



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 02

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020

SCHOOL ROUTINES

Thank you everyone for your help with embedding our all important routines in school. **As a reminder, we ask that parents only arrive on the school premises at your allocated drop-off and collection times.** This is to help manage the amount of pupils and adults congregating at the school gates at any one time. I am aware that some friendship groups in school share car journeys but it has been our priority to accommodate family groups going through the one gate. In comparison, some other primary schools require parents to wait for up to 1 hour between drop-off times for certain year groups. I appeal for your understanding and help with this.

Yesterday, you should have received a laminated coloured card. This has information about your arrival and departure times. We ask that each morning you show this to the member of staff at the school gates. This measure will help ensure our families are staggered and arriving at the correct time.

During the morning drop-off, we ask that a parent or guardian accompanies their child to the school gate. **They should wait with their child until their temperature has been checked.** I will write next week to parents who are not doing this and ask for their co-operation.

NEW PRIMARY 1 PUPILS

It has been a delight to welcome our new P1 Ashgrovers to school, they have settled in amazingly well – thank you mums and dads for your help and preparation with this. Our new P1 pupils have different restart arrangements from the rest of the school. Miss Morrison and Mrs Coulter have kept all our new parents updated with this. It is important that our new P1 parents check their See-Saw account regularly for communications from their teacher.

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

UNWELL PUPILS IN SCHOOL

It is very important that you only bring your child to school if they are well and have no symptoms associated with coronavirus. If anyone becomes unwell with:

- A new continuous cough; or
- A high temperature/fever; or
- Anosmia (loss or change of normal sense of smell, which can affect the sense of taste)

They will be sent home and advised to follow the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infections.

Children who are unwell will be moved to a space where they can be isolated or to an area which is at least 2m away from other people. The Department of Education's guidance states that schools do NOT need to tell other pupils and parents if a child has been sent home with covid-19 symptoms. If a child or adult is **diagnosed** with coronavirus, we will then follow the guidance from PHA and Track & Trace to inform appropriate families and adults in school.

If your child is unwell with covid-19 symptoms and you collect them from school, you are required to sign an Acknowledgement of Action Slip, a member of staff on the school Office will help you with this.

LABELLING SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our pupils look so smart in their new school uniforms. I thank our parents for your efforts with this. It is important that all uniform items and coats are labelled clearly, this means we can return lost items to their owners.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

It is important that we have the most up to date contact information for all our parents and carers in school. If you have a new mobile number, home address, email etc please make sure you have updated this information with our school Office. You can do this by emailing school on info@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk (remember to include your name).

HOMEWORK ONLINE

This year, the vast majority of homework will be set online for our pupils. P1-4 children will use See-Saw and P5-7 will use Google Classroom. It is important to ensure you have downloaded the See-Saw app and activated your child's account by scanning the QR code sent home.

Children in P5-7 should already be familiar with Google Classroom as this was used to support home learning during lockdown. Mrs Flaherty has already sent home a note to P6&7 pupils on how to update passwords and login details.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

As per our Holiday List, school will be closed to pupils on **Friday 2nd October** for staff development. Please make alternative childcare arrangements for this day. Our Holiday list is available to view on our website under "Parent Area".



SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT...

At the beginning of a new school year it is essential we establish a clear and fair set of expectations with our pupils. Please see below our whole school Code of Conduct...

We will allow everyone to enjoy their rights by...

- Arriving to school on time;
- Wearing our school uniform;
- Showing respect to everyone in school;
- Being truthful, well-mannered and kind;
- Taking pride in our school building;
- Looking after our books;
- Walking sensibly and quietly in the corridors;
- Keeping our school litter free;
- Setting a good example to others;
- Exercising self-control; &
- Lining up quickly and quietly



Article 1: Everyone under the age of 18 has all the Rights of the Convention

All children have the right to be treated with dignity & fairness, to be protected, to develop to their full potential and to participate.



SCHOOL DINNER MENU

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE EACH DAY – REFER TO WEBSITE

<p><u>Monday 7th September</u> Ham & Cheese Baguette, Carrot Sticks & Apple Juice ~ Strawberry Muffin & watermelon Slice</p>	<p><u>Tuesday 8th September</u> Chicken & Salad Sandwich & Bottled Water ~ Vanilla Rice Pot & Fruit Cocktail</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 9th September</u> Cheese & Tomato Bagel, Salad Pot & Bottled Water ~ Yoghurt & Fresh Fruit</p>	<p><u>Thursday 10th September</u> Sweet Chilli Chicken Baguette, Cucumber Sticks & Milk ~ Chocolate Brownie & Pineapple Slice</p>
<p><u>Friday 11th September</u> BBQ Chicken Wrap, Vegetable Rice Pot & Bottled Water ~ Yoghurt & Shortbread</p>	<p>FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF TERM, SCHOOL MEALS WILL ONLY BE PROVIDED TO CHILDREN ENTITLED TO <u>FREE SCHOOL MEALS</u></p>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS UPDATE...

I have been advised by the Education Authority that they are working through all their applications for Free School Meals. They have advised that any child presenting for a Free School Meal whose application has not yet been processed should be provided with a meal if necessary up to Friday 11th September.

CARPARKING IN SCHOOL

With staggered arrival and departure times to school there should be plenty of carparking spaces for everyone. I would like to draw your attention to our disabled parking spaces at the front of school – **these are for disabled badge holders only**. To avoid any confusion, please display your “blue badge” while parking in these spaces. Our disabled parking spaces must not be used as general drop-off points, thank you for your consideration to others.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

If your child must have medication administered in school we require parents/carers to complete the correct Administration of Medication Forms. This year, we are moving to complete all such forms online. If your child has medicine in school parents must ensure this is in date and we have an adequate supply.

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF

I would like to mention a special word of thanks to all the staff here in Ashgrove Primary who have worked so hard over the past few weeks to successfully prepare for our reopening. I'm sure you can imagine this has been an extraordinary time and the demands placed on schools are substantial. It is indeed a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our team that we have progressed so well in these challenging times.

