

# Ashby Hill Top Primary School Newsletter

Belong Thrive Succeed



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

I always say to visitors that the best thing about our school are the children who come here! This week Miss Middleton and Mrs McAuliffe have been out and about in classrooms, talking to children about their learning and they have been really impressed with their excellent behaviour and attitudes. Well done everyone!

## Harvest Festival 2023

We are really looking forward to joining together this year to celebrate Harvest. This year's celebration will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October in the school hall. To ensure that we can accommodate all of the children's parents, there will be two assemblies as follows.

9.10am	Red and Yellow merit teams
9.45am	Blue and Green merit teams



We will be collecting tinned goods, dried foods and other non-perishables to donate to the Ashby Food Bank. Their current wish list is for tinned vegetables, small jars of coffee, jam, squash, pot noodles or similar, larger size nappies, soap, deodorant and washing tablets. Donations should be brought to school at the beginning of the day on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## Parents Evening

This year parents evening will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, the meetings will take place in school and you will also be able to look at your children's books. A short 'Settling in Report' will be sent home today - this will be discussed during the parents evening.

## Behaviour in School

We aim to provide challenging, stimulating and fun educational experiences in school and as you know, we have very high expectations of our children.

We celebrate and value the children's excellent work through the use of prescriptive praise, positive comments, displaying their good work, celebrating together in our weekly Star of the Week assembly and awarding stickers, rewards or merits in class and around school. This ensures our children are well motivated to learn and in turn contribute to the high standards of behaviour we expect.



Unfortunately, children by their nature do on occasion make the wrong behaviour choice; we aim to support these children to learn from their mistakes and make better choices in the future. We are an inclusive school and this means that we have a wide range of different children in our school, all with varying needs- at times some children may need a little bit more support than others. If you have any concerns or questions about how we support children's behaviour in school, please do come and ask.

### **Volunteers in school**

We are always looking for volunteers to support the children in school, particularly with their reading. If you have an hour or two each week to spare, please contact [slt@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk](mailto:slt@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk) and we would love to welcome you. All volunteers are asked to complete a satisfactory DBS check before they are able to help. Thank you to all of our wonderful parents currently volunteering in school!

### **Update from Friends of Hill Top**

Great news! The disco night has raised a whopping £737! The kids had a great time and well done to the Yr5/6 girls who won the dance off by the narrowest of margins. Massive thank you to all the staff and volunteers for giving up their time. This is almost enough money for our first visualiser.

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Oct will be a uniform and fancy dress after school to coincide with the Parents' Evenings. Please leave any clothing donations in the yellow bin.

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Oct is a non-uniform day. Kids can wear whatever they wish for the day in return for a donation to FOHT. We will be collecting cash on the gate.

Our Christmas Planning and Social night in Ashby on Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7.30pm in a pub in town will also be an EGM.

The online uniform shop is back in action. Follow the link, select your items, we will check the stock and come back to you. If we have what you need payment can be made in cash or via a payment link. Click here for the [LINK](#)

You can find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327736861658553/permalink/670987150666854>

### **Swimming**

As you know, swimming is part of the national curriculum. In particular, pupils should be taught to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

In previous years, children in Year 3 and Year 4 at Hill Top would swim for a block in the Autumn Term, however due to increasing costs and high numbers of non-payers this is no longer sustainable for school. We place high importance on teaching swimming skills so we are going to instead prioritise swimming for non-swimmers in upper Key Stage 2 to ensure that they meet the expectations of the national curriculum in Key Stage.

As you will be aware, from time to time some of our younger children may have an 'accident' at school and need to change their clothes. **Please if you have any of the school's spare clothes at home can you wash them and return them to school?** I purchased new pants and socks at the start of the year and they have not been returned to school so we now have a very limited supply.

## Please help!

If you have any of the following items that you would be willing to donate we would be very grateful:

**Pants**  
**Socks**  
**Jogging bottoms**  
**Leggings**

**To fit children aged 4 to 11.**  
**Thank you in advance!**

### Parking Concerns

As you already know, Beaumont Avenue is very congested at the end of the day when parents are collecting their children. We all want to keep our children safe, so here are some top tips on how you can make a difference.

### How Can You Help?

- ✓ Keep your speed down
- ✓ Turn your engine off if leaving your vehicle
- ✓ Leave enough room for other road users to easily pass through
- ✓ Make sure your child leaves and enters your vehicle safely onto the pavement
- ✓ Check for pedestrians and cyclists before opening a car door
- ✓ Leave enough room on pavements for pedestrians to get past
- ✓ Take care when reversing



### Please Keep Clear...

- ✓ Zig Zags and School Entrances
- ✓ Dropped Kerbs
- ✓ Resident's Driveways

**Please park considerably around our school and keep our children safe!**

### Have you considered...

- Parking further away from school and walking?
- Walking or cycling to school instead? This is a great way to contribute to a child's 60 minutes of activity a day and is easy to incorporate into your daily routine. Try it once a week at first and see how easy it can be.

I know that you all lead very busy lives, but if we all work together it will be much safer for everyone.

### Parental Supervision

If you are on site before the doors/gates open in the morning, please can I remind you that you must supervise your children at all times.

### Operation Encompass

We are an Operation Encompass School. This is an initiative developed with Leicestershire Police to ensure that school will be informed when a child or young person has been involved or exposed to a domestic abuse incident the previous evening.



The aim of this is to enable the school to sensitively and appropriately support a child to ensure they feel safe and secure after an incident of domestic abuse. Operation Encompass work with the Police Force sharing with us incidents that they have attended where they feel there has been an impact upon a child's physical, emotional or mental well-being. This information is shared in confidence and will help us to support and care for the children at our school even more effectively. More information about Operation Encompass including their statement can be found on their website [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org)

### Apply for a School Place

#### Secondary

It is fast approaching the time when Year 6 parents need to apply for secondary school places for their children. To assist you in this, the feeder secondary schools (Ivanhoe School, Ashby School, Ibstock Community College Information concerning these schools is available from the individual establishments) will hold open evenings over the next few weeks.



#### Primary

The deadline for applying for a Primary School place is **15th January 2024**.

For both applications, the simplest way is online at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions>

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

Regards,

Sylvie Newman  
Executive Headteacher

#### Dates for the Autumn Term 2023

Date	Event	Time
9 October	Parents evening	3.30 onward
9 October	F of HT uniform sale	3.25 onwards
11 October	Harvest festival	9.10am & 9.45am
12 October	Parents evening	3.30 onwards
12 October	F of HT uniform sale	3.25 onwards
13 October	F of HT non-uniform day	All day
<b>Half term</b>		
23 October	Year 6 Norfolk residential	Full week
23 October	Year 3/4 Roman Day	All day in school
2 November	Flu vaccinations - information to follow	During school day
9 November	F of HT cake sale	After school
7 December	F of HT Christmas Fair	After school
13 December	KS2 Christmas Concert	evening
15 December	EYFS Christmas Celebration	am
WB 18 Dec	KS1 nativity week	To be confirmed