Ashmead Combined School

"Ashmead gives its children two everlasting things… one is roots, the other wings"

Head Teacher Michael Pearse

9th September 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Exciting new Year Five project

We have been offered the opportunity to take part in an exciting project between Buckinghamshire Council and a local JOY (Just Older Youth) group for seniors. The idea of the project is to bring together different generations and provide the opportunity for children and older people to share thoughts and memories whilst learning from each other's experiences. The project has been run successfully in other areas of Bucks and we thought who better to represent our school than our wonderful year five children!

How does it work? A group of around 10 children from across the year group would attend the group along with Ashmead Staff once a fortnight. The group runs activities which the children can get involved in such as games including bingo, talks from visiting speakers and maybe even the odd celebration or party thrown in! The JOY members will sometimes also hear children read and will definitely enjoy a good chat with them. In addition, we have also been told that there is usually a sweet treat or snack on offer during the morning. (Allergens will be displayed and Ashmead staff will be aware of, and carry, necessary medication for children with allergies as is standard procedure.)

Where does it take place? The group runs at The Church of the Good Shepherd on Church Square.

How will they get there? Staff members will walk with the children.

When does it run? The group runs fortnightly in term time on a Monday morning. The children will be back well in time for lunch.

Who will accompany them? Members of the Ashmead staff team will stay with the group at all times. The group leaders for JOY are all DBS checked, as are our staff and nobody without a DBS will be left alone with the children.

How often will your child attend? To ensure that all children have an equal chance to go and that they aren't missing too much in-school learning, each child will get to go twice across the year. The first group of children will attend on 21st September.

What if my child is absent on their scheduled visit day? Don't worry, we will swap them in for a different week with a child who is in school on the day.

Is there a cost involved? There is no cost.

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Insignis Academy Trust

What do I need to do now? Please complete the attached form to say that you are happy for your child to attend and have a snack there by **Monday 14th September**. **It is really important that you also complete the allergy information box even if we are already aware of your child's allergy.**

We hope that you and your child will be as excited about this project as we are. If you would like to find out more about previous projects, you can do so here https://learningandsharingtogether.org.uk/ and if you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact either your child's class teacher, myself or Mrs Thompson.

With kind regards,

Mrs Cullimore
Year 5 and 6 Team Leader