

Newsletter

15th September 2023

A HUGE ASTBURY WELCOME

Welcome to the new school year! We hope that everyone has had a fantastic summer.

A very warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families, we hope that they all settle quickly into school life and enjoy their time here at Astbury.



Please remember that school opens at 8.45am, and ensure that your child is on time, so that lessons can commence promptly at 9am after registration. All children, unless agreed otherwise, must enter school via the playground. Any children arriving to school after 9am, must come in through reception to ensure that they are signed in by a member of staff.

LANGUAGE LINKS

All children in reception and Year 1 will be taking part in the Cheshire East Language Links Programme.

This programme assess each child's language ability and provides targeted interventions led by trained personnel. Parents and carers will receive a pre-assessment questionnaire that will be sent home in each child's bag. Please could you complete this by Thursday 21st September and return to School.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of the children at Astbury is of the highest importance and therefore we must remind parents that you are not allowed to smoke in or on the school premises, which includes the school's playgrounds and field. With the exception of guide dogs, dogs are also not permitted on the school grounds. We must also ask parents not to enter the school building unless it is to visit the school office. If you need to speak to your child's teacher a member of staff will see if they are available, if not, a message will be passed on or an appointment made for a later date. Please use the main entrance at reception for this purpose.

PARENTPAY

Please can all parents please ensure that bookings are being made in advance for both lunches and snacks. We do appreciate that there are little glitches every now and again, however if you do experience any problems please just give the office a call or speak to staff on the playground. There are still a number of children that don't have their lunches and snacks pre booked – please be aware that from next week no children will be able to order in registration without notice from parents of their bookings. Bookings must also be made for those in receipt of free school meals.

HEALTHY SNACKS AND WATER BOTTLES

As a healthy school, we try to encourage eating healthy. Could you please ensure that your child is bringing a healthy snack to school.

Toast, crumpets or bagels can be pre ordered on ParentPay or we have seasonal fruit in school. Yogurts, bread sticks, fruit or cereal bars are all suitable but please no chocolate, crisps or sweets.

We do have a number of pupils in school with nut allergies so please avoid sending any food items to school containing nuts.



CHOKING HAZARDS

Following some recent paediatric first aid training, cocktail sausages as well as grapes have been brought to our attention re children choking. As appropriate for your child, please make sure that their snack or food in lunch boxes is cut up lengthways to minimise this risk.

If, for your child's birthday they would like to bring sweets in for the class, please do not bring any lollipops or boiled sweets.

BIRTHDAYS

If your child has a birthday – they are welcome to wear non uniform on that day! If it falls at a weekend or school holiday – they can wear non uniform on a day that is close.



ATTENDANCE

School holiday dates are available on the website. Please ensure you only take your child on holiday during the school holidays. Any absence for a holiday during term time will be unauthorised unless it is for an exceptional circumstance. Please note that 10 unauthorised sessions will lead to a fine.

The Penalty Notice fine would be:

- £60 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days
- £120 per parent, per child if paid between 21-28 days.
- If the fine is not paid within 28 days, you may be prosecuted under S444.1 of the Education Act 1996.

SOGGY BRITISH WEATHER

Please always have a coat or a waterproof in a school bag. We do play outside if it is drizzling and soggy children find it difficult to concentrate in class.



BAGS2SCHOOL

Another date for your diary! We are collecting for Bags2School again. Here is a list of what they will accept,

Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band round
Hats and Bags
Scarves, ties, socks and belts
Jewellery
Lingerie
Soft Toys
Household Linen, curtains, bedding and towels

The collection day is to be confirmed in October.

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Let's get baking, it's the annual Macmillan fundraising event. Please bring your cake donations in on Monday 25th September and if you are able, please join us in the afternoon from 2pm – 3pm for a cuppa.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Staff are currently discussing after school clubs. Please look out for an email in the next few weeks to inform you of clubs that will be available

STAFFING

We currently have a vacancy for Full time temporary Pre School Assistant for 6-8 weeks, starting Monday 2nd October – if you know anyone who would be interested in this position, please get them to contact school.

We also have full time fixed term vacancy for a teaching assistant for Early Years and KS1 to work with additional needs, This vacancy is advertised on the DFE website <https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/jobs/teaching-assistant-sen-early-years-and-ks1>

We will be welcoming Miss Sambrook to our teaching team in October. Miss Sambrook will be teaching full time in Class Jacob until Mrs Gibbins returns from Maternity at Easter.

