### Ashton House School

### Newsletter Autumn 1 2023 Half Term

# Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents,

Half term is upon us already and September a distant memory. We are well and truly back into the rhythms of school life. From our smallest children settling into 'big school', to our pupil leaders and all the children in between, new challenges are being faced and relished.

Outside the classroom these include drama workshops and several class visits to Hampton Court Palace, Year 5, Gunnersbury Museum, Year 6, Kew Gardens, Year 4 and St Paul's Cathedral, Year 2. Other classes will be going on visits after half term. The Eco Team has had its first meeting, as has the recently elected School Council who have come up with some interesting suggestions. They have arranged dates for the all- important cake sales and have chosen to support the Red Cross for their work in the aftermath of the Moroccan Earthquake and Libyan Floods. They also have discussed a range of ideas and initiatives put forward by their classmates ranging from the probable, the possible and the impossible but we can all dream. They along with Ms Quigley, Pastoral Lead and School Council Co-Ordinator will work hard to achieve some of the more probable and possible suggestions.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October Rev Elis from St Mary's Osterley came to lead our Harvest Assembly. He gave us lots to consider as he told the assembly why celebrating festivals with family and friends is so important. Thank you for your donations which were loaded onto the school bus and taken to the St Paul's Food Bank in Hounslow. They were gratefully received. As a school we have the satisfaction of knowing that collectively we have made a difference to people's lives. Also on the theme of giving, Mufti Day was a fun way to start this week. Your gold coin donations are going to Shooting Star Children's Hospice in Hampton. This is a cause Ashton House has supported since they opened in 2005 with only 30% of their funding coming from the government, they offer a range of facilities for life limited children and their families. The PTA has been busy organising two events: one before half term the Pre Loved Uniform Sale and planning for our Halloween Party, Spooks and Spells after half term, on November 3<sup>rd</sup> is well underway. Thank you PTA.

Whether at home or away I wish you a very Happy Half Term.

Angela Stewart



#### **Diary Dates**

- Monday 30th Oct Back To School
- Tuesday 31st Oct Upper School Swimming Starts
- Friday 3rd Nov Spooks & Spells
- Friday 10th Nov Remembrance Day Assembly
- Monday 13th Nov Odd Socks Day
- Tuesday 14th Nov PTA Meeting
- Wednesday 15th Nov Cake Sale
- Monday 20th Nov PC Taylor (Personal Safety)
- Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd Nov Parents Evening
- Tuesday 28th Nov Flu Nasal Vaccination
- Tuesday 5th & 6th Dec LS Nativity Performances
- Friday 8th Dec PTA Disco
- Monday 11th Dec Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
- Wednesday 13th Dec Pantomime
- Friday 15th Dec Christmas Concert at St Mary's

Term Ends

Pupils back to school 4th January

More dates for parents are available via the Parent's Portal.

Year 7 We wish them all the very best from Ashton House School



# We are proud to announce to you this year's Head Boy, Head Girl and their Deputies.



# School Council Members 2023-2024

Year 1 Aima and Aahil Year 3 Alysha and James Year 5 Prabhleen and Rayan Year 2 Yahya and Aditya Year 4 Raushan and Mohsin Year 6 Dylan and Lara







# Playtime at Ashton House School Lower School



## Year 6 Gunnersbury Park Museum

To complement our History topic, Year 6 visited Gunnersbury Park Museum on Wednesday, 27th September. The children experienced what it would have been like to be a Victorian school child through an immersive, drama-based workshop. Children used slates, slate pencils and copybooks, all kindly donated by Lord and Lady Rothschild, once the owners of Gunnersbury and local philanthropists who supported education and healthcare during the Victorian period. Exemplary pupils were rewarded with certificates of merit by Her Majesty's Inspector, who just happened to be visiting whilst we were there but not everything was so positive... for those of us who failed to meet the Inspector's exacting standards lead to punishment and shame: the finger stocks, back straighteners and dunces' caps!



## Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court

To expand our topic of the Tudors in History, Year 5 visited Hampton Court Palace on Wednesday, 20th September. What a fantastic day we all had!

We explored the palace and learnt how the Tudor Court functioned. We visited the Great Hall, Henry VIII's apartments, Tudor Kitchens and the Gardens. We also attended a workshop in which the children explored different jobs and roles and learnt about hierarchy and status within the Tudor Court and how these are reflected in the buildings of the Tudor Palace.

