

Ashby Hill Top Primary School Newsletter

Belong Thrive Succeed



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! This is the first newsletter of the new academic year here at Ashby Hill Top. I trust that you have had a lovely summer break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

It is wonderful to see the children back at school, smiling and as excited as we all are for the year ahead. The children have settled in brilliantly and have very much enjoyed time in their classes getting to know their teachers and meeting new friends.



I would like to say a very warm welcome to our new children and their families; we have 45 new children beginning their Hill Top journey in EYFS this year.

The weather this week has been so lovely, quite a contrast to the summer of rain! If it continues into next week, please make sure that children have a hat for outside breaks.



Uniform

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers, all the children have looked smart and ready to learn in their uniforms.

On outdoor PE days we ask that the children come to school in their correct outdoor PE kit- please see a member of SLT if you are having difficulty sourcing the correct uniform.

EYFS parents (2024 intake) Open Evening

Do you have a child who is due to start school in September 2024? Choosing your child's school is an important decision. This evening is aimed at giving new parents as much information as possible in order to help them make the right decision. Our Open Evening will take place on **Tuesday 3rd October at 6.30pm.**

There will be a short presentation in the hall, followed by a chance to tour our amazing EYFS base and talk informally to staff. We will be advertising this event locally, but if you or someone you know is interested in attending, they can book a place by contacting the school office.

Mild Illnesses

We are aware that the COVID-19 pandemic may have caused some parents to feel less confident when assessing whether your child is well enough to be in school. As we all know, school attendance is vital to the

life chances of children and being in school regularly improves health and wellbeing. We would encourage parents to use the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) if you are unsure what to do.



Tesco Community Grants

Don't forget to vote for our Year 1 and 2 outdoor area when you are doing your weekly shop! Tesco Community Grants helps to fund thousands of local projects across the country; the project with the highest number of votes will receive £1,500, the second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500.

So, if you are shopping at Tesco, please ask for a blue token and pop it in the collection point! Fingers crossed!

End of day arrangements

I thought it might be useful to remind everyone of the arrangements for the end of the day. As you will be aware, this is a very busy time with lots of children and adults on the school site. We have a range of procedures in place to keep the children as safe as possible.

To help the children locate their adults we ask that parents try to stand in the same place each day.

Please may we kindly ask you not to stand in the main walkways or around the school gates. It is crucial that these areas have clear visibility. Although we do all that we can to maximise your children's safety please can we remind you that it is your responsibility to arrive on time to collect your child or let the office know if you are running late, so that a member of staff can be responsible for your child until you arrive (remember that there is an after-school club on site daily if needed).

Key Stage 2 children (Years 3 to 6) with parents who are collecting younger siblings will walk to the Key Stage 1 playground to find their adult. If they cannot see you, they should come back to stand by an adult on the gate.

Teachers/support staff are out by the gates/on the playground at the end of the day, please do not hesitate to chat to us if you have any questions- or just to introduce yourself!

Changes to collection arrangements

Please let the school office know if there are any changes to your collection arrangements, either by telephone or via email office@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk

Are you entitled to Free School Meals?

Children of families in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for additional funding – Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) - which we can use to provide free school milk and lunches for your child. Support with paying for school trips and other educational activities can be offered by the SLT for pupils in receipt of this funding – please contact Miss Middleton on slt@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk to request this assistance. Even if you don't wish to take advantage of any of these, school can still claim much needed funding for those who are eligible. Under current rules the funding lasts for 6 years, even if your circumstances change in that time. If you have not already applied, or if your circumstances have changed recently, we would encourage you to check eligibility and apply online. Please contact the school office for more details.



We got Gold!

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme

launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the

development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We are extremely proud of our children for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who make our competitions possible. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of Mrs McMahon and everyone at Ashby Hill Top has been rewarded this year.

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE OPERATE A VOLUNTARY ONE-WAY SYSTEM ON THE ESTATE?

To ensure the safety of our children during busy drop off and collection times, we ask that our parents and carers follow a voluntary one-way system when entering and exiting the estate.

