



Ashton Gate Primary School

'Rising High Together'
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Ashton Gate Primary School News & Information

8th March 2024

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Paper copies of newsletters are available from the school office

Ofsted Inspection at Ashton Gate

Ofsted undertook a Section 5 inspection this week at the school, our first in twelve years. I cannot go into any detail at this point but I will share the report with you the day it is published.

I would like to thank all of you who took the time to fill in the online survey. Over 330 of you completed it and it was overwhelmingly positive – 98% of responses said they would recommend Ashton Gate to another parent. As you can imagine, the Ofsted report is hugely important to me, but this parent survey matters even more as you are the people who see the work of the school on a daily basis.

Thank you also for your patience and understanding about my decision to postpone parent's evenings this week. The new times are now;

Monday 18th and Wednesday 20th March – Ashton site

Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 21st March – Upton site

Sign up goes live today, 8th March at 2pm.

On behalf of the entire staff team, thank you all for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

Mr Jones

Messages from teachers

Threadworm has been reported in year 5. Please check and treat your child accordingly.

Year 3 reminder! Volunteers needed!

Thank you to those parent /careres who have offered to help so far with our DT project. We are still looking for more volunteers!

If you are free to help, please contact your child's class teacher. Please note the allocated days.

Monday 18th March – 1pm– 3CH and 3H

Wednesday 20th March – 1pm – 3A and 3Y

Book Fair

The book fair will be in school Monday-Thursday next week on both sites. Payment by card only. You can use for £1 voucher on the day.

Parking on Greenway Bush Lane

One of the residents on Greenway Bush Lane has reported that their driveway was blocked by a parent collecting their child from school. If you collect your child by car, you are able to park in Aldi Car Park who are the school's Park and Stride partner if there is nowhere else to park. We ask that you do not block residents driveways. Thank you for your support with this.

Parent Session - Dyslexia and Reading Delay

We are delighted to announce that a representative from the Bristol Dyslexia Centre will be delivering a short presentation on dyslexia and reading delay.

We will look at practical strategies for supporting children with their reading at home and at school.

When? Monday 11th March 2024 - 9:15am

Where? Ashton Gate site

Butterfly Class Wall

The school is in constant contact with Bristol City Council regarding the ongoing issue of the external wall at the back of the classroom. We will contact you as soon as we have any new information regarding the repairs to the wall. Please be assured that this is a significant priority for the School Leadership Team and we are doing all we can to get resolution as quickly as possible.

Announcing... Calm Spaces - a new PTA fundraising initiative

We are thrilled to announce an initiative aimed at enhancing the well-being of Ashton Gate's children, through the creation of 'Calm Spaces'.

This project sets out to install two spaces - one each at the Ashton and Upton sites - to provide a serene environment for children. Any child who is finding their school day challenging will be able to use these spaces to unwind throughout the day.

Recognising the increasing importance of mental health and well-being in education, we are pledging to bring this project to life through our fundraising activities. The Calm Space will offer an accessible place for children who may find the demands of the day overwhelming, giving them the opportunity to reset and refocus.

Key features of the Calm Space include relaxing music, soft lighting, calming colours, double-glazing and central heating. These will provide a comfortable sensory environment year-round.

We will channel a significant portion of our fundraising efforts over the next year to make the Calm Space initiative a reality. We look forward to the support of families, local businesses, and our community as we all contribute to this essential project.

Could your business support us?

If your business, however large or small, wants to help a local charity, let us know! This year we aim to offer more routes than ever for local businesses to support the school. The Calm Spaces initiative, and the Amazon Wishlist are two recent examples of new ideas we could discuss with you.

So if you've got an idea, a proposal or something to donate, let us know - contact us on ashtongatepta@gmail.com.



Do you want to cycle to school but not sure if your bike is up to it?

Dr Bike is an experienced mechanic who will be coming into school on **Friday 22nd March 2024**

Dr Bike will check over bikes and make simple repairs or adjustments to ensure they are in good working order.

Children, parents and staff all welcome to bring their bikes in on the day!

Dear Parent/Carer,

Dr Bike is coming to Ashton Gate Primary School on Friday 22nd March 2024.

As part of Ashton Gate Primary School's Modeshift STARS national sustainable travel award, Bristol City Council are providing us with a free bike checking service.

The Dr Bike mechanic will be available to do a thorough safety check and carry out minor repairs to ensure bikes are road worthy.

What Dr Bike should be able to do: fix punctures, adjust breaks, tune gears and deal with minor problems such as replacing cables or brake blocks.

What Dr Bike can't do: fix broken or bent frames and wheels, carry out major repairs or replace significant missing parts.

NB Whilst every effort will be made to try and see to everyone's bike on the day, this is sometimes not possible due to numbers. To help us plan for this, please can you complete this form as soon as possible: <https://forms.office.com/drbike>

Please bring your child's bike into school on the morning of **Friday 22nd March 2024** and **leave it unlocked in the bike storage area** so the bike can be checked during the day. **Complete the slip** below and return it to the school and then **clearly label the bike with your child's name and class on the day**. At the end of the day bikes will be returned with a note detailing any work done and also details of any further work the mechanic believes is needed.

We hope that you will wish to take advantage of this offer, supporting this event and other similar activities all help towards us achieving a Modeshift STARS national sustainable travel award.

Yours sincerely,

D. Scriven

Donna Scriven
School Business Manager

Social Media

We are now on Facebook. Please like our page, we will be using this page to celebrate events and learning moments taking place across the school. We encourage you to invite other parents and family members to join as well, so that too can be part of our vibrant school network.

Rest assured, our Facebook page will prioritise the privacy and security of our children. We will follow all the necessary precautions and guidelines to protect identities and ensure a safe online environment.