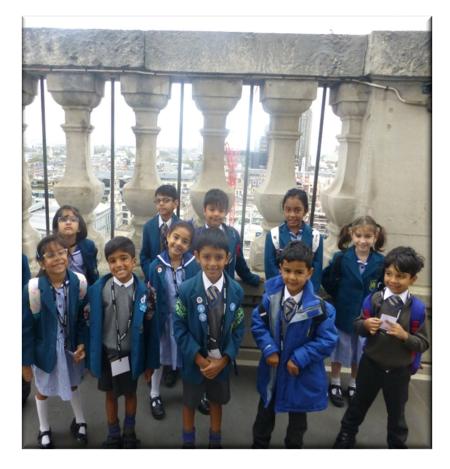
The day was filled with fun activities and real-life stories and definitely helped us build a richer picture of what life was like in Tudor England!



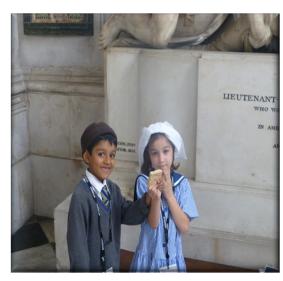


## Year 2 trip to St Paul's Cathedral

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, Year 2 journeyed on the London underground to visit St. Paul's Cathedral. Here, we shared our knowledge about the Great Fire of London and learnt lots of new facts. We even saw a statue which survived the Great Fire in 1666! After a well earned lunch, we ventured up the 376 steps to the Stone Gallery. Everyone agreed that the views from here were worth the effort!







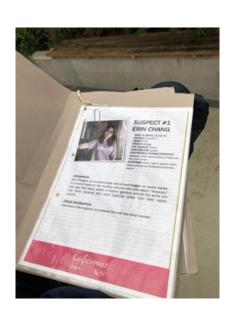




## Year 4 Trip to Kew Gardens

Year 4 had so much fun learning about different biomes and the different plants that grow in Kew Gardens. They showed great leadership skills when working in teams to solve a big mystery! They showed initiative, enthusiasm and collaboration when looking at evidence to determine who the culprit was at Kew Gardens! After their hard work, they had a tasty lunch and received many compliments about how well behaved they were. Then, they had some well-deserved fun playing in the Children's Garden















# Harvest Festival Assembly with Rev Elis.

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October we welcomed Rev. Elis to celebrate our Harvest Festival with us.

He chatted about the Jewish festival of Sukkot. He explained that we can all take part by sharing what we have with others and caring and looking out for each other.

He even read from inside a tent in the hall to explain how this festival is celebrated.

<u>Thank you so much for all your</u> <u>generous support. It is much needed</u> <u>and appreciated.</u>

Thank you to Year 6 who helped to pack all the donations into bags. The Year 2 children made a wonderful display and a few children from the School Council visited St Paul's in Hounslow to drop off the donations.







## **Harvest Festival & Hope Church Foodbank**





9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

#### Dear Ms Quigley,

#### HARVEST DONATIONS TO HOPE CHURCH FOODBANK

We wanted to say a very big **THANK YOU!** to all the pupils, parents and staff at Ashton House for your generous Harvest donations to the foodbank – your support is greatly appreciated.

The last couple of years have been very challenging for many people in our local community and the situation continues to be difficult. Hope Church currently runs busy foodbanks at both its locations – at St Paul's (Bath Road) on Wednesday mornings and at the Good Shepherd (Beavers Lane) on Thursday mornings.

So far this year, we have served over 3000 guests and provided enough food to feed over 7000 adults and children (as well as providing toiletries and hygiene products). As a result, we get through a great deal of stock each week - so your donations are incredibly important to us and, of course, to the people we serve.

We simply would not be able to provide this high level of support to so many people experiencing financial hardship without the very kind donations we continue to receive from amazing schools like yours. If anyone in the congregation would like to know more about the foodbank, they are very welcome to contact me.

With our thanks and very best wishes,

Avríl Gearing

Avril Gearing <u>Foodbank Coordinator</u> E: foodbank@hopehounslow.org.uk T: 07763 083049

### **European Day of Languages Annual Competition**

This half-term the pupils in Years 3-6 have had the opportunity to take part in the European Day of Languages annual competition organised by the University of Newcastle. The theme of this year's competition was 'Treasure'.