Mrs Jackson started teaching in Class Noah and is already settling well into our Astbury family.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

At Astbury, we, as do all other primary and secondary schools, insist on children wearing the correct uniform for a number of reasons. Uniforms create a sense of belonging to a particular school and an identity for the school in the community. Perhaps most importantly, a uniform means students don't have to worry about peer pressure when it comes to their clothes. When everyone is dressed the same, worrying about what you look like isn't so important. There is no competition about being dressed in the latest trend, which can put a great deal of financial pressure on parents. In addition, potential bullies have one less target for their insults, as it's hard to make fun of what someone is wearing when everyone is dressed exactly the same. Finally, for some children, wearing a different jumper, or top makes them 'stand out' from their classmates so they are seen to be flouting the rules and different from everyone else. This can be very upsetting for some children and unnecessary issues often arise when the children are asked to remove the item that is not uniform. Of course, this can be readily avoided if parents encourage their children to wear correct uniform, as they will need to when eventually transferring to any secondary school. We do have some second hand school uniform available for any children that need them. If you would like additional sweatshirts or cardigans, please speak to Miss Blythe or contact the office or alternatively any of our school uniform can be purchased directly DP Sportswear in Congleton.

Can we therefore please remind you that unless you have agreed exceptions, please send your child to school wearing the correct school uniform as stated below,

Girls

- Astbury cardigan or sweatshirt - unbranded is acceptable
- Light blue shirts are to be worn by all children in years 1 to 6
 - Astbury tie - for children in years 1 to 6
 - Light blue polo shirt for all Reception children.
 - Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers.
- Astbury Navy Fleece - unbranded is acceptable - the fleece is optional
- Tights and socks are to be plain grey - NO BRIGHT COLOURS OR PATTERNS.
 - Black school shoes - NO BOOTS
- White and navy blue gingham dress for the summer months with white socks
 - Waterproof coat

Boys

- Light blue shirts are to be worn by all children in years 1 to 6
 - Light blue polo shirt for all Reception children.
 - Astbury tie - for children in years 1 to 6
 - Astbury sweatshirt - unbranded is acceptable
- Astbury Navy Fleece - unbranded is acceptable - the fleece is optional
 - Grey tailored trousers or tailored shorts
 - Flat black shoes
 - Socks are to be plain grey or white
 - Waterproof coat
 - PE Kits
 - White polo shirt / T shirt
 - Navy shorts / leggings / joggers
 - White socks
 - Black pumps or trainers
- Astbury school hoodie - PLAIN unbranded is acceptable

Jewellery, hair and body embellishments

Jewellery is not suitable for wearing in school. Children are allowed to wear a watch but we recommend an inexpensive one. Children with pierced ears may only wear studs. All other jewellery must be removed on safety grounds, especially during PE and swimming lessons. Hair that is long enough to be tied back must be tied back with navy bobbles. Tattoos and nail varnish must NOT be worn.

SICKNESS

Please be reminded that if your child has been sick, they must remain off school for 48 hours from the last time that were sick.

Chicken pox – Children need to be kept off school until all spots have scabbed over.

COVID – We currently have several cases of COVID in school. If your child feels at all unwell, please bear this in mind.

HOMEWORK

Just a reminder as already sent out by the teacher, please ensure all homework is completed and returned to school by Monday, If you have any questions or concerns regarding homework, please email your child's teachers.

CELEBRATIONS



Week beginning:	Walk in love	My happy mind	Attendance
04/09/2023			
Jonah	Isabelle	Frank	95.1%
Noah	Bernie	Finley	93.6%
Mary	Tilly	Joseph	92.65%
Jacob	Holly	Nancy	98.15%
Team points	St Andrew 2	St Patrick 1	St George 3
			St David 4

DIARY DATES



Friday 15 th September	9am – 2pm Year 6 Cultural Diversity Day at CHS
Friday 22 nd September	9.10am – 10.40am Maths Masterclass at CHS – For those children attending – dates already sent to parents concerned.
Monday 25 th September	2pm Macmillan coffee afternoon
Thursday 28 th September	Bikeability Level 1 for Y5/6 Children who have given in their permission slips last June
Friday 29 th September	Bikeability Level 2 for Y6 Children who have given in their permission slips last June
Friday 6 th October	Individual and family photographs – younger siblings welcome first thing in the morning.
Friday 20 th October	3.20pm School closes for half term
Tuesday 31 st October	School opens for second half and the Autumn term
Sunday 10 th or Sunday 17 th December	Nativity in Church 11am – Exact date to be confirmed
Friday 22 nd December	3.20pm School closes for Christmas

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

Astbury Acorns



at Astbury St Mary's C of E Primary School



"A nurturing school family"

"A fun and caring environment full of warmth and kindness"

"A family feel from day one, treating everyone as individuals"



Astbury St Mary's Primary School

This is a GOOD school

'Leaders have high expectations. Pupils behave well around school and work hard in lessons.
The curriculum is ambitious and well thought out from early years to Year 6.'

