



Ash class newsletter

2016 first half Autumn term

Mrs Hunt

E-mail: shunt@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Ash Class! I hope you had a lovely summer holiday and that your child is looking forward to the term ahead. All of our new children are settling in really quickly and we have all been very busy during the first few days of term. Do come and have a look at the photos on our noticeboard in the cloakroom. The PTFA has also organised a '**coffee and get-together**' for parents next **Wednesday morning (14th)** after drop off, in the village hall **social club**. Ash parents both 'old' and 'new' are very welcome to come and get to know each other.

Our **nursery** unit is currently open for 3 days a week; Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, with Miss Hansford working in school on these days. As numbers hopefully rise over the year these sessions may need amending. Please do let us know if younger siblings or the children of friends are interested in joining our unit.

Reception children have looked very smart in their new **uniforms** but please could you kindly ensure that everything, including PE kit is named. Thank you. **PE kits** stay in school all week and will be sent home at the end of every half term. As we walk to and from the village hall for PE sessions, a sweatshirt and pair of joggers are useful to include for the winter months. Reception children will have their '**big PE**' with our school sports' coach, **Mr Bardot** every Friday morning.



Please could parents and carers of **nursery** children provide a change of clothing (to be kept on the child's peg) if toileting accidents are frequent. We do keep some spare clothes and underwear in school too.

Children are welcome to bring in a named **water bottle**, but cups of water are always available during school time. Don't forget to register for free **milk** if your child would like it at break-time every day. Mrs Davey has additional forms in the office if you need them. **We provide** a mid-morning **fruit snack** with a choice of **water or milk** to drink, every day.



Spotty the dog is a friend of Ash class and enjoys having sleepovers with the children. He would love to visit all the reception children please! The attached letter gives all the details.

Reception children will be starting phonics work next week - **Letters and Sounds** - and when the children are ready we will send a 'Learning to Read' folder home. I offer a workshop to parents on Letters and Sounds and the strategies we use, in early November. Details will be sent home nearer the time. Nursery children will undertake listening and sound activities which are a crucial pre-cursor to reading and writing.

Our topic this half term is **Stories and rhymes**. These topics provide a base for activities in class but we remain flexible enough to accommodate the children's own needs and interests.



Reception children will be having **welly walks** on **Friday 7th October** and **Friday 4th November**. All children will need to bring in wellies and a waterproof coat on these days. Our welly walks will centre around the playing field this term, rather than venturing down to the woods. I will need two parental **helpers** on each walk

please, so would love to hear from any volunteers! Thank you. Weather permitting we will leave school at 2.15pm and return for 3pm.

Every Monday the whole school goes to church at 8.50am for our weekly **Celebration assembly**. All parents are welcome to attend. Each year group from Reception, has a **Star of the Week**, chosen by the teacher and they will receive a sticker and certificate during the assembly. If your child has been chosen, I will send home a slip on the Thursday of the week before, to let you know. I feel that Nursery children benefit more from immediate rewards for their efforts, such as stickers and I will of course keep you posted on their special achievements in the Home/School book. All children are assigned to a school 'House,' either **Raleigh (blue) or Drake (red)** with siblings in the same 'team.' Children can be awarded **Housepoints** for their behaviour or learning achievements and a school total for each House is reported in our weekly school newsletter.

All children in Ash class will have an electronic **Learning Journey** that tracks their development through the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. Those of you that were part of Ash class last year, will be familiar with how it works and how you can add comments or 'memorable moments' yourselves. I would therefore like to invite all **parents to come and share Learning Journeys** with your child, in class on **Thursday 22nd September from 2.45pm**. I would also like to use this time to discuss **Home/school agreements**. If you are unable to come please let me know if you would like to arrange an alternative time.



Once a month, I hold a **Story and rhyme time**, when all local parents and carers with pre-school aged children are invited to join our class. Please do spread the word, as our first session is on **Thursday 29th September at 2.45pm**. Thank you

Finally, please do come and ask if you have any queries, big or small. The end of the school day is often more convenient and private but if it is urgent please do not hesitate to contact me or see Miss Hansford (Ash Teaching Assistant) in the morning. We are here to listen and help. Home school books are checked by Miss Hansford every day so it is also a useful place to write messages between home and school.

Looking forward to working with you and your child,
Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Hunt