Younger language learners focused on a literal image, related vocabulary and description, or they had to imagine a 'treasure chest' of their favourite words. Older students had a choice to approach the theme by thinking of precious things they (or others) treasure.

All those who took part in the competition included words or sentences in French and the imagery relating to the concept. Their work was extraordinary and well thought out.



# Pre—Prep Visit from Paul Chapman Author & Illustrator of 'Spinach The Dog'.



Mr Chapman visited Pre-Prep today. We started looking for Spinach the dog and we found him hiding inside his bag. We met all his friends. The elephant, the giraffe, the lion, the zebra and the crocodile trying to catch Spinach. All his friends gathered together and saved him! Pre-Prep said good bye at the end and Spinach went home safely.

### **Black History Month**

October marks the start of Black History month and the theme, this year, is 'Celebrating our Sisters'. In history lessons, we have explored books such as Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o and Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly. From discussions about how each and every one of us are beautiful inside and out to writing persuasive speeches on the importance of inclusion and equality, the children have risen to the challenge of discussing such important topics.

















## Cycle to School Week

Well done to everyone who made the effort to scoot or cycle to school during Cycle Week in September.

















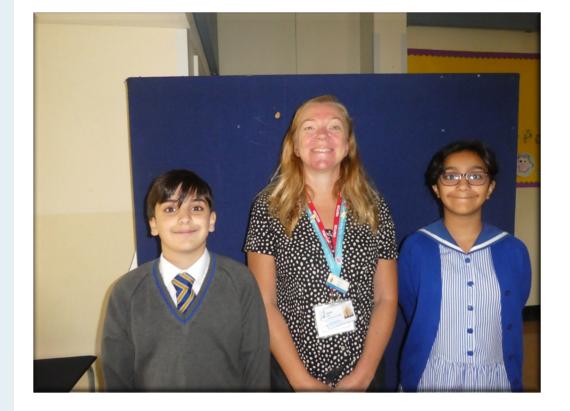


## **Shooting Star Hospice**

We had a visit from Sarah May from Shooting Star Charity in Hampton on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September. She told us all about the amazing work which they do.

Sarah showed us images of their musical room, sensory room, hydro pool and the bedrooms available for children to use. They organise day trips which the whole family can enjoy such as skating at Hampton Court Palace.

Sarah thanked us for our donations and said our money would help a great deal as they only get 30% funding from the government.





## **Shooting Star Hospice**

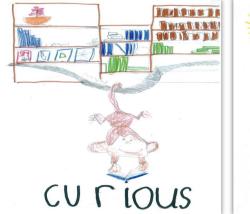
Once again **THANK YOU** for your kind donations for Shooting Star. Ashton House had a <u>mufti day</u> and collected £232.00

## CARING

## CURIOUS

# CONFIDENT







Caring Cat	Curious Chimp	Confident Cheetah
Year 5	Year 1	Year 4
Year 3	Year 2	Year 6
Year 4	Year 2	Whole School
Year 3	Year 6	Year 5
Year 2	Pre-prep	Year 1

### Who I am makes a difference.

These children demonstrated kindness to others and received a 'Who I am makes a difference' Ribbon.

Omaira, (Year 2) Anya & Abubakr (Year 3) Mohsin, Aleeha, Isha & Jai & Rayyan (Year 4) Kiiye (Year 5) Dylan, Tobi, Lavanya , Karan & Gurleen (Year 6)



## **Notice Board**

A fond farewell and a massive thank you to Miss Lucy after 3 years with Ashton House School.



#### Gaming

Over the holidays, it is likely that children will have greater exposure to screens and online activities. Please remain vigilant and check parental controls and be aware that even age appropriate games have a chat section which adults should monitor if their children are using it.

#### Reminder

Children are to return to school in their winter uniform, after half term.

#### Parking

We invite our parents and carers to show respect to our local community and be mindful of the residents when parking along Eversley Crescent. We have received complaints from both residents and parents regarding inconsiderate parking which is unfair and pupils' safety is put at risk. We welcome your support in making sure we keep all members of our school community safe.

### Notice Board





PLEASE DO NOT PARK YOUR VEHICLE IN FRONT OF ANY OF THE



Ashton House School is a Nut Free Zone