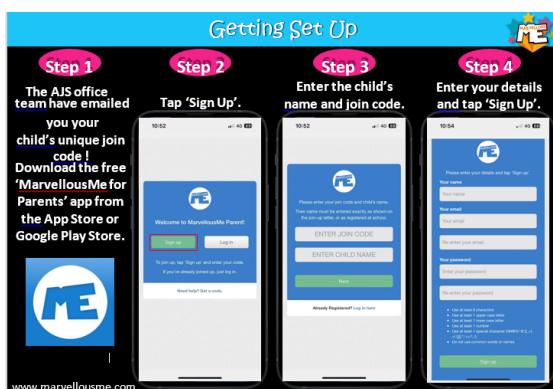
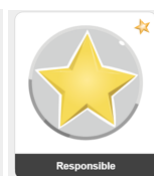
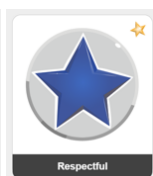
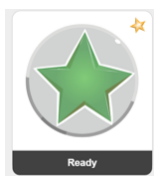


MarvellousMe Badges

Recognising positive behaviours and awards



This week, we have emailed all parents their unique 'join code', and parent guide, to help with the set up of each child's new Marvellous Me account. Once the app and account is activated, you'll notice that our teachers will be sending MarvellousMe badges to praise the children for progress and success, and to reinforce our school values of being:



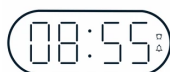
We are really looking forward to launching this NEXT week- don't forget to download the app and get started!



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!



THANK YOU!

Parents' Evening

PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Thank you to those families who were able to attend our first face-to-face meetings of the year.

It was great to see so many of you come into school to meet the teachers and to find out how your son/daughter has settled in.

If you were unable to attend this week, but would like to make an appointment to meet the teacher, please speak to our office team to arrange a convenient time in the next few weeks.



AJS CAKE SALE in aid of MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

We are very grateful to Isla (Year 6) and her family for planning and organising this very special charity event. Thank you to the AJS community for bringing in donations to raise money for this special charity - the total amount raised will be revealed soon!



Our thanks goes to these businesses for donating cakes:



AJS SCHOOL 'UNIFORMD' SHOP- COAT SALE!

www.uniformd.co.uk/ashley-junior

The AJS school uniform shop will be having a **25% flash sale on coats** for this weekend only.

The prices listed on the website will be the sale price, live from today!

Thank you to all parents for making sure that the children are **READY** for school, wearing their uniform with pride.



POLITE NOTICE: AJS' Reputation in the Local Community

We are **very** proud of our school and would like your help to ensure that we continue to have a positive reputation within our local community. Please could all parents help us by :

- parking safely, showing consideration to others, on local roads;
- reminding your children to behave respectfully in the Ashley Park next to the school.
- using polite language at the school gates, on site and on local paths.



THANK YOU



PTA SMARTIES CHALLENGE 2023

The PTA Smarties Tube Challenge is back! Our amazing AJS PTA would like to kick start our fundraising this school year with the Smartie Tube Challenge 2023. Last year's challenge fundraising proved very successful and we would love to do the same again this year. The PTA wishes to raise funds for the school to enhance school life for every pupil. We could not do it without your support.

Your child was given a tube of Smarties and a letter about this last week - every pupil in the school has received one. **We are challenging you to save and fill the tube with as many 20 pence coins as you can over the coming weeks.** There will be a group class competition. The winning class that raises the most money will receive a bundle of new wet play activities and games for their class!

Year 6 - English and History Workshop- WW1

The year 6 enjoyed a WW1 history workshop. They threw grenades, bandaged the injured, created propaganda posters and learnt what life was like in the trenches. A big thank to all those parents who supported this event. The children had a wonderful time, these experiences bring the learning to life.



BREAK TIME SNACKS

At AJS, mid-morning break time snacks should only be fresh or dried fruit/vegetables.

Children can eat other types of food/snacks at lunchtime, as part of their packed lunch or hot school meal .





Ashley Family Hub

Dear families,

Ashley Infant School is delighted to re-launch the Ashley Family Hub from Tuesday 3rd 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 - 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December



Sing and Move with Candice - 10th October, 21st November



Dancing with Michelle from NM Academy of Dance - 17th October, 14th November



Jiggy Wrigglers - 31st October, 28th November, 12th December

Opportunity
Make a difference



Apply to be a parent governor

We are currently seeking applicants for the opportunity to join our school's governing body

Successful applicant(s) will:

- join a friendly and dedicated team;
- be supported to develop useful new skills and knowledge;
- work with school leaders to assist children and young people to fulfil their aspirations;
- give something of significant value back to our community.



Please get in touch to find out more about this opportunity

Closing date
12pm Friday 13.10.23.



