



Ash class newsletter

First half Autumn term 2021

Mrs Hunt

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Ash Class and a very warm welcome to all of our new families. It has been wonderful to see you all and spend time with the children, over the first few days. We truly value two-way **communication** between home and school, as we know that this can maximise children's progress. There are several ways to keep in touch; daily notes in your child's Home/School book, emails to the address above (but please appreciate that I cannot access emails, whilst teaching), or a face-to-face chat before or after school.

Our online Learning Journeys, **Tapestry** record significant moments within school and aim to highlight progress within the different areas of the curriculum. The children always love looking at their own Learning Journey so please do try to share them together, from time to time. We would also enjoy seeing any posts from home that you may like to share with us. If you have problems in accessing Tapestry, please do get in touch.

Reception children have looked very smart in their new **uniforms** but please could you kindly ensure that everything is named. Thank you. Reception children should wear their **PE kits** to school on **Wednesdays**, as Mr Bardot will be taking them for 'Big P.E.' during the afternoon. We have 'Little P.E.' for all of the children on the other days, but we do not need to change for this.



Please could parents and carers of **nursery** children provide pull-ups, wet wipes etc and/or a change of clothing (to be kept on the child's peg) if toileting accidents are frequent. We do keep limited spare clothes and underwear in school too. Please let us know if your child has not yet had their **2 year progress check**. If they have, we would appreciate being able to view it within their Red Book please, so that we can ensure we are providing everything your child needs. Many thanks.

As you know, a member of staff opens the **double gates** in the front playground for Ash and Willow families, at **8.40am**, with the school day beginning at **8.50am**. 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 of school to collect them at 3.15pm. Feel free to wait under the shelter until we send your child out to you. 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 encouraged to bring in a named **water bottle** but cups of water are always available during school time. We aim to encourage a healthy lifestyle, so please avoid providing squash whenever possible. Thank you. We **provide** a free, mid-morning **fruit snack** with a choice of **water or milk** to drink, every day. Hot school dinners are served in Beech class for Reception children but all Nursery children, and those from Willow and Ash that have packed lunches, eat in our classroom.

The **curriculum** for children under 5 has changed this term but still focuses on the prime areas of communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development, before spreading out into literacy, maths, understanding the world and expressive art and design. The Government have also introduced a new statutory **baseline assessment** for all

Reception children. Please read the attached letter for more information, especially if you were unable to join our information meeting in July.

A useful parents' guide detailing typical progress across the curriculum, can be found here: [0778-What-to-Expect-When-2018.pdf \(foundationyears.org.uk\)](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/What-to-Expect-When-2018.pdf)

Reception children have started phonics work - **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, after half term. 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. Every child will have the opportunity to take a **library book** home each week. We hope you enjoy reading them together.

Our topic this half term is **Friends**. We will be concentrating on social and emotional development, in order to settle the children into their learning. We will explore what makes each one of us special, our similarities and differences, friends and families and discover more about people who help us. We will also learn about Harvest and spot seasonal changes as we head further into Autumn. 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.



We are hoping to take several trips out to the village field and even a welly walk to the woods this term, weather permitting. More details will follow.

Every **Friday** the whole school (except Nursery) goes to church at 2.30pm for our weekly **Celebration assembly**. Each class, has a **Star of the Week**, chosen by the teaching team and they will receive a 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 **Attenborough (blue)** or **Anning (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!



Once a month, in pre-covid times, we held a **Story and Rhyme time**, when all local parents and carers with pre-school aged children were invited to join our class. Unfortunately, with local covid case rates remaining high we are unable to re-establish these sessions for the time being. Hopefully that will change soon.

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.

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

Mrs. Hunt