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**Newsletter No.1**

Dear Parent/Carers Friday 9th September 2016

Welcome back to the Autumn Term at Ashton Vale Primary.

**Uniform**

Thank you for supporting the uniform policy at Ashton Vale, the children all look very smart and ready to learn. Here are a few reminders:

Please name all clothing and shoes including coats.

Plain tights/socks/leggings should be worn, preferably grey, black, red or white (socks/tights).

Nail varnish should not be worn (children will not be allowed to cook if they are wearing it).

Only small stud earrings are allowed which need to be removed or covered for P.E.

No other jewellery should be worn except for small analogue watches if wanted.

**P.E.**

It is really important for health and safety reasons that children change for P.E. so that they can move appropriately and safely.

All children will have P.E. during the week and we ask that P.E. kit is kept in school Monday to Friday. If a child does not have kit they will not be able to join in this lesson so will be sent, with work, to another class.

If your child has a sports after school club they must change into P.E. clothes and if they then wear this home please return it to school the following day. If a child does not have kit for a club we will phone you as they will be unable to take part.

We will contact you if your child has had to miss P.E. through lack of kit so that you know.

When the weather becomes colder you may wish to also pack tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt but this will only be allowed for outside P.E.

**School Security**

Please do not be tempted to hold doors open for visitors or other parents to the school as for security reasons everyone needs to buzz to be admitted via the office.

If you need to collect your child/children early from school please come to the office and we will get your child from their classroom.

Should you need to bring items to school during the school day please come to the office and we will take the item to the appropriate classroom.

Thank you

**Year 6 Visit**

Year 6 have their annual den building trip next Friday 16th September linked to the science curriculum. This is always a very popular event enjoyed by both children and staff.

**Chickens**

A huge thank you to those parents who supported our chickens over the holidays. The children really enjoy caring for them and collecting eggs. If you would like to have a weekend experience of caring for them please sign up in the office. I am happy to show you what is expected, they only require one visit per day.

**Playground Reminders**

Our playgrounds are very active so we recommend trainer type shoes for school. Juniors will only be allowed on the adventure area in daps or trainers.

The junior adventure area has been built for older children and is not suitable for younger siblings or infants. We also ask that children do not use it before or after school. If they do we will not be responsible for any injuries.

In order to keep younger children safe we ask children and adults not to ride scooters or bikes on the school grounds. This includes younger siblings.

**Homework/Reading**

We are asking children to read at least 5 times per week as little and often really will support their progress across all subjects. Please use your child’s reading record book to record their reading and then the class teacher knows they have read at home and appropriate stickers etc. will be awarded.

It is helpful if children get into a homework routine and have somewhere quiet away from distractions such as the television and computer games. We want to work with you to ensure all our children make good or better progress, so if you have any concerns about any aspect of homework please do not hesitate to see your class teacher.

**Roald Dahl Day**

We are joining in with the celebrations for Roald Dahl’s 100th birthday next Tuesday 13th September. All the children and staff are invited to dress up as a character from one of his books. The children will also do some work related to this amazing author who has provided so much enjoyment for both children and adults.

There are costume guides and ideas at [www.roalddahl.com/dress-up](http://www.roalddahl.com/dress-up) or children can dress in his favourite colour – Yummy Yellow.

This is also an opportunity for Roald Dahl’s Marvellous Children’s Charity to raise funds. They help provide specialist nurses and family support to seriously ill children in the UK. If you wish to make a donation, we suggest £1.00, which we will pass it on to the charity. Thank you.

**Have you thought about becoming a Childminder?**

To find out more about it please go along to the briefing session on 27th September 9.30-12.00noon at Compass Point Children’s Centre.

There will be a training course at Compass Point Children’s Centre commencing on 7th October 2016. If you would like to know more about the course or book a place please call The Family Information Service on 01173574192.

**Community Centre News**

The Community Café starts again this Saturday 10am to 12pm, tea/coffee, cakes and children’s crafts.

