



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Good afternoon,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the half term. What a busy week it has been, with parents evenings, anti-bullying week, Children in Need and Year 6 on a safety workshop trip to Crucial Crew.

There is the usual information from each class this week, plus some additional information about the trial change to our morning snacks.

Ashton Owls – Wraparound Care That Benefits Every Child

We are delighted with how successful Ashton Owls has been this term. The children who attend our before and after-school sessions have thoroughly enjoyed the new resources we've invested in; from creative art materials and a wide range of games to calming activities like jigsaws and stitching, which have become particular favourites. These sit alongside the active sessions that Jay leads most evenings, giving children a wonderful balance of fun, creativity and movement.

As many of you know, Ashton Owls is run directly by school, and the income it generates is reinvested straight back into improving the education we provide. Thanks to your support, we have already been able to fund important developments such as our new spelling approach, updated phonics resources, an exciting new communication platform for EYFS parents, and improvements planned for the EYFS outdoor area. It is also helping us maintain our school environment and purchase new PE equipment for all children to benefit from.

We want to continue growing Ashton Owls so that it reaches full capacity every day, providing high-quality, reliable wrap-around care for our families. If you currently use another provider, or if your childcare needs are changing, please consider giving Ashton Owls a try. We offer excellent, flexible provision; including the option to book single sessions as late as the day before - all at a very competitive price.

By choosing Ashton Owls, you're not only securing great childcare for your child; you're also directly supporting the school to deliver even better resources, opportunities and experiences for every pupil.

We would love to welcome more families to Ashton Owls - please speak to the school office if you would like to book a session or find out more.



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Owls:

The Owls have had a fantastic start to the new half term! We have begun exploring our new English book—a fantasy adventure that is already inspiring plenty of imagination and excitement in the classroom. In Maths, both Year 3 and Year 4 are making excellent progress with multiplication and division. With a TT Rockstars tournament on the horizon, we encourage pupils to keep practising these skills at home!

Our Geography lessons have taken us to the Arctic Circle. Using atlases and Google Earth, the children have learnt where it is located and have begun to explore its unique climate. In PSHE, we have been discussing multiculturalism and the importance of showing respect to people from all backgrounds. The children have shared thoughtful ideas and shown great maturity.

Peregrines:

The Peregrines have had a fantastic week of learning! In English, the children have been busy crafting 100-word stories inspired by *The Lost Happy Endings*, using expanded noun phrases and dialogue with increasing accuracy and confidence. During PSHE, they have been exploring the important differences between unkind behaviour, teasing, and bullying, showing thoughtful discussion and empathy. In DT, the class is finalising their designs for their textile Christmas decorations. Our Year 5s are also excited about beginning their additional reading comprehension homework. Well done, Peregrines, for another brilliant week of hard work and enthusiasm!

Buzzards:

Buzzards have had a fantastic first two weeks back. It has been lovely to catch up with our friends after half term and to get back into the swing of learning. Buzzards have loved getting stuck into our new topic for History and for English: Black History. Already, they are having such mature conversations around the subject and giving such thoughtful responses. As mathematicians, we've been looking at fractions, exploring how fractions with different denominators can be compared. Buzzards have also enjoyed stepping up this week in their roles as buddies and as members of our pupil parliament. They enjoyed a lovely afternoon with their buddies on Tuesday, creating beautiful remembrance-themed artwork and have also spent an afternoon with Mr Bell coming up with amazing ideas for the school with their minister hats on!



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter



Sparrowhawks:

Sparrowhawks have had a lovely 2 weeks settling back after the week holiday. We started last week with a workshop from SCARF learning about how we can keep our bodies healthy with the help of Gerald the giraffe. This week we continued our PSED learning with a session on bullying and kindness. We have been learning about Guy Fawkes and bonfire night, exploring the reason we have bonfire night and how it is celebrated - the children did some great work in the continuous provision drawing fireworks, creating the houses of parliament, retelling the story with puppets and doing sketches. We have been continuing our science investigation into which material would make the best umbrella using planning skills to create an experiment. We have also started to explore how materials can be changes (making Christmas decorations from salt dough!) We have developed some lovely artwork based on the story of The Leaf Thief. As we move into a new month, we have been taking the opportunity to learn about the months of the year and also find out when all our birthdays are.

