

Ashley Hill News

Friday 12th July 2024

As we come to the end of another fantastic school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the hard work, dedication, and achievements of our entire school community. This year has been packed with learning, growth, and countless memorable moments.

You'll see from the details below, the last couple of months, in particular, have been incredibly busy, filled with outstanding opportunities and memorable experiences for the children.

Ashley Hill's Got Talent

We were treated to this wonderful annual event at the end of last month. All participants can be proud of the courage and determination they showed, wowing us with their talents on the stage. A huge congratulations to Lyla King (Year 3) for winning this year's event, and well done to all our finalists!

Thank you to the School Council, Mrs Clennell and Mrs Ashton for organising such a superb event!



Sporting Achievements

Sports Day - It was a pleasure to see the whole school enjoying our Sports Day at the end of May. A sincere thanks to you all for supporting the children during this enjoyable event.



Onchan District Sports - This year saw this inaugural sports event, where Ashley Hill, Cronk Y Berry and Onchan schools competed against each other for the first time. It was lovely to host the event on our lower field, which included sprints, obstacle races and an incredibly exciting Tug O War. Well done to all the participants and congratulations to the whole squad for finishing in first place.

Netball Festival - Two squads from our Year 6 cohort took to the courts at St Ninian's High School to take part in the regional championships. The players involved can be very proud of their efforts, scoring plenty of goals and demonstrating sportsmanship at all times. These children also attended the European Championships at the NSC earlier in the term!

Millennium Football Competition - Our squad of footballers from Year 5 and 6 took to the field at Union Mills FC to take part in this annual tournament on Saturday. The draw was not kind to us, putting us in a very difficult group, but the squad stuck to their task and performed very well throughout the morning, winning 3, drawing 3 and losing just one match. This unfortunately put us just outside the qualification spots, but all players involved can be proud of their efforts!

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your help with the above events - whether you've transported children to and from competitions or simply prepared your child for an event, your unwavering support is appreciated by us all, and ensures we can give the children as many opportunities as possible!



Cricket Festivals and Skills sessions - The Isle of Man Cricket Association have kindly put on a number of events for us both in school and as part of regional festivals. Our Year 6 children enjoyed competing against other island schools in a tournament at Tromode at the end of June. Additionally, our Year 5 children got involved in skills sessions at the NSC last week. These sessions provide great opportunities for children to hone their cricket skills and I hope it has inspired them to consider taking up cricket outside of school. A reminder that our school is linked to Finch Hill Cricket Club - if you require contact details for this club, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us in school!

Tennis competition - 12 children from Year 4 visited the NSC last month to take part in this inaugural tennis competition. The children performed admirably, just missing out on the quarter finals, but nonetheless had a great time learning new skills!

Year 3 & 4 Football Tournament - We were pleased to take two squads to a recent Year 3 & 4 football tournament, organised by the Football Association at the Bowl. It was lovely to see some of our younger children given the chance to represent the school, and there is certainly a lot of talent coming through from these year groups. Thank you to all players for their effort and attitude during this exciting event, and sincere thanks to Mr Rees for his support in coaching one of the teams involved!



Friends of Ashley Hill School Association

I would like to include a huge thank you to the FOAHS for their incredible hard work over the whole year and, in particular, for two recent events that have stood out. Our recent Summer Disco, on 27th June, was a great success, with the children enjoying a wonderful time. Impressively, they raised £830 - a record total!

I am sure you'll all agree that the Summer Fair last week was a huge success. This was largely due to the hard work of the FOAHS committee and, in particular, Caroline Mulligan and Rebecca Teare. A huge thank you to all teaching and support staff who manned stalls, ensuring the event went as smoothly as possible. And, if you're wondering, I have finally dried out after receiving a soaking in the stocks!!!

The hard work, organisation and determination of the FOAHS ensures that we can continue to invest in many memorable experiences for the children, including support with school trips, visitors and resources for our school. We are very grateful!

Young Engineers and STEAM

In recent years, we have been grateful to the FOAHS for supporting us with an investment in the Young Engineers Programme. This involved Adrian Walters joining our Year 4, 5 and 6 children to run successful engineering workshops.

More recently, our Year 5 children have taken this inspiration further, by entering the "If I were an Engineer..." competition. A huge number of our Year 5s were successful and six children received Distinction with Special Commendation for their efforts, which led to an invitation to a special Prize Giving at University College IOM on Tuesday 9th July. In addition, eight of our Year 5 children attended a further presentation for the 'Tower Construction Competition' last Wednesday. Congratulations to all children for their effort and achievements within this area!



Reflections and Looking ahead

As we come to the end of another busy, but rewarding, academic year, we can look back on the time with joy and pride. It is time to say farewell to our Year 6s, most of whom have enjoyed seven successful years at Ashley Hill and all are now ready for the significant step onto the next part of their journey in education. The recent Big Noise Concert at St Ninian's High School and their performance of "I'm an 11 year old, Get Me Out of Here!" will have been highlights for them and demonstrated to us what a great team they are. On behalf of everyone at Ashley Hill, I want to wish them all the best for a successful transition into High School, and I look forward to hearing about all their achievements in the years to come. A sincere thanks to parents and carers of our Year 6 cohort. Thank you for your support during your child's time with us - whether you've helped on school trips, listened to readers or supported your child's home learning, the partnership between home and school will undoubtedly have had a positive impact on your child's development.

In the last couple of weeks, we have had the pleasure of welcoming a new intake of children into our Reception class ahead of the September restart. These are always exciting times and I have no doubt that you will all welcome these new families into our school community next term.

I want to finish off by saying an enormous thank you to all my colleagues at Ashley Hill. Their hard work, kindness and unwavering dedication to their roles has an enormous impact on every child at Ashley Hill and ensures we can create such a positive, nurturing environment, rooted in learning. I wish them all a relaxing and well-earned break over the coming weeks.

All that leaves me to do is wish you all a pleasant summer break. Whatever you are up to, we hope you have an enjoyable and safe time, and we look forward to seeing everyone, refreshed and ready for the new academic year on Wednesday 4th September!