



Autumn Term 2—Ash Class News—2024/25

Welcome back

Welcome back to a new term, I hope that you have had a good rest and feel recharged and ready for the term ahead.

Last term was a busy one with lots of learning taking place. The children soon settled into life in Ash class and it was lovely to chat to so many parents during our recent parent day. Sharing the children’s learning and progress with you is always important.

This term is set to be super busy too as we lead up to Christmas. A letter will be going out this week but I am very excited to have the opportunity to take the children in Ash class to The Cube, Corby on **Friday 15th November** to take part in a workshop run by the Royal Ballet and Opera House. This will be for an hour in the morning within school time and I hope the children will enjoy the experience of being in a theatre and learning from professional performers.

As always, if you have anything you would like to share with me or questions to ask please do not hesitate to catch me at drop off or pick up or email me r.mcgeown@cottingham.pdet.org.uk

Love 2 Read

At Cottingham we love to read!

Last term we enjoyed our literacy text ‘Tin Forest’ by Helen Ward and this term our literacy text will be ‘Handa’s surprise’.

During Reading pledge we enjoy a range of books each day. Please do bring in a favorite book for us to read during reading pledge and we can share this with the class. It is a special time each day when we enjoy a story together with the fire on!

Ash class also have a Book review book and basket which your child may choose to bring home. This is for children to tell us all about their favourite book, to share with others and maybe inspire them to read it too.



Expectations

Many children are bringing home toys and small items from home as well as taking items from the classroom. Please can we ask that you check children’s bags regularly.

Toys should not be brought into school unless you have spoken to a member of staff and an agreement may be made to aid transitions.

Homework

We have recently reviewed homework expectations for year 1 children and have decided that a stronger focus on phonics will be more beneficial in supporting spelling at this stage. All children must access the weekly videos as part of their homework requirement. Year 2 children should continue to read at home, use phonics videos if sent home. Children in Mrs McGeown’s phonics group have their own spelling books to practise each week.

Maths KIRFS are sent home termly, these are key Instant Recall Facts which your child should be able to recall with speed. At this point, instead of TTRS, we recommend that Year 1 children focus on the KIRFS at home in order to support this learning. **TTRS** should be accessed by Year 2 children for 15 minutes each week as well as working on their KIRFs.

Daily reading is also part of your child’s homework. If you can, please pop a note in your child’s reading record to show what you have read at home.

Phonics Homework

Links to phonics videos are sent home weekly, we strongly recommend that you do find the time to watch these with your child at home as supporting this learning ensures faster progress.

QUEST

Kenya

During this term children will be exploring the world around them as well as countries such as Kenya where life would be very different. They will identify the 7 continents and 5 oceans and where they are found on a world map. Children will explore where Kenya is on the world map and how their climate and land is different to where we live.

PE days

PE this term will take place on Mondays and Fridays.

Please be reminded to wear school PE kit on these days and for jewellery to be removed and hair tied back.

Collective Worship

Our worship value of the term is ‘Respect and Empathy’. Worship takes place daily with class worship on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s. During this time we discuss British Values and Protected Characteristics.

The whole school gathers together for worship in the hall every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Friday’s are a special worship where you are warmly invited to join us for celebrations and awards. Friday worship begins at 2.55pm.

Homework ideas

Please see below a range of ideas for you to support the children with their learning quest work at home:

- Go for a Winter walk, what do you notice about the changes in season?
- Find out about Diwali celebrations, make a rangoli pattern.
- Research Kenya, find it on a map and create a leaflet of information—what animals live there? What do their houses look like?
- Research animals and their habitats.
- Build a bug hotel in your garden!
- Help to prepare vegetables at home by peeling, slicing, mashing to help your grown ups to make your family dinner.
- Design your own healthy soup and enjoy making at home.
- Research food chains. Who eats who?

A.O.B.

Wellies—All children must have a named pair of wellies in school for use in the garden.

Early reading and phonics workshop for parents—Tuesday 12th November 6pm. This is aimed at EYFS parents, however it may be useful and you are warmly invited to attend as a refresher.

Christmas Nativity story telling and stay and play—Wednesday 10th December (One adult only to stay and play, further adults may attend the telling of the Christmas Story at 1.30pm)