



**ASHURST CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARISH NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN TERM 2018**



Welcome to the new academic year at Ashurst Primary School and to the first of the school's termly Newsletters, written once again by pupils in Y6 (for the most part).

It is the end of our first week back at school and the day is bright and sunny for the first of our school 'September Sponsored Walks' for charities we are to decide on as year groups shortly. Today Y5&6 are starting off at Shoreham Airport, at the Old Tollgate Bridge across the River Adur, where construction traffic and men are busy building up the river and sea defences to protect the land from flooding. Project Manager, Dan, explains what is happening. We walk across the creaky bridge. The river is shimmering in the golden sunlight as we take in the sights and sounds whilst standing on the old timber planks. There are tiny minnows swimming in schools, their scales reflecting each other, birds snapping like crocodiles catching their prey one by one. We gaze longingly at the distant hills and trees, the faint sound of cars zooming along the A27 filling our ears. There is a memorial stone and we stand and say a prayer. Then it's back onto the minibuses, along the Coombes Road towards Upper Beeding and Bramber, finally parking in the lay-by beside St Botolph's Church.

As we step out of the minibus we breathe in the bittersweet autumn air which stings our noses every time we breathe. We look around, there are trees towering over us, casting huge shadows and greenish brown leaves eager to fall. We are on the riverbank where the silt is building up. In the distance we can see Lancing College. We hear a squawk high up then see the jet black cormorant and spot it dive into the Adur and come out with a fish. It carries it back to its nest in the only tree in the field, the *lightning tree*. It stands bold and brave on the highest branch, ready for anything to happen. We hear the gentle thud of our boots when hitting the ground and the occasional crunch when we step on leaves.

We hear the birds singing, the fish splish-splashing, the heavy construction vehicles carrying the chalk along the A283, the Sussex cows in deep conversation. We feel the wind on our skin and the warm sun, out from behind the clouds. We feel the morning dew slowly soaking through our shoes and the warmth coming through our coats. We march on.

We hear the buzz of Bramber citizens and their cars passing over the stone bridge. We step up from the river into the High Street and are struck by the beauty of all of the flower baskets lining the route. Passing St Mary's House we take a step back in time. We see the old ruins of the Castle monitoring our every movement, like a CCTV camera, and we get a flashback of this exact time on earlier walks when we had that same feeling of goose bumps appearing on our

skin. We eat our packed lunches on the grassy bank beside St Nicholas' Church. We are finally full and march on.

On the old railway track heading south, we finally reach the last shady bend in the track. We know the walk is almost over for we are close to the minibuses.

For those in Y6, we take one last look at where we've been, admiring the world God has created. We know this will be our last Sponsored Walk at Ashurst Primary School. We get back on the minibuses and travel back to school, a brilliant day for it's always a wonderful walk to be on.

Here we have part of Noah's poem for you to picture and enjoy:

*The river sat on the silky sand bank,
Light rippled reflectively on the water.
With the tap of a blade of grass, millions of ripples broke free.*

*Smooth, silent fish swam under the murky river,
Swans glided on the surface.
The brisk sea breeze was as salty as samfire.
The river looked like a paradise.*

*A beautiful oak tree towered over us.
Perfectly-formed acorns clung to the tree;
Their little green uniforms with brown berets on their heads.
Golden dappled light spread everywhere.*

*Finally we reached the little village of Bramber,
Like stepping back in time.
Little meek flower baskets tied to lampposts.
And the eye of the castle protecting it from evil.
What a beautiful place we live in.*

As we write, we are all very much looking forward to our **HARVEST SUNDAY SERVICE** at **St James' Church** on **14th OCTOBER**, to our **'PUPILS' ART EXHIBITION'** in **ASHURST VILLAGE HALL** on **MONDAY 15TH OCTOBER**, with **POPPIES** as the theme in aid of the British Legion Poppy Appeal, and to our **CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION** in **DECEMBER**, for which we hope you will visit the school's website after half term to book your tickets. The website also has details of school Open Afternoons, Nativity and Christingle Services; and the **Y3&4 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** on **THURSDAY 8th NOVEMBER** at **10.30am** - to which residents are warmly invited to join us.

Thank you Y6. There is not much more for me to add except to thank you for your support, as always, and to say we are very much looking forward to welcoming you to any and/or all of our school events and occasions again this academic year.