

Address: Bartlow Road, Ashdon, Essex, CB10 2HB Tel: 01799584219 Email: admin@ashdon.essex.sch.uk

Jaffle

Jaffle Joins Ashdon: Our New School Companion

Earlier this week, Ashdon welcomed Jaffle, a Dachshund puppy, who made his first visit to familiarise himself with our school environment. Following our initial communication about introducing a school dog, we have been overwhelmed by the incredible responses from our parents and carers.

Community Response

We are thrilled to share that the feedback has been unanimously positive and supportive. Parents and carers have expressed enthusiasm and excitement about Jaffle joining our school community, demonstrating their confidence in our carefully planned approach.

Behind the Scenes

Jaffle has already begun his official duties, attending both a Headteacher's meeting and a Finance meeting. Proving himself to be a true professional, he listened intently to the discussions before ultimately deciding that the complex conversations were best processed during a quick nap!

Safety First

Jaffle will be introduced gradually, with strict safety protocols:

- Accompanied at all times by a designated adult handler
- Visiting three days per week
- Comprehensive risk assessment completed to address potential concerns

Educational Benefits

Research supports the positive impact of dogs in educational settings:

- Reduces student stress and anxiety
- Promotes empathy and emotional intelligence
- Improves reading confidence and academic engagement

Current Status

Jaffle is currently becoming familiar with the school environment. He will not fully interact with children until after his second vaccination, ensuring the safety of both Jaffle and our students.

Future Plans

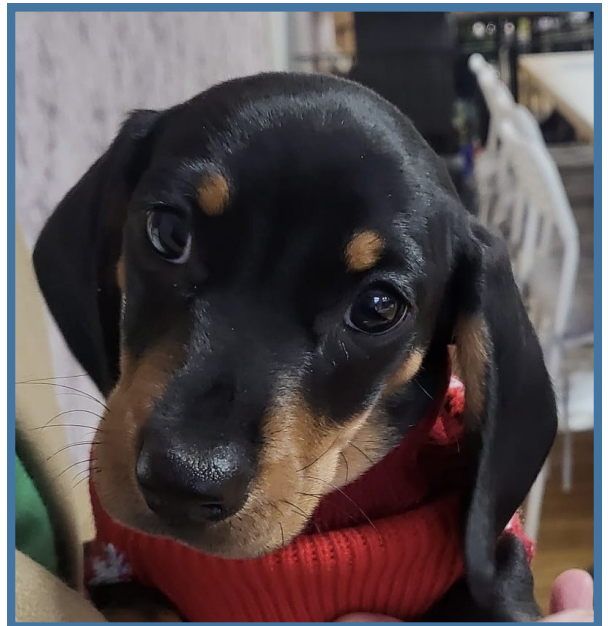
We are also excited to announce that parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet Jaffle in the near future, as we received some excited requests for this as well. :-)
We will communicate specific details about this meet-and-greet soon, after his second vaccination.

Our new puppy will begin a comprehensive training program, with goals including:

- Socialisation training
- Reading support program training
- Potential therapy training

We are excited about the positive impact Jaffle will bring to our school community. Parents with any questions or concerns are welcome to contact the school office.

Stay tuned for more updates about our newest four-legged friend!



Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair was a heart-warming success, showcasing the incredible talent and community spirit of Ashdon Primary School. The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) worked tirelessly behind the scenes, dedicating countless hours to ensure the event was a magnificent celebration for our entire school community.

Class 3 children were the stars of the event, demonstrating remarkable creativity and entrepreneurship by creating and running their own stalls with impressive enthusiasm. The hall buzzed with excitement, featuring a range of engaging activities that delighted visitors of all ages. The chocolate tombola was particularly popular, with children and parents alike eager to try their luck at winning sweet treats.

Despite the bitterly cold weather, the fair was warmed by delicious refreshments. Mrs Henry's homemade sausage rolls and cheese pastry wheels were absolute crowd-pleasers, complemented by steaming hot coffees and teas that helped everyone stay cosy.

The raffle table was a sight to behold, absolutely crunching under the weight of numerous fantastic prizes - each one promising an exciting potential win for lucky ticket holders.

