

# ASHMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all a huge thankyou for everyone's patience and encouragement at such a difficult time locally, nationally and internationally. Your supportive emails to the whole staff team have been hugely appreciated.

Secondly, a reminder that 15th January is the deadline for Reception Place applications so please get them in!

We are with our class based and home based learning offer having a rethink about Class assemblies – there will be no Class Assembly next week, we will send out more details about how Class Assemblies might work for the rest of this half term next week.

We wanted to outline our Google Classroom expectations:

- Children do not have to attend every live lesson though it will help them.
- We are expecting all children to submit the assignments each week and engage with the learning online each day.
- How you manage the time at home and balance the time on and off screen it up to you. If you need help with this please contact any member of our Leadership team.
- We politely ask that parents do not post on the stream or comment in the live teaching. You can contact the school office with any feedback and the Leadership team will pick it up and get back to you.
- Many thanks to those parents who have expressed their gratitude and support for the tremendous effort the staff are putting in to the children's learning as we juggle two schools – one for children at school and one for children learning remotely – in this challenging time.
- But please remember all children whether they come to class at school or the Google Classroom must be dressed and ready to learn, they cannot be in their pyjamas!

Two reminders that Year 4's pre end of term performance can be found on their Google Classroom but also we have published the dates of our virtual Parents Consultations.

I am today re-sharing the Google Classroom guidance for parents, including our remote education policy and the remote education online safety policy. A reminder also that each Thursday afternoon there will not be any live interaction with the teachers in the Google Classrooms from 12pm as this will be planning, preparation and assessment time for all of our teachers. Children will still be able to access all of the learning and submit learning in this time.

Thank you one and all for your engagement with live teaching and learning this week. Live lessons continue for years 1- 6 next week. The times and information about how to join the lessons will be posted in the classrooms at the start of the week and each morning. We will also have a live assembly each Monday at 3pm. Children can join this by using the link in the Ashmount Assemblies and Story Times classroom.

In order to stay in touch with you all, and with the children's wellbeing in mind, our teachers, support staff and leadership team will call children who are learning at home at least once every two weeks. These calls are just to say hello, to see how they are getting on with Google Classroom and to find out if you need any support. Please look out for these calls. As some staff are working remotely, they may come from a hidden number. They will always be in the school day (9am-3.30pm).

Resources: if you need any resources (books, pens, pencils etc.) for learning at home, please just contact the school office and we can provide these. Similarly, can I remind all families at home that if you need help with devices to access our remote offer please let us know.

I am attaching with today's newsletter our half termly class newsletter, topic web Maths Facts, Spellings and POWER project for each year group, this will vary slightly for each year group.

Finally to ensure all the school community is safe we have redesigned our school risk assessment. This means that only 20 children will be invited into each of Nursery and Reception year groups. Then from Year 1 to Year 6 22 children will be invited into each year group. We can only accept children from Critical Worker groups or from Vulnerable child groups and I will be writing to all children's families who are in school on Monday to clarify the protocols in place, to gain evidence of status but also to explain that if, as the restriction on the school offer continues, we may have to prioritise further who is in school which may mean children currently with us will have their space offered to a family in greater need.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Anthony Carmel (Headteacher)

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## A note on our Curriculum

As you know, at the start of the year we made the difficult decision to refocus our curriculum and increase the amount of learning time for English and Maths in order to support children to catch up on the learning lost during the first lock down. For some children, learning remotely or in small bubbles in school did not significantly change their knowledge and skills and they quickly adapted to the academic side of being back in school. However, our assessment showed us that for most children in Years 2 and up there had been a noticeable impact on their attainment and they continue to have gaps in their learning.

In this Spring term our normal broad and balanced curriculum continues for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 as it has from the start of the academic year.

In Years 2 – 6 children now have Topic back in their timetables, along with Phonics and Reading, English, Maths, PE, Music, Science, handwriting and spelling. We continue to have two or three additional English or maths lessons each week.

