

## **Asfordby Hill Primary School**

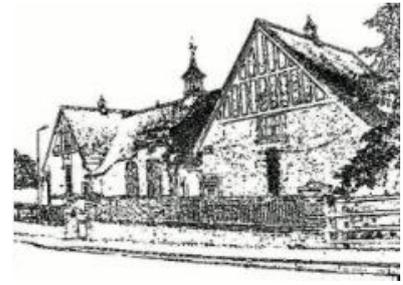
Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray,

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Head teacher: Mrs P Millward  
Chair of Governors: Rev Dr Nick Ashton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the Summer break. The children have settled in very well into Year 5 life and I am looking forward to them all achieving high standards throughout the Year 5 curriculum.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce myself and the adults who work in the classroom, and to give you some basic information about the term ahead. Working alongside myself in Sycamore Class are Mrs Edwards and Mrs Griffin. All three of us are experienced in the upper Key Stage TWO curriculum and we work closely as a team.

### Curriculum Information

We are getting off to an exciting start by studying 'Animals including Humans' and 'The Rainforests', investigating changes that occur in a human life cycle, gestation periods of animals compared to ours and the location of different types of Rainforests using mapping skills.

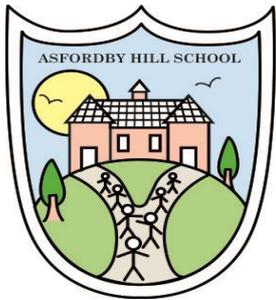
We will be studying the life expectancy of humans: how it has changed through history and why; comparing our life expectancy with that of tribes in the Amazon Rainforest and how life style choices can affect it. Our class story 'Fire Girl, Forest Boy' is linked to the Rainforest theme and the children have already found the first few chapters to be interesting! Please feel free to equip your child with this and any other class book we are reading.

After half term, we will be studying Earth and Space by investigating shadows, modelling how Earth rotation causes day and night and exploring the movement of the moon. Our class story 'Jamie Drake's Equation' will be linked to the space theme. Sticking with the theme, our English unit will be based on the book 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce. Through the text study we will be learning how to write an effective story opening through varying sentence types, precise punctuation and powerful language. During November we are hoping to organise a trip to Leicester's Space Centre, more information will follow.

Other areas of learning for the rest of the Autumn Term include,

- Place value, addition and subtraction, geometry and multiplication and division within mathematics. There will be a major focus in Year 5 on **independent** word problem solving throughout all mathematical topics.
- The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes and Old Possum's Boko of Cats by T.S Elliot will be our focus in poetry.





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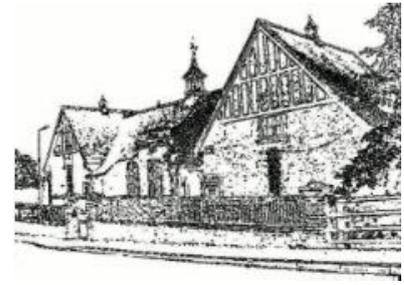
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- Topic work will include, portraits (Art), pneumatic rockets (DT), Mon Corps and La Famille (French), financial capabilities and Sex and Relationships - watch out for a further letter (PSHE) plus we will be exploring the question 'Why do some people believe in God?' within RE.
- We are going to continue to learn how to blog and the class will be responsible for their own blogging! (These go straight on to our website if you would like to read them)
- British Values will be taught through the class electing their own school councillors (democracy), creating a class charter and looking at rules that we follow (rule of law) and throughout school life we will give the children opportunities to understand that the liberty of individuals comes with core responsibilities to treat others fairly, to listen to the views and opinions of others and to treat others with respect (individual liberty). British Values will also be taught through a holistic approach, for example in assemblies, differing talk partners throughout the curriculum and when studying texts in English we will be looking at how these themes are presented and how characters embody the values.

All children in Year 5 will experience learning to play a brass instrument. Their brass lesson will be on Thursday afternoons with 'Mr V'. They will then be bringing their instrument home to learn and bring into school for the following week's lesson.

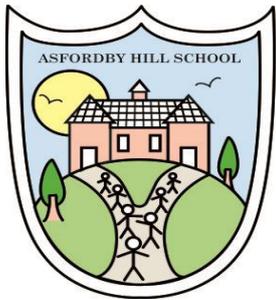
Towards the end of the term (December) the children will have the opportunity to visit the theatre. A letter will be sent out in the next few weeks.

### Reading, Spelling and Times tables

Your child will read regularly throughout the school week. The person who hears them read could be a teacher, learning support staff, or volunteer. In addition to this, the children participate in a whole class reading sessions, with myself. During these sessions they will be taught how to answer different styles of comprehension questions for them to independently do.

All children will be provided with a **home/school booklet** and we ask that you sign it when you hear your child read at home and comment as you wish. Every time your child has read THREE times at home (and must be signed in their booklet) they will receive a raffle ticket which is then entered into a monthly draw. The more they read the more raffle tickets into the draw. One the last Friday of every month a lucky ticket will be drawn for a chance to win a book of their choice. Regular practise of reading at home, along with discussion of the content, is vital for a child's reading development.





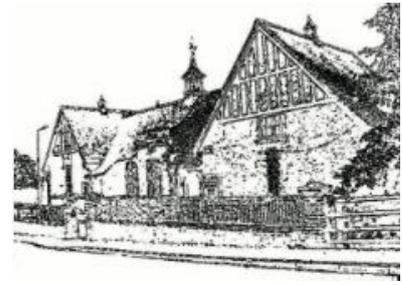
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The home/school booklet can also be used to pass on messages and information. Homework and spelling will also be in this booklet. They will be given new spellings/times tables on **Tuesday**, and tested each **Monday** so we can monitor progress. A main focus this year will be on spellings - learning patterns and rules through different strategies taught in class. Keep an eye on the blog for strategies the children are using to learn and apply their spellings.

### Other Information

Fingers crossed the weather is good this half term! We can then get outside to do our Autumn term's PE. The children will have an opportunity to rotate around different PE activities including football, tag rugby, netball, dance and hockey. **Therefore, PE kit should be in school all week**, so we can take advantage of 'good' days. A letter will be sent home if PE kits are not in school as it is an essential part of the curriculum.

### **Homework**

Weekly spellings

Weekly times tables

Daily reading

Topic challenge grid and Maths booklet (see Home/School Booklet for more information)

Finally, as you can imagine we are very busy in the classroom. If you (or a family member) would like to offer help out or have a skill to offer the children in Sycamore, you will be most welcome. It would be lovely for parents to come in and read to children during reading time creating a positive role model. If you have time available and could help it would be appreciated. Please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. N. Bailey, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Griffin.

