



ASHURST CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARISH NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN TERM 2017



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

.....At the start of September, we all went on our annual Sponsored Walks to raise money for charities which we had chosen in our individual classes. They were: 'Cancer Research UK' and 'Shoreham Dogs Trust' by Y5&6, 'Compassion' and 'Sussex Air Ambulance' by Y3&4 and the Mexican Earthquake Appeal ('helping to build a new school' Y1/JB) by FS, Y1&2.

On each of the 'Walk Days', we were full of eagerness and joy. The Y3&4 started theirs first on 13th September. They each had a wonderful time and loved all the wildlife around them. Mrs Williams pointed out many interesting facts about everything and they came home buzzing with information to share. After the Y3&4 Walk on the Wednesday it was Y5&6 on the Friday. They experienced the same knowledge as Y3&4, but their walk was longer. Each of the three Walks included the Downslink and the River Adur at Upper Beeding. One Walk enjoyed their picnic lunches at the castle, a second sat in the middle of a grassy field to eat theirs - both in warm sunshine - and a third had to eat theirs under the Steyning/Upper Beeding By-pass bridge because it was pouring with rain! HOWEVER, all enjoyed their individual Walks in the beautiful landscape around us, and here is a poem we wrote to describe them:

*The crimson green leaves ready to fall,
Trees towering over us, over shadowing us all,
Not a cloud in the sky whilst we walk by,
Autumn has hit us and we're ready for it all.*

*Swiftly walking as we glance all around,
The sound of boots as our feet hit the ground,
Birds singing their tune enlightening the world,
What a wonderful place we live in all year round.*

*The wildlife around us moving about,
There's fish in the river, probably trouts,
Animals hiding in the hedges,
We've loved every part, there's no doubt.*

We followed up the wonderful Walks back at school in pictures, writing and in 'maps' which can be seen in special books around the building.

In the fourth week in September, Y5 pupils went to Swanage for a residential week with Mrs Williams and Mrs Pockett. Ashurst normally takes Y5&6 pupils to Swanage in June each year but, with nineteen pupils in Y5&6 this year, it was decided to do two separate visits! Y5s reported loving every minute of their week away: building sandcastles, riding on open-top buses, watching birds from a hide, going on long walks and returning by steam train, and eating ice creams! There is just so much to do in Swanage. We ALL love it AND you have great hospitality at the guest house. JNG-S Y5: *I loved Swanage so much.....and the guest house was amazing too.* FG Y5: *Swanage was great, especially being away with your friends.*

In October, as part of school tradition, Y6s walk down to St James' Church with Mrs Williams in school time the week before to decorate the porch for Harvest, ready for the school's Family Service the following Sunday. We went down to the church as usual but when we got there it was surrounded by scaffolding so we had an even more wonderful time decorating *inside* the church - with apples from Mr Cham's tree in Bumbles' Garden, pictures of us making and eating apple cake in school and also of our Sponsored Walks. We put apples in every nook and cranny and everyone at the Family Harvest Service last Sunday - the 8th - said how much they enjoyed it, which made us really happy. On the subject of cooking and eating, Y5&6s are now looking forward to their 'Cookery Day' at Shoreham College on 10th November!

The academic year also got underway with a Football Tournament at Lancing College and one at Henfield Primary School. Both occasions were full of endeavour, with Certificates being presented to all at the end. Well done to all school teams, including those about to take part in the annual County Chess Competition in which we finished an amazing fourth in our Division in 2016-2017.

As we write, we are looking forward to our Christmas Production of 'Puss in Boots' in December and 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 9th November at 10.30 - to which residents are warmly invited to join us.

We hope you are looking forward to the rest of the academic year as much as we are, and look forward to reporting to you again in spring-time. Meanwhile, we wish you a happy autumn and winter.....

There does not appear to be much more for me to add at this time, other than to say thank you for all your support and we very much look forward to welcoming you to any and/or all of our school events and occasions this academic year.