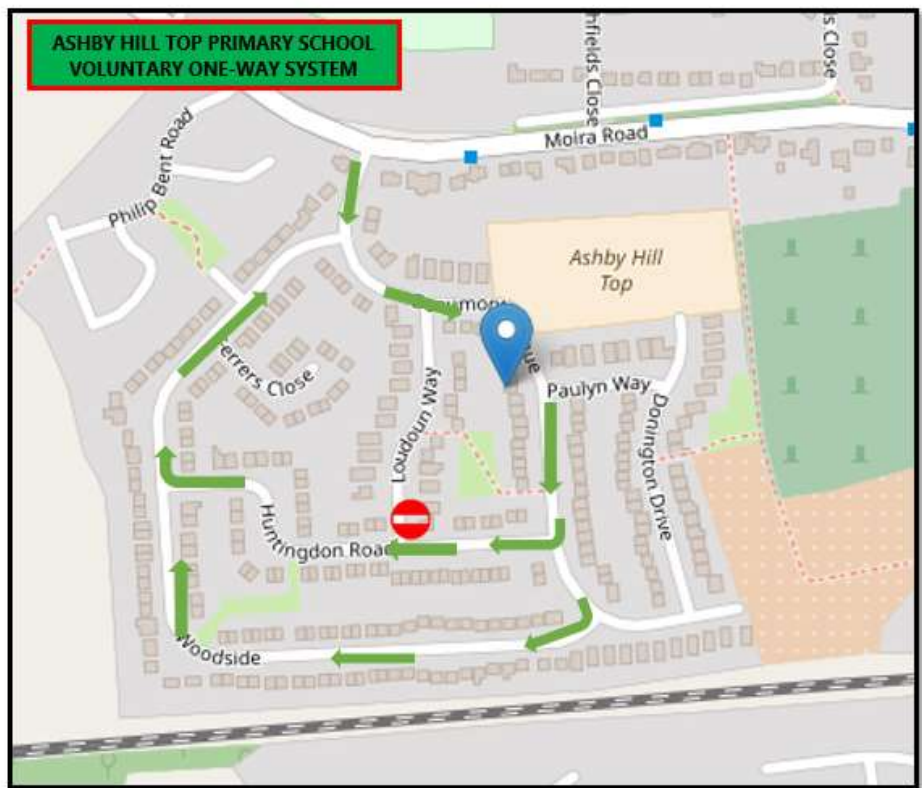
This one-way system has been used in the past by visitors to the school, but I am aware that many new parents may not know about it and how successful it is in keeping traffic flowing at busy times.

Enter **Beaumont Avenue** and follow the road round, turning right into **Huntingdon Road** then right onto Woodside to exit the estate.

Alternatively, stay on **Beaumont Avenue** and follow the road right round and turn right onto **Woodside** to exit the estate.

We ask that cars do not drive against the suggested flow of traffic and do not turn right into Loudoun Way from Huntingdon Road.

This system may add a few minutes to your day, but it will ensure that all cars can enter and exit the estate in safety.



Please share this information with other adults who collect your child. Thank you in advance for your support

Apply for a School Place – Primary/Secondary

It is fast approaching the time when Year 6 parents need to apply for their secondary school places. To assist you in this, the feeder secondary schools will have open evenings over the coming weeks – details on their websites. The deadline for applying for a Secondary School place is **31st October 2023**.

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 need any further information, please contact the Admissions team on admissions@leics.gov.uk or 0116 305 6684.

If you have any questions about this or anything else, please telephone school or email office@ashbyhilltop.leics.sch.uk

Regards,



Sylvie Newman
Executive Headteacher

Dates for the Autumn Term 2023

Date	Event	Time
14 September	Individual photos – a letter came out to you about this last Friday	am
26 September	EYFS parents phonics workshop	2.15 pm
27 September	Norfolk meeting to parents	3.30 – 4 pm
3 October	New parents open evening for children starting in autumn 2024	6.30 pm
4 October	Yr 5/6 tag rugby festival	To be confirmed
9 October	Parents evening	To be confirmed
11 October	Harvest festival	am
12 October	Parents evening	To be confirmed
	Half term	
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
13 December	KS2 Christmas Concert	evening
15 December	EYFS Christmas Celebration	am
WB 18 Dec	KS1 nativity week	To be confirmed