



# ***Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter***

**Please find below this week's edition of our newsletter. It has again been a wonderful week – the children really have been brilliant and have settled in to their routine and hard work very quickly! Please read this weeks newsletter carefully, as there is lots of information to digest, including my latest information about changes – this week it is spelling.**

## **Morning Line-Up Expectations**

We kindly remind all families that, before the school gates open, children should wait calmly and sensibly in the queue. The car park area can become busy in the mornings, and it is vital that everyone's safety comes first.

Children should not be running, climbing, or playing games in this space. Instead, we ask that they stand quietly with their parents or carers, ready to come into school when the gate is opened.

Thank you for helping us to keep our mornings calm, orderly, and above all, safe for every member of our school community.

## **Owls:**

What a fantastic week we've had in Owls! The children are already producing some amazing work and showing great enthusiasm in all areas of learning. Our new English books have had a brilliant impact—there's been a noticeable improvement in both handwriting and presentation, which we're so proud of. In Maths, Year 3 have been working incredibly hard on place value and are nearly ready for their first review of the year.

In History, we've been getting creative by designing Tudor houses, ready to start building them next week. (We can't wait to see them come to life!) To help with this, please could your child bring in an empty cereal box by next Thursday?

In Science, we've been exploring the big question: Why are we human animals? The discussions and ideas have been thoughtful and insightful.

## **Peregrines:**

This week, the Peregrines have truly soared with their learning! The class has shown incredible dedication to presenting all of their work to a consistently high standard, taking real pride in everything they produce. In English, they amazed me with their imaginative and gripping diary entries inspired by a daredevil feat which was full of emotion, suspense, and



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fantastic vocabulary. In Art, the children explored sketching 3D shapes using different pencil pressures to create depth and shade, resulting in some outstanding work. Science lessons have been buzzing with energy as they engaged in thoughtful discussions about electricity and how it's generated and used, showing real curiosity and enthusiasm for the topic. The class has also worked hard to master new spelling rules, showing great focus and determination as they prepare for their spelling homework next week. It's been a brilliant effort all round. Well done, Peregrines!

### **Buzzards:**

Buzzards have had a super busy but brilliant second week back. This week, we've started our Geography learning all about the USA. We've worked on locational knowledge, thinking about where in the world the USA can be found and we've enjoyed using atlas skills to find and locate different states. This has linked nicely with our work in English. We have been planning and writing effective setting descriptions of New York City. Buzzards have also started learning about forces in science. Our lesson this week focussed on gravity and proving that gravity affects all objects in the same way. The children were amazed that two balls (of the same size/shape but with different mass) fall from the same height and hit the ground at exactly the same time! Buzzards enjoyed investigating this themselves outside!



### **Sparrowhawks:**

This week, Sparrowhawks have been working really hard on their spellings and making great progress. We have also been learning the words that match numbers, and everyone has been practising using them with growing confidence. Alongside this, the children have produced some



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truly beautiful handwriting – it's been wonderful to see their effort and pride shining through in their work. Well done, Sparrowhawks!

### **Kestrels:**

What a wonderful first full week Kestrel children have had. The resilience these little dots have shown has literally blown us away. After a huge realisation that school is actually every day, this week has really pushed them to be so brave and so trusting of school. I am delighted to say that we are ending their first week with the biggest smiles, the fullest hearts and the tireddest little bodies! We have been able to get up to the forest every day and this week have been thinking about what is the same and what is different about all sorts of things! The mathematical vocabulary the children have started to explore has been fantastic! We have also done a whole week of phonics! Not only have the children sat, listened and interacted so positively, but they have been incredibly excited about the world of reading and writing that is opening up to them! They might come home and start spotting the sounds we have been looking at (s, a, t, p) and if you're lucky, they might even show you how to write them too! Their enthusiasm is delightful. We have been thinking about who we are as little people this week too, considering all the most brilliant things about us, using a mirror to draw self-portraits, and even completing jigsaws of our actual faces! A highlight of our year so far was shouting beautiful affirmations at ourselves into the mirror up in the forest - "I am beautiful because my mummy made me this beautiful!" Kestrels...you are so adored!