We have continued, and will continue with, our theme weeks and performances whenever this is possible.

The teachers are working hard to create a rich and engaging curriculum across all subjects during a time when we are also supporting children to close the gaps that were created during the first lock down. As we are now in lockdown again, with some children learning in school and some at home, we will continue to look carefully at the impact this has on their wellbeing and learning and adapt what we do to support them.

Every week, we look carefully at the learning in each class and talk as a team about how we can best shape the curriculum to support children to be really ready for their next step in education. By the summer term all of the usual Ashmount curriculum subjects will be back in the timetables.

If you have any questions or concerns about teaching and learning, please contact Ross or Ellie our fabulous Deputy Headteachers.

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## Apply now for a place in Reception for September 2021

Now is the time to apply for your Reception place for next year!



### Find out more...

Come on a socially distanced tour or arrange a virtual meeting with our Headteacher, Tony, by emailing the school office: [office@ashmount.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@ashmount.islington.sch.uk)

Watch our virtual tour online: <https://ashmountprimaryschool.co.uk/parents/admissions/school-tours/>

If you need any support with the application or have any questions, you can contact our Early Years Lead, Louise, or our Deputy Headteacher Ellie, by calling us or emailing

[info@ashmount.islington.sch.uk](mailto:info@ashmount.islington.sch.uk)

### Important Information

Even if you are already part of the brilliant Ashmount community in our Nursery, you do have to apply for a Reception place. **You must apply by 15th January 2021.** For more details, visit the Islington website: <https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>. To apply online, visit: <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>

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### A Gentle Reminder

Whenever you are on the school site, morning or afternoon, please wear a face covering. If someone else is collecting your child, do make sure they know that a face covering is required.



Please keep your distance from others. At this time, you may have to wait a little longer than normal to pick up your child as we keep safety measures in place. It is a great help if you can be patient and understanding.

Only one adult should come onto the site to drop off or pick up.

### What we will be learning the week beginning 11.01.21

**Nursery:** We will be exploring the properties of materials by carrying out experiments and then using this knowledge to make our own 'wolf-proof' houses. We will be making our own number posters.

#### Reception

**English:** We will be innovating the story of 'Something Fishy' to make it our own. We will be trialling some of the carpet inputs 'live'.

**Maths:** We will be continuing to explore ways to represent 10 and consolidate our knowledge of number bonds to 10. A mixture of video modelling and narrated Flipcharts will be on the Google Classroom.

#### Year 1

**English:** We will be writing diary entries in role of 'Beegu' from the story to talk about our time on Earth!

**Maths:** We will be learning different strategies to subtract within 20.

#### Year 2

**English:** We will be writing a character description based on the short film, 'Something Fishy.'

**Maths:** We will be solving word problems using our knowledge of addition and subtraction.

#### Year 3

**English:** We will be planning and writing a diary entry as Joan from 'I was a Rat!' by Philip Pullman.

**Maths:** We will be learning how to read and write length in metres and kilometres and we will be adding and subtracting lengths.

#### Year 4

**English:** We will be exploring the main character's thoughts and feelings from our class text, "Journey to Jo'burg" to write a diary entry.

**Maths** – we will continue to focus on multiplication, this week we will be multiplying 2-digit numbers by 1-digit.

#### Year 5

**English:** We will continue to explore the text 'Holes' and examine the character of Stanley. We will then write a letter from the perspective of Stanley.

**Maths:** We will continue to focus on multiplication and using a formal written method to multiply.

#### Year 6

**English:** We will be continuing to explore the works of William Shakespeare with a focus on Romeo and Juliet.

**Maths:** We will be exploring the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages.

### Self-isolation guidance

#### As of 14 December 2020:

1. Household members and other close contacts now need to self-isolate for 10 days (previously 14 days)
2. The first day of self-isolation is day 0, and the period of self-isolation lasts for the next 10 full days

#### Self-isolation advice

##### Positive cases of coronavirus

- **First day of self-isolation (day 0):** The day symptoms started, or the day the test was taken if no symptoms were present.
- **Length of self-isolation:** The first day of self-isolation is day 0, and the period of self-isolation lasts for the next 10 full days.

