

Asfordby Hill Primary School

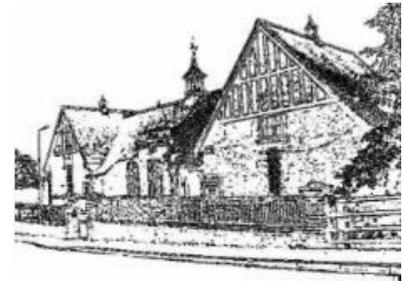
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Head teacher: Mrs P Millward

Chair of Governors: Rev Dr Nick Ashton

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that all the children are well-rested and ready to tackle their final year at Asfordby Hill. We've got an exciting, jam-packed year ahead of us!

We will begin the year with a topic called 'Evolution and Inheritance'. Within it, we will be looking into Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest. We'll explore the notion of inheritance with regards to a variety of organisms, as well as ourselves, and look into the basic structure of DNA. Within this topic, there are many opportunities for the children to develop their debating skills. We will look at some topics that have caused controversy, such as fox hunting and battery farms, and look in depth at the reasons for and against their operation. As Melton Mowbray is a very rural area, this fits in well with our local environment and its history. Geographically, we will be exploring what life is like in a market town such as ours and examining how influential tourism is within the local economy. We will also look at sources of employment within the local area and juxtaposing it with more urban environments. In addition, the children will be applying the principles of Pointillism to create nature-themed art work as well as using and then evaluating their abilities to use a variety of different artistic techniques to create different effects. Finally, we will be exploring evolution through the narrative poem 'The Molliebird' and then creating our own stories using the principles of natural selection.

In English this term, we will initially be focusing on developing the children's creative flair. We will be enhancing their use of ambitious vocabulary as well as being able to create cohesion within and across paragraphs. As a school, we help to develop children's writing through exploring quality models and texts. Through analysis of sentence grammar and structure, we can then create quality sentences that are cohesive and contain sophisticated levels of language. These sentences will be slowly crafted, with great levels of care and attention, and will come together to create a whole text. The skills that they learn throughout this process should enable them to recreate a text, of similar high-quality, completely independently. Reading is a great way for children to be immersed in vocabulary and to explore expertly crafted sentences. Ten minutes a day devoted to reading at home can have a large impact on their writing abilities.

In maths, we will initially be focusing on place value; equipping children with confidence when manipulating numbers up to ten million. With these numbers, they will be able to read, compare and order them as well as being able to make estimations by rounding them to different amounts. Competency in place value is of key importance for future progress in maths. Without a sound knowledge of what numbers represent, other aspects of the curriculum may become more difficult. After this, we will be spending a good bit of time focusing on the four number operations. Within this,



we will be continuing with our mastery approach to learning: once a child has shown that they are proficient in the skill and can apply it (fluency), we can go deeper by manipulating this skill when solving complex problems. I want all children to leave AHS with 'Number Sense' – the ability to be flexible and efficient with numbers. They will understand both how our **number** system works, and how numbers relate to each other. Together, we will work together to achieve this goal.

Throughout the year, Oak class will be getting to grips with what it means to be British and our associated values. The core values that we will be exploring are *democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty* and *mutual respect and tolerance* for those of differing faiths. We will be looking closely at what each one of these statements means and how it applies to the children and their lives. We will also be comparing and contrasting how modern governments have stemmed from ideas and actions initially formed by ancient civilisations and past customs.

Homework will consist of weekly spellings, reading (independently and discussion with an adult) and activities **set on a Friday** – this will often contain a maths or English task (or sometimes both). The deadline for the completion of all tasks is the following **Tuesday**. All the children will have home access to **Spelling Shed** – a fantastic online resource to help children practice their spellings. Their weekly list will be added as an assignment on there and the children can learn the words through games and activities.

Please ensure the work completed in their homework books is done thoroughly and neatly – it is an essential aspect of your child's education and will help to prepare them for their secondary education. As has been the case for many years, times tables have remained an area of importance from the government. At AHS we have always understood the significance of them and encourage their learning/revision on a weekly basis.

PE will be taught weekly on a Friday afternoon. However, if the weather is good or I feel physical exercise will be of great benefit to the children at that time, we may enjoy PE on a time separate occasion so they will need access to their kit at all times. The children will also continue with their **brass lessons** this year. This year, their lessons will be on a **Thursday afternoon** so it is essential that their instrument is in school during that time.

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At AHS, we pride ourselves on our abilities to celebrate differences and promote diversity and equality. Children's citizenship awards will be once again be linked to our school motto: 'When Lightning Strikes, Look for the Rainbow'. Throughout the year, children will be given the opportunity – both at home and within school – to showcase one of the seven rainbow skills in order to finally achieve their Rainbow Certificate. This will be a true badge of honour as those who gain it will showcase their ability to be well-rounded citizens equipped and ready for the modern world.

All I ask from the children is that they work hard and persevere when things get tricky. This year will be filled with challenges but I have no doubt in my mind that they can and will achieve great things.

If you have any queries or worries, please do not hesitate to pop in and speak to me.

Miss Parrott