

# Ashby Hill Top Primary School Newsletter

Belong Thrive Succeed



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

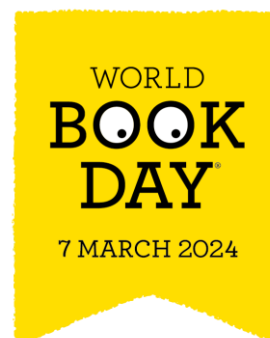


Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a great half term- it's only 3 more weeks until Easter so Spring is just around the corner- hopefully bringing with it some warmer weather! It's been great to see the children back at school after half term this week, they have been focused on their learning and playing happily outside with their friends!

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day!

Every year we are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our school community, but we don't want our World Book Day celebrations to be an additional burden for parents/carers. This year, children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or in their pyjamas, ready for a bedtime story. Please be aware that children will need to wear a suitable coat and appropriate shoes for playtime.



We have planned some special events for the day – which we would like to keep as a surprise – but it's going to be a fun and exciting day in school bringing the focus of World Book Day back to sharing and celebrating books and promoting a love of reading.

We believe that reading is fundamental- we'd love to invite any of you who may be able to spare a couple of hours a week to come in to school to support with reading in school. If you are able to help out, even for an hour week, please contact the school office to complete a DBS if you are interested!



## Food Allergies in school

Did you know that around 7% of children in the UK have some form of food allergy? Food allergies are currently on the increase; research shows that 1 in 10 children younger than 5 years old have food allergies.

As a school, we have a wide range of allergies within our community and they range in severity.

A food allergy occurs when the body's immune system sees a certain food as harmful and reacts by causing symptoms. This is an allergic reaction. Allergic reactions can involve the skin, mouth, eyes, lungs, heart, gut and brain.



An allergic reaction triggered by a small amount of food eaten or touched can be rapid in onset and progress quickly into a life threatening emergency.

We have the following systems in place to help keep everyone in the school community safe:

- Food may not be shared between children, washing hands before and after eating is encouraged.
- We are a nut free school
- We discourage food with high risk of allergic reactions or known allergic reactions to individual students, being brought to school.
- Teachers plan for children with food allergies when planning any fundraisers, cultural days or community events by sending notices to parents requesting food allergy information for each event and discouraging specific food products.
- Food rewards are discouraged and non-food rewards encouraged.
- Children at risk of food anaphylaxis should eat food that is supplied by their parents or food that is agreed to by parents prior to a given event.

From this week we have implemented some changes to our routines to safeguard a child with a severe wheat allergy. **These changes will not significantly affect your child but please may we ask you to only send fruit based snacks in for break times.** This has always been part of our Healthy Schools policy but it is now even more important that there are not foods moving freely around school that could be extremely harmful to a child. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

### School Attendance

Attendance has been very good so far this academic year at **96.2%** to date- the figure for schools nationally is currently 93.4% so we are above national. We would really like each child's attendance to be above 96%. The table below demonstrates how much school children miss if they are absent and it is surprising how this adds up.

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is....	over 13 years schooling
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Over 8 years

Any absence (including lateness) affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence can seriously affect their learning. Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason is an offence in law.

Good attendance is important because statistics show that children with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school, children who are absent will find gaps in their sequential knowledge.

Over the next few weeks I will be making contact with parents of children whose attendance is below 96%, to highlight the current figure and to see if we can support you to improve your child's attendance at school.



If you have any questions, please phone school or email [office@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk)

Regards,



Sylvie Newman  
Executive Headteacher

### Dates for the Spring Term 2024

Date	Event	Time
<b>26 February</b>	Y1/2 Samba Drumming visit	All day
<b>28 February</b>	Beaumanor Residential meeting	TBC
<b>7 March</b>	World Book Day FoHT Wonka Bar sale	All day 3.25pm
<b>8 March</b>	Y6 Warning Zone Trip	All day
<b>15 March</b>	FoHT non uniform day	
<b>18 March</b>	EYFS Book Talk meeting for parents	TBC
<b>19 March</b>	Y3/4 Hicks Lodge Trip	All day
<b>20 March</b>	Class Photographs	
<b>21 March</b>	FoHT Easter Bingo	5-7pm
<b>22 March</b>	Break up for Easter	3.25pm