##### Household contacts

- **First day of self-isolation (day 0):** The day the first person in the household's symptoms started, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms.
- **Length of self-isolation:** The first day of self-isolation is day 0, and the period of self-isolation lasts for the next 10 full days.

##### Other close contacts (not from same household)

- **First day of self-isolation (day 0):** The last day of contact with the positive case during their infectious period (i.e. from 48 hours before symptoms started), or 48 hours before the test day if no symptoms.
- **Length of self-isolation:** The first day of self-isolation is day 0, and the period of self-isolation lasts for the next 10 full days.



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## Times Tables Rock Stars

Congratulations to this week's current league table leaders in each year group! In line with our Growth Mindset philosophy, this charts the biggest improvement in correct scores over the last seven days.

The top 3 most improved children for each year group this week are:

Y6 = Daniella, Lewis, Nyemah

Y5 = Malachi, Anthony, Katy

Y4 = Dylan, Sam, Jeremiah



## Piano and Singing lessons

We are happy to announce that we now have a new piano and singing teacher, who will be offering music lessons after school at Ashmount. If your child is interested in having lessons please contact the teacher: Natalie Higgins; natalielouisethiggins@hotmail.com Tel: 07966 439 794

Natalie Higgins is a highly experienced, creative musician and composer from London.

With an MA in Jazz studies from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, Natalie has taught in schools around London and is especially interested in finding the best ways to help creativity and musical skills flourish early on in children using both stimulating and playful techniques.

## School Diary Dates

### Class Assemblies

We are re-thinking this half term class assemblies and will make an announcement here next weekend.

Tuesday 2nd March	5 Green
Tuesday 9th March	1 Blue
Tuesday 16th March	3 Green
Tuesday 23rd March	Reception Blue
Tuesday 30th March	4 Green

### Parent Consultation Meetings (Virtual)

Tuesday 9th March 2:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Wednesday 10th March 3:45 p.m. — 7 p.m.

## Ashmount Together Events

Weekly Friday Food Bank collection (see details in this newsletter and in posters around school).

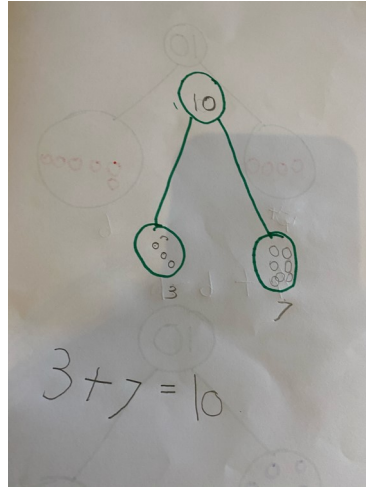
## End of term

Wednesday 31st March 2 p.m.

