

FROM THE GOVERNORS

Welcome

There has been much activity at the school over the past six months, with the appointment of a new Head Teacher and the Ofsted inspection. The governing body would like to use this opportunity to talk about the challenges the school has faced and the great opportunities that now lie ahead.

Ofsted Report

I'm sure parents will have had chance to read the Ofsted report by now and will be disappointed by the outcome. The governors would like to reassure parents that the report is taken very seriously and our main objective now is to improve outcomes at the school and regain our 'Good' status as quickly as possible.

As Mrs Whitlock commented a couple of weeks ago, it is important to also remember all the positive aspects of Ashton primary which we are sure parents will recognise. The staff work incredibly hard to create a caring and nurturing environment for all pupils where individual needs are catered for.

Mrs Busari, our new Head from September, has written a letter (attached) detailing the staffing structure for next year and other changes, including a request for parent input on our pupil behaviour and reward system. We encourage all parents to respond to this and more generally support Mrs Busari, particularly as she gets to know the school in her first year. We also hope parents agree that the new staffing structure will enable more consistent teaching throughout the week and support the raising of standards across the school.

Mrs Busari and the governors are working with our school improvement partner at the local authority (LEA) to develop a post-Ofsted action plan for next year. This will continue some support already offered by the LEA which includes teacher training in key subjects and development of our leadership team. More details of the plan will be available at the start of the next school year.

New Governors

Ashton currently has eight governors but we would ideally like to increase this to ten. Being a governor is a rewarding volunteer role, where there is a fantastic opportunity to support the school and the wider village community. We all want to see the school succeed and the next academic year will be key as we support our new Head teacher and respond to the challenges highlighted in the Ofsted report. It would be great to go into the year with a full governing body, so whether you are a current parent or know someone else who may be suitable, we are always keen to hear from potential new governors. Please get in touch via ashtongovernors@gmail.com or ask at the school for further information.

Pupil Numbers

Due to a number of different factors, including a naturally low reception class intake, pupil numbers are currently expected to drop to around 40 next year. Whilst numbers are always likely to fluctuate and the school has had lower numbers in the past, we would like to encourage more children to attend. If parents

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have an opportunity to speak to friends who may be looking for a new school for their children, please ask them to consider visiting Ashton primary so that we can show them around. There are many advantages that we can offer, including:

- A small school with a strong, supportive community where each pupil's social and emotional development is catered for extremely well.
- A high teacher to pupil ratio
- A faith school teaching Christian values
- A new head teacher and junior teacher bringing fantastic experience and a strong desire to work with current staff to quickly develop the school.
- A robust financial position, in good shape to withstand current school funding challenges.

Farewell and best wishes

We would like to thank Mrs Whitlock for her hard work and commitment over the last 4 years. She has really brought out the best in so many of our children, including encouraging many unlikely children to take part in a variety of after school clubs and sports festivals! She has dedicated so much of spare time to help develop what happens at Ashton and will be greatly missed. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish her well at her new post at Flore Primary School and hope that she will pop in from time to time to share her new experiences with us.

Thank you Mrs Shadforth for your dedicated 16 years at Ashton Primary School. We know that so many parents and children will look back and remember you, their primary school teacher, with much fondness. Your passion for teaching is unquestionable and your enthusiasm for sports day, field trips and residential will be hard to beat. We hope to see you from time to time at the school on an ad hoc teaching basis. We wish you well in your new adventures.

Even though Mrs Potter has only been with Ashton for a short period she will be greatly missed. She has had a calm and steady influence on the Year 3 and 4 children she has taught for the last year. Again, we hope to see Mrs Potter on an ad hoc teaching basis and wish her every success for the future.

And finally, we would also like to thank Alison Smith for her contribution as a governor over the past year. She provided many good and challenging observations which ultimately help to strengthen the school and we appreciate her giving up her spare time to do so.

Feedback

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please send an e-mail to ashtongovernors@gmail.com. We will be pleased to hear from you.

LETTER FROM MRS BUSARI

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be starting as the Head Teacher at Ashton Church of England Primary School in September. I have seen what a special place Ashton is and I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone and work alongside parents, staff and children to achieve great things. I have already had the pleasure of meeting some of you and look forward to getting to know you all and working closely with you to reach the best outcomes for each child.

