

Newsletter – Friday, 24 May 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been another very productive term. I am delighted with the work that the children have been doing in all year groups. I hope that you have seen on your visits into school the breadth of rich learning opportunities that the children are taking part in academically, in sports, music and the arts. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the role that you play in supporting the children with these activities. A particular 'well done' to all the Year 6 and Year 2 pupils who have been working very hard on their SATs over the last couple of weeks.

New Adventure Trail and KS1 Playground Improvements

During the half term break, work will be taking place to further improve the outdoor learning environment at Ashton Vale. The final piece of the new adventure trail will be installed. The new 'climber' will present children with two huge triangular climbing frames that include rope handrails and scramble nets. There is no queuing or obvious way for the children to enter the challenge, making it open-ended and exciting for the children. While overcoming this challenge, children will build their climbing confidence, upper and lower body strength, core stability, balance and gross motor skills.

The KS1 playground will benefit from a new ball court, role-play hut, bike shed, new playground markings, raised planting beds and a new astro-turf surround for the tyre area. This will greatly improve the play and learning opportunities for our children.

Attendance

Ashton Vale is experiencing higher than normal levels of absence at the moment. The school does not support or authorise the taking of family holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. There are very good educational reasons for this. Time out of school results in children missing important learning which is then very difficult to catch up on later; this disadvantages the child. Please can I remind all parents/carers of the importance of contacting the school office if your child is ill and not coming into school. At the moment, office staff are spending time making phone calls to find out where children are. It is important for us to know where a child is from a safeguarding point of view if they are not in school. If your telephone number has changed, please inform the office straight away so that we are able to contact you. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Library Open for Parents

The library is up and running within the school and children are enjoying a fantastic choice of books. After half term, the library will be open for parents to come in with their children. This will happen every Tuesday, starting **Tuesday 11th June**. The library will be open before school from 8:30 to 8:50 am and after school from 3.15 to 3:45pm. It is a perfect opportunity to have some quality reading time with your child. You can choose a book together, spend time listening to your child read or you can read them a story – or all three! I hope that you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity. In time, we hope to have the library open on other days of the week as well.

Musical Recording

Last week, the Year 5 pupils recorded their own version of 'Shotgun' by George Ezra on their clarinets, accompanied by piano, drums and guitar. The performance was recorded by a professional sound engineer. The recording will be sent to George Ezra himself and is now available on the school website if you would like to hear it. I think you will agree – the children have done superbly.



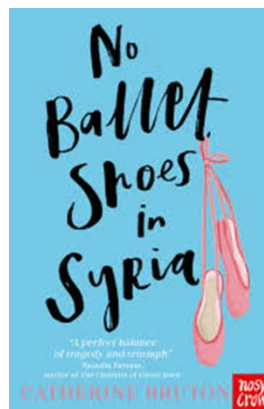
Children's University Graduation

Children's University Graduation day will take place on Friday 12th of July at Bristol Cathedral. More details to follow shortly, but keep the date in your diary.



Catherine Bruton, Children's Author, Visits Ashton Vale

It was a delight for year 5 and 6 children to receive a visit today from children's author Catherine Bruton. Children had a chance to buy a signed copy of her latest book 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria'. Catherine inspired us with her story and got us all thinking with lots of different activities. The children had a chance to ask questions, find out more about what it is like to be an author and how she develops her ideas as a writer.



PTA Meeting

The next PTA meeting will take place on Thursday 6th June at 3.15pm. All parents are welcome to come along. The PTA are busy preparing for summer events and any help is much appreciated.

One-way System Parking

I would like to remind all parents/carers of the 'unofficial' one-way system for cars at drop off and pick up times. As Avebury Road is very narrow it helps if cars approach from the top end and drive in a downhill direction passed the school. Remember that you can 'Park and Stride' by parking in the Robins car park and walk the last bit to school. This eases congestion and helps reduce parking problems. It is very important that we respect the well-being of local residents by parking responsibly and not blocking access/driveways. This is for everyone's safety.

Attendance League Table

Position	Class	Attendance
1	Penguin	95%
2	Flamingo	93.5%
3	Kingfisher	88.4%
4	Crow	88.3%
5	Blue Jay	87.6%
6	Robin	87.3%
7	Falcon	78.5%
Average		88.4%

Absence Tel: 0117 9030383

Thursday 06th June
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Starting Tuesday 11th June
Thursday 13th June
Week beginning 17th June
Friday 12th July

Dates for the diary

'Ashton Vale's Got Talent' Event
PTA Meeting 3.15pm
Every Tuesday Library Open for Parents 8.30 to 8.50am & 3.15 to 3:45pm
PTA Movie Night
Arts Week
Children's University Graduation day at Bristol Cathedral – Morning.

Yours sincerely,

James Hollis,
Head Teacher

