Newsletter

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22ND OCTOBER 2026

This half term has whizzed by in a flash, and we have had a huge amount to celebrate and be proud with your wonderful children. The new children we have welcomed in Reception, and all through the school, have settled brilliantly and already feel like they've always been with us forever! The Year 5's have made us so proud being excellent buddy's to the Reception children, but our new recruits are already showing us how independent and confident they are around school: it is so lovely to see them thriving. It is an absolute privilege to share the progress they are making in the foundational skills already - what a bunch of superstars! Our school has a wonderful sense of calm and the staff are immensely proud of the hard work and dedication the children have shown to their learning this term. They have enjoyed getting stuck into their learning and I have observed them all enjoying exciting and engaging lessons. This first term is always a bit hectic getting into our new routines, but we have smashed it!! We hope you all enjoy a well earned rest. Keep safe.

WHAT'S ON

Monday 2nd November
Flu Nasal Spray
YrR to Yr5

Wednesday 4th November
Open Day
9:30am-11:am & 5:30-7pm

Thursday 5th November
KS2 Swim starts

Saturday 7th November
Open Morning
10:30am-12 noon

Tuesday 10th November
Toy Sale

Wednesday 11th November
Yr4/5 Cross Country

Friday 22nd January
PFA Quiz

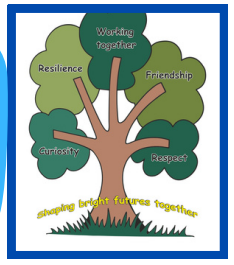
Friday 5th February
Pudding Club

Attendance News

As part of our drive to improve attendance this year, we are introducing a new system to help you improve your child's attendance. From our school's attendance data, we have noticed that some children, over a whole school year, have many random days off for illness. These are not days off for a sickness bug or prolonged cold symptoms just odd days here and there that over time have an impact on your child's percentage attendance in school. As every day missed has an impact on your child's progress, we are keen to reduce these incidents. We are introducing an **'UNDER THE WEATHER'** form which is available on our website. Its aim is for you to send your child in, even though they may not be 100%, and by providing us with some extra information we can keep a close eye on them and with few reasonable adjustments ensure they can manage a day at school. This is an approach used in many schools and is proven to reduce these odd days off which do disrupt you child's education. Please take some time to have a look at the form by following this link
and using it the next time you consider keeping your child off school for illness. A letter with further information has gone home with your child today.
We do appreciate that many of you work with us to keep you child's attendance above the magic 90% marker. If your child's attendance falls below 90% they are classed as 'persistently absent' and I have a duty to take action to investigate the circumstances around these absences. Most of the time there are valid reasons for any time off school, but we would like to remove as many barriers as we can and help you to get your child to school as much as possible. We hope this extra layer of support will help us to achieve this.

Don't forget, you can track your child's current attendance on the MCAS app.

Do you read the class blogs and look at the class photo galleries?
Class links below.....
Acorn & Holly Hawthorn Willow Oak



Safeguarding and Online Safety Advice

Snapchart and Instagram Grooming

The children's charity Childline, recently reported that **Snapchat**, **TikTok** and **Instagram** were the top platforms children named in counselling where they had been groomed by online predators. These apps are 13+ for a reason and allowing primary age pupils to use them at all is running a serious risk of exposing them to abuse. Please check that the devices your child has access to have the appropriate block to apps and websites you don't want them to access. It's never a bad time to have a loving conversation about what apps they are using and what they are doing online.

Bye Bye Mrs. Souster

We said a very fond farewell to Mrs Souster today who was covering for Mrs Holdsworth maternity leave as she is herself leaving to have her own baby! She has been a valued member of the EYFS team over the last 2 terms and we will miss having her as a member of the wider Ashton team. She will be replaced by Mrs Vigurs, one of the Hawthorn Class teachers. She is a very experienced EYFS teacher and has been spending lots of time in Holly class since she joined us in September, in preparation for taking over on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in Holly class. She will still be in Hawthorn on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Attendance Really Matters

Our overall attendance has dipped since the start of term due to the expected round of colds and sickness but it is still holding strong at 96.8%. Both Reception have continued to have 100% attendance so far this year, with Y5 not far behind with 99% - well done to our oldest and youngest children in school!! Girls, you are still better attenders than the boys with a score of 97.3%, but they are close behind with a percentage of 96.5%. Please remain mindful about booking avoidable holidays in term time to keep your child above the magic 90%.

We can all play a part in safeguarding children. If you are ever worried about the safety of a child, please discuss this with **Mrs Tulley**, **Mrs Clements** or **Miss Hayward**. You can refer or get advice yourself from Children's Services on 01905 822666. If you think a child or adult is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999.

Forest School News

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the parents who came to help us on Sunday 2nd October to give our Forest School a bit of a refresh and add some new elements. We now have another covered area, a swing and hammock and many other exciting enrichment opportunities for your child to enjoy during their sessions. We still have a few more jobs to do including some tree maintance and dead tree logging. If you are able to help please contact Miss Young through the school office and we will arrange another day to keep maintaining and improving our Forest School opportunities.

Celebration of Harvest

Those of you who joined us at our special harvest assembly will know what an absolute joy it was to see the confidence in our pupil's performances. They acted, presented, danced and sang beautifully. It was one of the stand out moments for this half term. We all worked together too to provide a huge selection of food for the Caring Hands in the Vale food bank. They were extremely grateful for all the contributions they received from us; thank you for your kindness and generosity. This little bit of effort from us will have a huge impact on our wider local community.

Open Days

If you have any friends of families looking for a Reception place for next September or a Pre School place this year or the near future, then let them know about our **Open Days**. Word of mouth and personal recommendation is our best form of advertising. As parents of our school, you are the best people to spread the word about how amazing our school is - pease help us any way you can!

PFA News

Our **fabulous PFA** have already been working hard to raise money towards our outdoor equipment target. They have raised **£775** so far this half term!! Thank you very much to the team and to you all for supporting the events. The quiz night was lots of fun and a very entertaining night out, the children had a wonderful time with the magician Magic Russ; there was lots of fun and laughter in the hall that night. Today the children will be enjoying themselves at the Halloween Disco. If you want to **get involved in the PFA** please let us know we have many more exciting events planned for the rest of the year.