Ashton will be my first headship and I look forward to the challenges and rewards that lie ahead. I have met all of the fantastic staff and governors and feel very privileged to be taking up this role. I currently am a Deputy Head of St James Church of England Primary School in Northampton town centre which currently has 480 children on role, so life in a small village school will be a big difference for me. However, the similarity running through both schools is the strong community ethos and the teamwork and nurturing approach to each child which is so important.

Tuesday was new class morning and the chance for the children to spend time with their new teachers and support staff. The proposed staff timetable for September is below:

Infants

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mornings	Mrs Wilson	Mrs Wilson	Mrs Gentry	Mrs Gentry	Mrs Gentry
	Mrs Bridewell	Mrs Bridewell	Mrs Bridewell	Mrs Bridewell	Mrs Bridewell
	Mrs Forrester	Mrs Forrester	Mrs Forrester	Mrs Forrester	Mrs Forrester
	Miss Williams	Miss Williams	Miss Williams	Miss Williams	
Afternoons	Mrs Wilson	Mrs Wilson	Mrs Gentry	Mrs Busari	Mrs Gentry
	Mrs Forrester	Mrs Forrester	Mrs Forrester	Mrs Gentry*	Miss Williams
		Miss Williams	Mrs Ramskill	Miss Williams* Mrs Litster	Mrs Forrester

- Non-contact time

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Juniors

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mornings	Year 3/4	Miss Frost	Miss Frost	Miss Frost	Miss Frost	Miss Frost Mrs Litster
		Mrs Young	Mrs Young	Mrs Young	Mrs Young	
		Mrs Ramskill		Mrs Ramskill	Mrs Ramskill	
	Year 5/6	Mrs Busari	Mrs Busari	Mrs Busari	Mrs Busari	
Mrs Moffat		Mrs Moffat	Mrs Moffat	Mrs Litster		
Afternoons		Miss Frost	Miss Smith	Miss Frost	Miss Frost	Miss Frost Mrs Litster
		Mrs Moffat	Miss Frost*	Mrs Moffat	Mrs Young	
		Mrs Young	Mrs Moffat			
			Mrs Young			

- Non-contact time

Assembly Times

As a church school, assembly is an important part of the day when the school gathers together. I know that the school celebration assembly is a special time of the week to recognise the children’s achievements and we will be keeping this at 9am on a Friday so that parents can stay and share this with their children. For the remainder of the week, the school assembly will be at different times in the day, yet to be arranged. Lessons will start at 9am Monday-Thursday whilst children are bright eyed and ready to learn. We will then have our assemblies later on in the school day following set themes over the year. Therefore it is really important that children are in school promptly at 8.50am for register as lessons will start promptly at 9am.

Pencil Cases

From September 2017 we will be supplying all of the children with stationery in the classroom so there is no need for them to bring in pencil cases from home. As a stationery fanatic myself, I know the excitement of a new pencil case with fancy pens, etc. but in the classroom it can often distract from learning or if things go missing it can take us time to find things. Therefore, I have decided, with the support of staff that the school will pay for and provide all the stationery children need in the classroom and the children can keep their special things for completing homework and activities at home.

Behaviour and Rewards Systems

From my discussions with parents and staff I know that there have been some requests to review the current system. This is something that we already have some ideas about but would love to hear from you about what you think works or ideas moving forwards. I have attached a sheet with two key questions

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to gather some of your ideas. Your input would be much appreciated and you can ask your children for their thoughts too. If you could pass this back to Ginny in the school office by the end of term that would be great. This will give us time to look at responses and plan for next year.

Finally, I hope you all have a fantastic summer break. It will be a busy one for me moving my things between schools and coming in and getting to know every nook and cranny of Ashton. I look forward to greeting you all in the playground on Tuesday 5th September and working alongside you and the rest of the Ashton staff.

With best wishes,

Mrs Jude Busari



Behaviour and Rewards System Questionnaire

1. What do you think works well with the current behaviour and rewards systems at Ashton? (E.g. Red / yellow cards / Yippees / Star of the Week, etc.)

2. What, if any, improvements do you feel could be made?

Please answer the 2 questions above and return to Ginny by the end of term