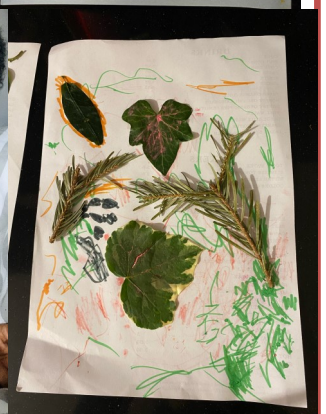
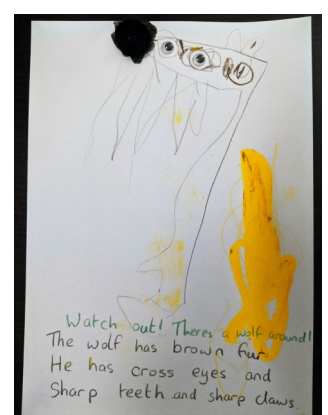
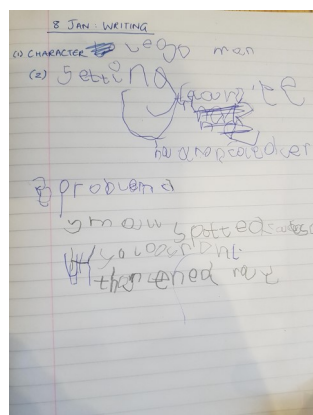
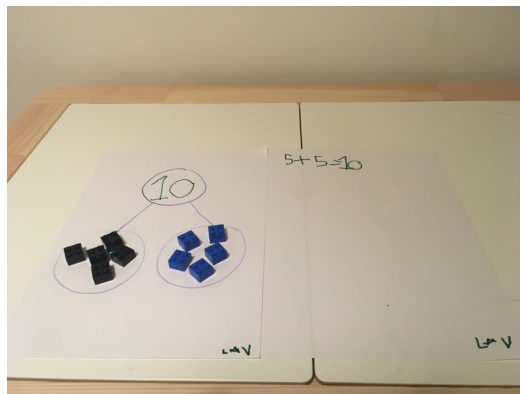
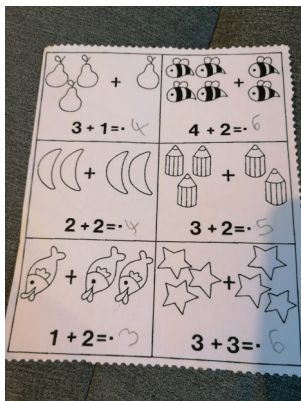
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Our learning in pictures: An array of home learning from Nursery and Reception! Wow!!!!!!



and Reception! Wow!!!!!!





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## Our learning in pictures: Reception Learning in School





Friday 8th January 2021



Are you worried about your child?

Worried about how to answer their questions?

Unsure how best to support them emotionally during the lockdown?

Fiona is happy to discuss any questions and offer advice.



[fiona.brisbourne@place2be.org.uk](mailto:fiona.brisbourne@place2be.org.uk)



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## Help support our local food bank by donating if you can

Without the boxes, packets, and tins of food items regularly donated across the UK, food banks simply wouldn't be able to run. And as food banks face an ever-increasing demand for their services, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, you can help! At Ashmount, we are hosting Food Bank Friday collections for the Muswell Hill Food Bank, supporting people in our local community.

Please donate these items if you can:

### Food items

- ✦ Cereal
- ✦ Soup
- ✦ Pasta
- ✦ Rice
- ✦ Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce
- ✦ Lentils, beans and pulses
- ✦ Tinned meat
- ✦ Tinned vegetables
- ✦ Tea/coffee
- ✦ Tinned fruit
- ✦ Biscuits
- ✦ UHT milk
- ✦ Fruit juice

### Non food items

- ✦ Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes
- ✦ Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid
- ✦ Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons
- ✦ Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food

### How to donate

You can drop your donations on any day Monday - Friday. Leave them in the donation box outside the school building near the front office or children can bring them into school.

Each Friday, a member of the school community will take the donations to the food bank.

If you can help, please contact your class rep or email Ashmount Together

ashmountschoolpta@gmail.com

We've set up a  
**FOOD BANK FRIDAY**  
COLLECTION POINT  
to collect food for our local  
food bank this Harvest!

Please donate an item or two  
from the list if you can.

**SHOPPING LIST  
TOP TEN ITEMS**

- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Fruit juice (long life)
- Soup
- Pasta sauces
- Tinned sponge pudding
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Cereals
- Tinned rice pudding
- Jam

**FOOD BANK FRIDAY**

[www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org)  
f t i trusselltrust

**the trussell trust**  
Stop UK Hunger

Your donations will be going to a local food bank – a registered charity or charitable organisation which is part of the Trussell Trust network. Reg. Charity in England & Wales (1130522) and Scotland (SC044246). Reg. Ltd. Co. in England & Wales (5434524).

**MUSWELL HILL FOODBANK**