

# \*\*\*\*\* Ashton First School News\*\*\*\*\*

"Expect only the best"

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016

HEADLINES by Mrs Sharon Cole



**Happy New Year everyone!** I do hope that you had a very special time with your children over the holidays. I think the early start on Monday was a bit of a shock to everyone, but there were smiles all round and we soon got back into school routines. Talking of which can I thank everyone for being on time in the morning and clearing the playground promptly as soon as the bell goes. It really helps promote our successful learner skills, if the children can say a fond farewell as the bell goes before joining the line. We like to encourage the children to walk to their pegs without dodging the grown-ups and be able to arrange their own bags independently – staff are always on hand to help any child struggling. Of course we fully understand if you need to catch a member of staff to pass on a message. On a similar organisational note, please ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school every day, so that lessons can start in a positive, punctual manner.



## Book Review Winners

In Friday assembly today we were delighted to announce the winners of the Book Review competition that ran over Christmas. The winners have each chosen a book for their prize and everyone's entries will be on display.

**Newsletters from the Teachers** have been sent home today which we hope you find useful. They will be followed by Topic letters next week outlining the curriculum for this term. It's an exciting half term, as we get to stage a whole school drama production. For the

past two years, we have put on a light-hearted play, but this year Miss New has written a play based around the children's novel, "Goodnight Mr Tom" to build on the Evacuee topic studied by Key Stage Two last term. The children in Oak have started rehearsals this week, so there's only four weeks left now before the performance – no pressure then!

In the newsletters, there is a plea to you to help us support your child with learning spellings and times tables. The new curriculum has a very strong emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar (abbreviated to SPAG which isn't exactly inspiring!) and quick mental number skills. Whilst we have adapted our curriculum in school, children need a lot of practice and this will vary from child to child. We are finding that some children are practising the work sent home by teachers, but others are not and this is hindering their progress and making the gaps even wider. So sorry to nag, but your support is really necessary and very much appreciated.

## New Year - Healthy Eating!

You may recall in an earlier newsletter that we have done some work in school promoting less sugar in our diet. The Year 5 children did some work with Mrs Cole working out the how many teaspoons of sugar are in items that they regularly eat at home. Well, Mrs Kirk has spotted a new app which does exactly that, so try downloading this new free app.



The "sugar smart app" part of the 'Change4Life' campaign, works by scanning barcodes and revealing total sugar in cubes or grams. The app has been developed to raise awareness of how much sugar is contained in everyday food and drink. It works on more than 75,000 products, offering a quick guide to help parents make healthier choices.... and I'm sure that with your permission, the children would be very keen to try it out too!

### Notices:

- **After School Clubs:** Start from next Monday until we break up for Easter, however, no clubs will run **week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> February** due to the Whole School Production. Invoices are coming home today to confirm your child's place. We appreciate it is January and happy for club payments to be made at the end of the month. Cool Choir and Lego & Games club are extremely popular and we have allowed all children that requested a place to join. Some nights we have over half the school staying for a club!
- **Football Clubs:** We are very grateful to Mr Sidney who will be running our football club on Tuesday afternoons. Please could you ensure your child has waterproof clothing, football boots and **shin pads** every week.
- **Up to Date Contact Details:** Please inform the school office if any there are any changes to your mobile phone, home telephone number or email address, to make sure we can keep you informed with text messages and newsletters. Thank you
- **Table Top Sale – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January :** To raise money for our turtle adoption and other projects in school, the School Council is holding a table top sale on Monday. We are going to set up the sale in Willow classroom in the afternoon and all the children will have a chance to buy things. We will be charging 50p, £1 or £2, depending on what the item is. Please can your child bring in some **money in a sealed, named envelope**. Please donate any good quality toys, games and children's clothes so that we can raise as much money as possible. Parents can also come shopping! The sale will continue in Willow classroom at 3pm, and also at 4pm for any parents who are picking up their children after clubs. Please give generously! Thank you, from The School Council.
- **Applications for a place in Reception September 2016:** Closing Date is **15<sup>th</sup> January**

### Coming home tonight:

- Childcare Questionnaires, please return by next Friday and Afterschool club invoices

### Dates for the Diary:

- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January:** School Council Table Top sale in Willow classroom
- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January:** Afterschool clubs start for the Spring term for 9 weeks.
- **Week Commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February:** No clubs due to School Production
- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> (afternoon & evening) & Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February (evening only):** Whole School Production, all children involved
- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February:** February Half term
- **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 5-7.30pm & Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 3.30-5.30pm:** Parents' Evenings



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