Santa Claus himself made a special appearance and was particularly delighted with the children. He shared a heart-warming observation that children from Ashdon and the surrounding areas consistently make it onto his 'good list' - a testament to the wonderful community spirit we nurture.

We raised £ 1364.20

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible PTA, whose dedication and hard work were the driving force behind this spectacular event. Your commitment goes above and beyond, and we are truly grateful.

I also want to thank the staff who stayed to help and support during the event; I truly appreciate your support for our lovely school and our children.

I would also like to extend my personal thanks to all the parents who contributed their time, money, chocolates and unwavering support. Your generosity and enthusiasm made this Christmas Fair not just an event, but a true celebration of our school community.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for making this such a memorable and successful evening.



Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day: A Festive Fundraising Success at Ashdon Primary

Ashdon Primary School sparkled with festive cheer and competitive spirit during our annual Christmas Jumper Day. This year's event took on an exciting twist with our three school houses - Elm, Ash and Oak - competing to raise funds for a special sporting cause.

The Winners: House Elm!!!

Elm - £69

Ash - £41

Oak - £15.60

Total including miscellaneous donations: £145.60

The challenge was clear: raise money to purchase new hockey sticks for our school's physical education programme. What unfolded was a display of extraordinary generosity that exceeded our initial expectations.

House spirit was electric as students donned their most creative and colourful Christmas jumpers, each house determined to make the biggest impact. The competitive energy was palpable, with students and staff alike showing tremendous enthusiasm for the cause.

The results were nothing short remarkable. Not only did we raise enough money to purchase the planned 12 new hockey sticks, but the overwhelming support from our parent and carer community meant we could also invest in 12 brand new hockey training balls.

This achievement is a testament to the incredible generosity of our school community. Every parent and carer who contributed has directly enhanced our Physical Education curriculum, providing our children with top-quality equipment to support their sporting development.

Our students will now benefit from brand new hockey sticks and training equipment, ensuring they have the best possible resources to learn and enjoy this fantastic sport. The investment goes beyond mere equipment - it's about supporting our children's physical education, teamwork and sporting skills.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this fantastic initiative. Your generosity has made a real difference to our school's sporting capabilities.



Santa Dash

School Community Comes Together for Annual Santa Dash

The festive spirit was in full swing on Wednesday, December 11th, as our Parent Teacher Association hosted the Annual Santa Dash. Children from across all year groups participated in this cheerful event, transforming the school grounds into a sea of red as young Santas dashed along the course.

The event brought together our entire school community, with children encouraging and supporting one another throughout the dash. Their enthusiasm and energy were infectious, creating an atmosphere of joy and celebration that perfectly captured the spirit of the season.

The well-organised event brought smiles to everyone's faces and demonstrated the wonderful community spirit of our school. Special thanks go to our PTA members for coordinating another successful Santa Dash and creating such joyful memories for our children. Events like these truly showcase what makes our school community so special, particularly during the festive season.

Thanks to our dedicated PTA for always arranging events for children to enjoy! You are an amazing group of parents!





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Ashdon Primary School Choir Shines in Two Spectacular Christmas Performances

Our talented Ashdon Primary School choir has delighted audiences with two outstanding performances at prestigious local venues. The young performers demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication as they participated in two significant musical events of the season.

Spirit of Christmas at St. Mary's Church

On Saturday, December 7th, the choir participated in the 'Spirit of Christmas' event at St. Mary's Church. The historic venue provided a magnificent setting for our young vocalists, who contributed beautifully to this cherished community celebration. Their performance added a special touch to the festive atmosphere, enchanting the audience with their carefully prepared Christmas repertoire.



Evening Concert at Saffron Hall

Following this successful weekend performance, the choir joined forces with Saffron Walden County High School's senior and intermediate ensembles and choirs at Saffron Hall on Monday, December 9th. This collaborative concert showcased a beautiful selection of Christmas tunes, both traditional and contemporary, demonstrating the strong musical partnership between the two schools. The young voices of Ashdon Primary's choir complemented the older students' performances perfectly, creating a memorable evening of musical excellence.