**Tobacco Factory Workshops**

The Tobacco Factory has started workshops for children aged 8 – 11years they are:

**MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER - DELVE INTO DAHL**

Join us as we Delve into Roald Dahl’s Phizz-Whizzing World. We will be exploring some of his most loved stories, bringing some of his most famous characters to life, before creating your very own Murderful Swizzfiggling Villains, Roald Dahl style!

**MONDAY 3 OCTOBER -MASK-MAKING**

Working with a professional theatre designer, create your own spectacular mask to impress your family and friends.

**MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER -SECRETS OF STORYTELLING**

What makes a good story? Spend this session with our experienced storyteller and learn all the tricks of the trade…!

All workshops take place in our Factory Studio, 4.15pm – 5.45pm for only £6.

There are also additional details regarding what’s happening for children and young people at the theatre this Autumn at [www.tobaccofactorytheatres.com/project/children-and-young-people-programme/for-young-people/](https://www.tobaccofactorytheatres.com/project/children-and-young-people-programme/for-young-people/) for more information and to book

**Open Doors/Tour of Britain**

Bristol Doors Open Day is a once-a-year chance to look behind closed doors and discover the city’s hidden treasures. You can explore fascinating buildings, join guided tours and enjoy a range of events and activities – all free for the day. - See more at: <http://www.bristoldoorsopenday.org.uk/#sthash.T70qIwBl.dpuf> this takes place tomorrow, Saturday 10th September.

Bristol is to host the penultimate stage of this year's Tour of Britain, British cycling's premier road cycling event.

On Saturday 10 September Bristol will welcome the race for the first time since 2014 when they take on a challenging double-stage, contesting an individual time trial against the clock in the morning before a circuit race on a 15.3-kilometre circuit in the afternoon.

Bristol will be the only venue in the country to have a double-stage which promises to give every family in Bristol plenty of chances to catch the world’s top riders.

**Bristol stage**

Both stages will start on The Downs before travelling over the suspension bridge, past Ashton Court, along the Avon and back round the harbour before heading up the final gruelling climb on Bridge Valley Road.

You can download the maps for both races from www.tourofbritain.co.uk

The Tour of Britain website will be kept updated with details of start times, estimated finish times and information about all the riding teams.

There are also a number of events happening on the day. See [the events page for details](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/events-and-activities-for-tour-of-britain-2016).

**Years 1, 2 and 3 Flu Vaccine**

If your child is in year 1, 2 or 3 you will have received a letter about the opportunity to have a flu vaccine at school. We had a lot of children ill with flu last year; hopefully this vaccine will help give us a healthier year.

**Year 5/6 Tobacco Factory Opportunity**

If your child is in Years 5 or 6 you should have received a letter explaining the opportunity to take part in ‘Blue Heart’, a production later this month. If your child is taking advantage of this please email your details to them by 20th September.

**Music Lessons**

Currently we offer children the opportunity to learn drums, guitar, keyboard and clarinet (yr 5 & 6 only). If your child is interested in learning an instrument please can you let the school office know. Lessons cost approximately £187 per year which can be paid in either 3 or 6 instalments. However, it is an annual commitment and therefore if your child stops these lessons during the year we will still require payment as the teachers are booked on an annual contract.

**PTA Reading Challenge**

If your child took part in the PTA Reading Challenge this summer please return the forms by next Wednesday 14th September. Thank you.

**The Rock Project**

Spaces are now available to join The Rock Project. The Rock Project are currently looking for 7-11 year olds to join their two-hour weekly sessions to either learn bass guitar (instruments are provided) or to have singing lessons, all abilities welcome! There are also a couple of spaces on guitar but drum spaces are currently full. Would you like to be rocking out on stage next July? Come along for a FREE taster session any Thursday after school 4:30pm - 6:30pm at Ashton Park School and to book a space please call 01275 265226 or email [bristol@therockproject.com](mailto:bristol@therockproject.com) or visit [TheRockProject.com](http://therockproject.com/)

**Attendance**

Well done nearly every class is well over the target of 95% attendance. Please keep this up as we can only teach children if they are here.

**Robin 97% Flamingo 96.7%** Crow 92.9% **Falcon 97.9%**

**Kingfisher 99.3% Blue Jay 99.2%**

Yours sincerely

Ms V Champeney

Headteacher