There has been great excitement this week with the introduction of our new book - Nibbles the paper monster! He likes to nibble paper so please watch out for him at home!



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Kestrels:

We've had another fantastic week in Kestrels. We have been thinking about peace and what it means to us. Our buddies joined us on Remembrance Day to do some shared poppy artwork. There has been a great deal of imaginative play in all the learning areas both within and outside the classroom. We have had brilliant fun in Drawing Club this week and our writing about the Troll in the Billy Goats Gruff story was just amazing!

School Attendance – a new target!

The Department of Education have this week issued every school in England a 'minimum expected attendance improvement' target. This is to reflect their strong view that school attendance is one of the biggest factors in children achieving at school. I strongly support this view. Our baseline target has been set at 0.3% above our attendance figure from the last academic year. This means that our whole school attendance target from the government is 96.7%. This is something I think we should aim to exceed, to ensure our children reach their full potential. I am therefore sharing with you all that our new Ashton Hayes Primary School attendance target for this year is 97%. To help us achieve this, please do all you can to make sure your child is in school every day and on time. Thank you for all of your current efforts in regards to this.

Class	This week's attendance	Cumulative attendance for the year
Kestrel	85.65%	97.1%
Sparrowhawk	95.81%	95.07%
Owl	97.7%	97.59%
Peregrine	96.43%	97.77%
Buzzard	98.55%	98.26%
Whole school	95%	96.69%

Celebration:

Kestrel – Sienna & Georgia

Sparrowhawk – Charlotte & Emma

Owl – Aurora & Jacob

Peregrine – Archie, Dominic & Fox.



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Day	Sport
Monday	Multi-sports
Tuesday	Football
Wednesday	Netball/basketball
Thursday	Football skills
Friday	Games night

Breaktime Snack Trial – An Update for Families

As you will already be aware, through communication from Mrs Stubbs, we have made some to our breaktime snacks this term.

The rationale for making this change is mainly twofold. Firstly, In the past, our staff prepared toast and bagels for the children each morning. While this worked well in many ways, it meant staff were needed away from their usual roles every day, which was impacting on our core work, of supporting our children and families. Additionally, we also felt that if we were to make a change, it was a good time to trial a little more choice at breaktime.

To help with this, our school caterers, Edsential, are now preparing our snack options for us, just as they already do with our school lunches.

Healthy Snacks That Meet National Standards

All of the snacks during this trial meet the DfE School Food Standards, which simply means they:

- Support healthy eating
- Avoid foods high in fat, salt and sugar
- Only allow drinks such as water, milk or permitted low-sugar options

We've made sure everything on offer fits these guidelines.

What's on the Snack Menu?

Children now have a wider choice at breaktime, including:

- Flavoured milk ("milkshakes") – These are small (200ml) cartons of flavoured low-fat milk with no added sugar.



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Strawberry: 99% low-fat milk

Chocolate: 98% low-fat milk

- Small fruit drink – A 125ml drink made entirely from fruit juice from concentrate, with no other added ingredients.
- Toast or bagels – Still available as part of the weekly snack offer.
- Friday treat – A bacon sandwich option is available every Friday as a special end-of-week treat.

Everything provided by Edsential follows the national food standards for schools.

You Still Have the Choice

We want to reassure parents that children, of course, can still bring their own snack from home if you'd prefer. The school-provided snack is completely optional — the aim of the trial is simply to give families more choice and flexibility, not to replace what you already do (as well as to free up our staff to do the job that I think is most important).

Trial Until December – We'd Love Your Feedback

We'll be running this trial until the end of December. After that, we'll ask for parent feedback to help us decide how best to move forward.

If you have any thoughts during the trial, big or small, please feel free to email the school. Thank you to those who have already shared comments; it's really helpful and appreciated

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Bell