



# Ash class newsletter

2017 first half Autumn term

Mrs Hunt

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Ash Class! We hope you had a lovely summer holiday and that your child is looking forward to the term ahead. 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.

Our **nursery** unit is currently open for 3 days a week; Tuesday, 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 and we will be happy to arrange a visit or 'taster sessions.'

Ash class have a university student working with us every Wednesday and Thursday this term - Naomi Batten has volunteered regularly in the class before and is an ex-pupil of Offwell School.

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 please. Reception children will have their '**big PE**' with our school sports' coach, **Mr Bardot** every Monday 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.

Please can we remind you all that a member of staff opens the double gates in the front playground at **8.40am**, with the school day beginning at **8.50am**. If at all possible, please use the **double gates** to enter and leave school with your children, as it is the safest access point to the road. Nursery children arriving or leaving at lunchtime may of course use the single gate, as the double gates will be closed at this time. In Ash class we finish the school day 5 minutes earlier than the rest of the school at **3.10pm** so that parents with older children have time to get to the front playground to collect them at 3.15pm. Feel free to wait under the shelter until we welcome you into the class at the end of the day to collect your child. Could we also politely ask that wherever possible, parents and carers park in the village hall car park and walk down the lane to school. Thank you.

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** up to your child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, if they would like a carton at break-time every day. Mrs Davey has additional forms in the office if you need them. However, please note that we **provide** a free, mid-morning **fruit snack** with a choice of **water or milk** to drink, every day.

Reception children are starting phonics work next week - **Letters and Sounds** - and when the children are ready we will send a 'Learning to Read' folder home. We 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 **All about me!** Our topics provide a base for activities in class but we remain flexible enough to accommodate the children's own needs and interests, whilst planning to cover the whole of the EYFS curriculum. If you have **photos** of the children as a baby or toddler, please could you send them in, so that we can look at how we change as we grow. Many thanks.



Reception children will be having **welly walks** on **Friday 13th October** and **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. We will need a parental **helper** 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 **Friday** 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 teaching team and they will receive a sticker and certificate during the assembly. If your child has been chosen, we will send home a slip on the Wednesday, to let you know. We feel that Nursery children benefit more from immediate rewards for their efforts, such as stickers and we 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. Each half term the House with the most points is awarded a non-uniform day to celebrate!

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. It is lovely for the children to see moments from both home and school and we know just how much they enjoy sitting alongside family or staff and chatting through the pictures and entries. It is also a useful way for you to see what we get up to in school! If you have any queries regarding Tapestry, please do come and ask.



Once a month, we 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 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