### **School Attendance:**

A wonderful week for our attendance this week! Especially well done to Kestrels, who achieved 100% for the whole week – brilliant!!!

Class	This week's attendance	Cumulative attendance for the year
Kestrel	100%	100%
Sparrowhawk	96.4%	95.06%
Owl	98.47%	97.57%
Peregrine	98.85%	98.17%
Buzzard	99.52%	96.42%
Whole school	98.52%	97.34%



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## **Ashton Owls:**

It has been an amazing week at Ashton Owls this week – with numbers growing in the evenings. Please find below the activities for next week – Jay's Jingo Bingo is going to be fantastic (think Bongo's Bingo – but for children and with Jay 😊)

## **Next week.**

Day	Sport	Craft
Monday	Multi-sports	Lollipop Stick Dream Catchers
Tuesday	Football Club	Modelling Clay Animals
Wednesday	Netball/basketball	Cooking Club - cupcakes
Thursday	Football skills	Bookmarks
Friday	Jay's Jingo Bingo!	

## **Celebrations:**

**Sparrowhawk** – Freddie & Alice

**Owl** – Jasper & Billie

**Peregrine** – Eveline & James

**Buzzard** – Solomon & Ffion

As part of my newsletter series on changes and improvements we are introducing at Ashton Hayes please see the latest instalment below about spelling!

## **A New Approach to Teaching Spelling**

As part of our commitment to making teaching and learning the very best it can be, we are excited to launch a brand-new way of teaching spelling across the school.

From this year, spelling is being taught explicitly in Years 2–6, while children in EYFS and Year 1 continue to build strong foundations through phonics. Year 2 pupils will now enjoy five short, focused spelling lessons each week, while Years 3–6 will have three lessons per week. These sessions are designed to be snappy, structured and fun, keeping children engaged while helping them master key spelling skills.

Alongside their lessons in school, children will continue to bring home weekly spellings to practise. To support this, we've attached a Ready, Steady, Spell Home Learning booklet,



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which explains some of the strategies we use in class. This means you can practise alongside your child using the very same techniques, helping to build confidence and consistency.

We are proud to be following the award-recognised Ready, Steady, Spell programme by Literacy Counts, a research-based and proven approach that supports all children to become accurate, fluent spellers. Lessons include opportunities to revisit previous learning, practise new strategies, and apply them across the curriculum—helping children to move spelling knowledge into their long-term memory.

For pupils who need extra support, we also offer Ready, Steady, Spell: Go sessions, providing targeted intervention to consolidate their learning.

Our ultimate goal is to equip every child with the spelling skills they need to become confident, effective writers, able to communicate with clarity and precision.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher.

## **Keeping Head Lice at Bay**

Head lice are a common part of school life, and while they are nothing to be worried or embarrassed about, they can spread quickly if not treated. We want to work together as a school community to help prevent head lice and deal with them effectively when they appear.

### **Prevention is key:**

- Please ensure that when possible, **long hair is always tied back** while at school. This simple step makes it harder for head lice to spread from one child to another.
- Regularly check your child's hair—once a week is ideal—so any head lice can be spotted early.

### **If your child does have head lice:**

- Head lice can be treated at home using a fine-toothed detection comb on wet hair, or with products available at local pharmacies.
- Treatment should be repeated after 7 days to make sure any newly hatched lice are removed.
- Everyone in the household should be checked and treated if needed to stop lice spreading back and forth.



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Please remember: head lice are not a reflection of hygiene—anyone can get them. With regular checks, early treatment, and tied-back hair in school, we can all help keep head lice under control.

If you would like further advice, please speak to your pharmacist, GP, or visit the NHS website for up-to-date guidance.