Hampshire
County Council

Contact **Charlie Bartolomeo Headteacher**
Telephone **01425 616510**
Email **adminoffice@ajs.hants.sch.uk**

You can find out more about the governing body on our website:

<http://ashleyjuniorschool.co.uk/governor-zone/>

For more information about being a school governor in Hampshire visit:
hants.gov.uk/governors-volunteer



We are taking part in Walktober this term!

By travelling actively and/or sustainably throughout October, we can all get moving for our wellbeing, our community and our planet.

We hope as many of our pupils and staff as possible can get involved by walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, using Park and Stride and public transport more often.

We will also be running a Walktober competition for your child to enter. Each pupil will receive a Walktober Challenge Card, which sets four weekly challenges to try over the course of the month plus a bonus task for the final two days. The weekly challenges can be adapted if necessary, or your child may like to come up with their own ideas instead.

Please see the parent and carer leaflet for more details, including how to submit your child's competition entry, or visit myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober for information and ideas.

We hope you enjoy being part of Walktober at AJS!

STAR READER

Wren
Jake

Kestrel
Isabella

Kingfisher
Madison

Skylark
Woody

Barn Owl
Will

Eagle
-

Hawk
Scarlett

Osprey
Poppy

Merlin
Joey

Robin
Raymond



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Wren
Arya

Kestrel
-

Kingfisher
Amber

Skylark
Leonardo

Barn Owl
Freddy

Eagle
Louisa

Hawk
Alex

Osprey
-

Merlin
Thea

Robin
-



HIGH FLYER



Wren
Harry

Kestrel
Faith

Kingfisher
Kaitlin

Skylark
Brayden

Barn Owl
Layla

Eagle
Jiyona

Hawk
Isla / Alex

Osprey
Logan

Merlin
Joey

Robin
Holly

TOP DOODLERS

Wren
Maths Robin
Spelling Robin
Kestrel
Maths Emma
Spelling Priya
Kingfisher
Maths Iris
Spelling Evalyn
Skylark
Maths Theadora
Spelling Izzy
Barn Owl
Maths Lilly
Spelling Eilidh
Eagle
Maths Yasmine
Spelling Sisi
Hawk
Maths Alex
Spelling Alex
Osprey
Maths Kajetan
Spelling Harrison
Merlin
Maths Florence
Spelling Florence
Robin
Maths Noah
Spelling Bonnie





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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.6% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NICOTINE ADDICTION

Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.

WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be **disposable** (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or **rechargeable** (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

LACK OF AWARENESS

A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of addiction: that is, they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.

POTENTIAL TOXICITY

Many vape liquids have been found to contain "heavy" metals such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury – all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes were only introduced into the UK in 2005 – and, because of the relatively short timeframe involved, there is insufficient medical evidence to assess the long-term harms that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.

ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING

The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, frequently echoing the colours and flavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and vaping is often depicted positively on social media – which can lead young people to develop favourable views of vaping and overlook the possible harms.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

In the UK alone, around 1.3 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being recycled, their components – a lithium battery and a chemical liquid – pose a toxic risk to the environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. Vapes are also predominantly made of plastic and metal; materials that, of course, do not naturally decompose.

WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing a link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria – resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.

UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illegal chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked – presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vape fluids (unregulated in the UK) contain traces of nuts, which can cause an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging – with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.

VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS

Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some strawberry and banana flavour e-liquids can kill cells in the blood vessels and heart. These ingredients aren't identified on the packaging, instead falling under the umbrella term "natural and artificial flavourings". Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potential risks.

Meet Our Expert

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Schools Service (commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council), Catch Your Breath is a school-based project aimed at young people. Its goal is to embed a positive, coordinated approach among both primary and secondary schools in discouraging smoking and vaping behaviours.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

The National College

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-69309924>



www.thenationalcollege.co.uk



@thenatcollege



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

2nd October

2nd October

19th October

23rd—27th October

30th October

10th November

1st November

3rd November

13th—17th November

17th November

20th—24th November

22nd November

29th November

1st December

5th December

7th December

12th December

13th December

13th December

15th December

15th December

Wren - Class Parent Consultation

Kingfisher - Class Parent Consultation

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

Half Term

Inset Day - School closed to all children

Remembrance Assembly (Year 6 Parents invited)

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

PTA Doughnut Friday

(more details to follow)

Anti-bullying week

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

Maths week

Flu immunisation (pupils)

Year 3 Onsite event—Explorer Dome

PTA Sparkle and Shine Day - donate raffle prizes!
(More details to follow)

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

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

Whole School visit to Ashley Baptist Church (children only)

Christmas lunch & Christmas Jumper day

PTA—Movie Night (details to follow)

Sing-a-long and Carols (children only)

School finishes 1:30pm