Parent Portal

Last year we introduced Parent Portal. This allows us to send you messages and newsletters directly to an app on your phone. It also allows you to submit changes, such as a new phone number or email address.

The video below explains how it works:

Portal Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpyrDjCEOh8>

You can download the app from the following stores

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/rm-parent-portal/id1531109058>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rm.parentportalmobile&hl=en_GB&gl=US

Please log onto this and make any necessary changes to ensure we have up to date information.

Reporting Absences



If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, you need to report this using the StudyBugs app or using this link - [Studybugs – Parents](#). When reporting absences please add your child's name and class.

Term Dates 2023 to 2024

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 to Friday 9th February 2024

Monday 19th February 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024

Monday 15th April 2024 to Friday 24th May 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024 to Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Inset Days 2023 to 2024

Wednesday 19th June 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024



Countdown to Year 7

On 1 March you will receive the outcome of your child's Year 7 secondary school application.

Starting secondary school is a key milestone which is both exciting and can understandably lead to feelings of apprehension. Schools are here to work with you to help make your child's transition as smooth as possible. The below information gives key dates and other tips to support secondary transition.



Key Dates

- **1 March** you will be notified the outcome of your school application.
- **15 March** deadline to respond to school offer. If you applied online you can respond using the online Parent Portal.
- **3 July** secondary your child attends Year 7 induction day for all Bristol schools.
- **2 September** start of the new school year. Your child joins their new school.
- Remember to check secondary school start times and dates as some schools will hold inset days at the beginning of the new school year.

What schools will do

- March onwards secondary schools start preparing for children joining them in September.
- Secondary schools hold meetings for new parents either in-person or remotely online.
- Secondary schools may send written information to you either directly or via your child's current school.
- Secondary schools work with your child's current school including visiting your child at their junior/primary school.
- Secondary schools offer a wide range of induction support.

What you can do

- Positively engage with the school your child has been offered a place at by attending new parents events and responding to requests for information.
- Support your child to attend the new Year 7 induction day.
- Discuss with your child's current school any concerns about secondary school.
- Make sure your child has the correct equipment and school uniform for their first day.
- Before the summer holidays make sure you know the date and time your child is due to start school on their first day.
- Practice the route to school during the summer holidays if your child is unsure.
- Make sure your child knows where to go when they arrive at secondary school.



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Top 10 tips for transition to secondary school

1 Be informed



Make sure your child has the information they need to feel reassured about how things work in their secondary school. For example, the canteen system, lockers, maps of the school, etc. Find out about extracurricular activities offered at the school in line with your child's current interests.

2 Become familiar



Visits or virtual tours of the new school can help children feel more familiar with the environment they will be in. Similarly, meeting teachers or seeing photos of staff can also help.

3 Early contact



Talk to your child's current primary teacher early on about your child's anxieties around transition to secondary school. Also inform their secondary school and keep communicating with the school once your child has started.

4 Practise



Take the route to school together several times before they start school to increase your child's confidence in travelling alone. Encourage your child to take responsibility for their belongings and practise getting their bag ready for school.

5 Connect



Make contact with other children and parents who are going to the same secondary school as your child. Your child's primary school may be able to help facilitate this.

6 Mindfulness



If your child is feeling anxious, encourage your them to stay in the present by listing things they can see, hear, smell, touch and taste. Encourage your child to take deep breaths and concentrate on their breathing. You could try some mindfulness exercises – consider using an app such as Headspace for Kids.

7 Worry box



Your child can write each worry down and post it in the box out of sight. Leave the worries in there for a week or so to see if they were worth worrying about (if not they can be torn up). Alternatively, designate a specific 'worry time' for around 10 or 20 minutes, (but not too close to bedtime), so worries can be saved up for that time. This gives the message that we are in control of the worries and not vice versa.

8 Communicate



Talk to your child, listen to their fears regarding their transition and respect their feelings. Maintain a place of safety and reflection – snuggle time, bike ride or whatever your child enjoys, where they feel safe to share their concerns with you.

9 Key adult



Consider asking your child's new school for a key adult that your child can have regular check-ins with once they start school.

10 Routines



Ensure good bedtime routines are established well before term starts. Try to leave enough time in the mornings to get ready as a calm start to the day can help with anxiety.



All schools should provide:

(According to Ofsted and DfE guidance)

School environment

- **A positive and respectful school culture** in which staff know and care about pupils.
- **Pupils feel safe:** bullying, discrimination and peer-on-peer abuse – online or offline – are not accepted and are dealt with quickly, consistently and effectively whenever they occur.
- **Inclusive:** meets the needs of all pupils, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.



Developing students

- **Awareness of mental wellbeing:** through the curriculum and reinforced through school activities and ethos.
- **Developing confidence, resilience and knowledge** so students can manage the normal stress of life effectively and keep themselves mentally healthy.



Promoting

- **Welfare of pupils:** preventing impairment of children's health or development, and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- **Mental health:** schools should consider appointing a designated lead for mental health.
- **Inclusion:** making 'reasonable adjustments' to make sure disabled students are not discriminated against.



? Questions to ask schools

- What is your anti-bullying policy?
- How do you support students' well-being and mental health in school?
- How do the pastoral staff support students?
- Do you have a designated teacher for mental health?
- How do you promote an inclusive environment?
- How do you support students to become resilient?
- What reasonable adjustments have you made for students with additional needs?

Bristol Educational Psychology Service

Based on tips from these websites:

- schoolrefuserfamilies.wordpress.com
- www.mentalhealth.org.uk
- www.bps.org.uk
- youngminds.org.uk
- [Educational Psychology Reach-Out](#)



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