These events play a crucial role in building our children's repertoire of experiences and developing their confidence in public performance. Such occasions create lasting memories and vital learning experiences for our pupils. The success of both performances owes much to the exceptional dedication of Mrs. Clark, a fantastic member of staff, whose commitment to the school and its pupils consistently goes above and beyond. Her expertise in preparing the children and accompanying them throughout these events exemplifies the high standard of music education at Ashdon Primary. Her passion for music and dedication to nurturing young talent continues to inspire both students and colleagues alike.

The school community takes immense pride in the choir's accomplishments across both venues. Their success reflects not only the children's hard work and talent but also the invaluable support of parents and carers, whose commitment made these performances possible. From managing transportation to attending the events, their support enables these enriching experiences that contribute significantly to the children's musical education and personal growth. These performances stand as a testament to the vibrant musical education at our school and highlight the importance of providing children with diverse performance opportunities. As we reflect on these rewarding events, we celebrate not only the beautiful music created but also the confidence, teamwork and joy demonstrated by our young performers.



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ASHDON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA'S



**MOVIE
NIGHT**

★ ★ ★ **ARTHUR CHRISTMAS** ★ ★ ★
U RATED

**DEC
18**
WEDNESDAY

FREE FOR ALL
YEAR GROUPS
SNACKS INCLUDED

FROM
15:30-17:30

ASHDONPRIMARYPTA@GMAIL.COM



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Ashdon Primary School PTA's Upcoming Events

SEPT
17-24
EACS2SCHOOL
textile collection

COMPLETED

SEPT
28
9:30 - 3PM
School clean up day

CANCELLED

OCT
19
6PM
Quiz Night

COMPLETED

OCT
24
7:30PM
AGM
Ashdon Rose & Crown

COMPLETED

DEC
6
9:30 - 5:20
Christmas Fair

COMPLETED

DEC
11
Santa Dash

COMPLETED

DEC
18
3:30 - 5:30
Christmas film night

For more info contact us at
ashdonprimarypta@gmail.com

Christmas Party Time!!

Dear Parents,

PS: Regarding Christmas Parties - Friday, 20th December

On the last day of term, our classes will host Christmas parties in the afternoon. We kindly request that each child brings a small snack pack with a few treats to enjoy during these celebrations. They can come to school in their party clothes.

Important Notes:

- We are a nut-free school due to severe nut allergies
- No nuts or nut-containing items are permitted under any circumstances
- Please send only a few small treats - children will still have their regular school lunch
- Do not send additional snacks to prevent food waste

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school safe and festive.

Kindest Regards,
Santa and the Elves

Attendance Winners!

First Place: Class 1 (97.1%)

Second Place: Class 3 (94.3%)

Third Place: Class 2 (91.1%)

*Well done Class 1.
You are our weekly winners.
You have earned yourselves an extra 10
minutes playtime on Friday afternoon!*

Reader of the Week

Children at Ashdon have two additional opportunities to read to staff. This is in addition to their guided reading sessions, as well as other reading opportunities in class. Ms. Winning and Mrs. Davies run these clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays! They have so many children who want to have additional reading sessions.

Here is the reader of the week:



Important News and Information:

- Sunday 15th @ 16:30 - All families invited to join Reverend Brundritt and the Ashdon Village Community for the service. Children from Ashdon who attend will all take part in singing a carol or a jingle during the service.
- Tuesday 17th December @ 10:00-11:00 - Christmas Church Carol Service
- Tuesday 17th December - Panto at school
- Wednesday 18th December - Children and Staff's Christmas Lunch
- Wednesday 18th December @ 15:30 - PTA Christmas Film Night
- Friday 20th December - Last Day of Term
- Friday 20th December - Santa's Sleigh visiting the children from the village! All families invited to join the festivities, sing a few carols or jingles together and all children attending will receive a present from Santa! Be at the church car park around 17:30 on the day.
- Monday 6th January - First Day of Spring Term 1
- Wednesday 8th January - Dance Lessons start for all children