



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 04

FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

### SCHOOL BAGS TO SCHOOL

Following updated guidance from the Education Authority, we have reviewed our procedures and risk assessment for children bringing **SCHOOLBAGS** in to school. These are viewed as a "low risk" item as they are not shared between children, similar to coats, uniform etc.

Therefore, from **Monday 21st September**, children can bring a schoolbag into the building. Pencil cases will remain in school and will not be sent home every day. It is still important that we all exercise due caution with items from home so therefore, pupils must only use their own schoolbag and not share this with others.

P1&2 pupils should bring their "book-bag" with them. Miss Morrison (Head of Foundation Stage) will send home more information about this via See-Saw to P1&P2 parents.

Other year groups may buy a book-bag from school instead of a full sized schoolbag and indeed some other parents have asked if they can do this. An email with a note attached was sent to you on Wednesday afternoon. If you would like to buy one of these, please do so online via SchoolMoney by **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September**. Please note, it is not compulsory for pupils P3-7 to buy a Book Bag from school.

### BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

As a reminder, our Breakfast and After School Clubs are not available at present. Our Dining Hall which hosts the clubs is undergoing a refurbishment. It is hoped this will be finished by the end of September.

Following a Risk Assessment, if it is safe to do so, the clubs will resume at the beginning of October. I will continue to keep you updated with these developments.

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## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Cool For School have scheduled to come to Ashgrove Primary on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October** to take individual and sibling photographs. For obvious reasons it is not possible this year to have whole family photographs including parents etc from home.

The organisation of the photographs will be different this year with Cool For School moving to an online selection and booking system. Once I have more information about this I will of course keep you informed.

## FLU VACCINATIONS

The Flu Vaccination programme in schools will be going ahead this year in the Autumn Term. The date initially set by the community nurse to administer this in Ashgrove is **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November.**

The Flu Vaccination programme won't protect against COVID-19 but it is critical to protecting the general health of our community. The Public Health Agency has advised schools that children are the main source of transmission of flu to others in their immediate family and wider community. Offering a flu vaccination to children will therefore reduce the spread of infection from children to children, to adults and to those in clinical risk groups of any age.

The vaccine itself is administered via a nasal spray (no needles involved) and parents are not required to attend.

Parents **MUST** however give their consent for the vaccination (no child will be vaccinated without parental consent). **Consent forms from the community nurse will be shared with you very soon and should be returned to school by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October.** If your child misses the vaccination or is unwell on the day, you as parent/legal guardian, you will be sent a letter from the Community Nurse explaining that you should now contact your GP.

More information about the Flu Immunisation Programme and leaflets in other languages can be found at: <http://www.fluawareni.info>

## P5-7 PERMISSION TO WALK HOME

Thank you to our P5-7 parents and carers who have completed our online permission slip for children to walk home unaccompanied. This closing date for the submission of this form was today. We will now collate this information and share it with those adults who supervise the safe release of children at the school gates.

**Please be aware that we can not release pupils into the care of juniors aged 16 or below.**

As you know, we have worked hard to establish a safe routine for the dismissal of children at the end of the school day. We ask that you remind you child each day what their arrangements are for home time. If an adult is collecting them, please tell them who it will be.



If you or a member of your household is diagnosed with Coronavirus, you must inform us immediately by emailing [info@ashgroveprimary.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ashgroveprimary.ni.sch.uk)

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

**DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.**

**VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS](https://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.**

## YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

### A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

### A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

### A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

**IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.**

## HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

### YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

### YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

### SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

### SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms\*.

### CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms\*.

### YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

#### WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

### YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms\*.

\*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at [www.education-ni.gov.uk](https://www.education-ni.gov.uk)



### EDUCATION RESTART



## STANDARDISED TESTING IN SCHOOL

Starting from next week, our P4-7 children will complete a set of Standardised Tests in school. These are designed to assess each child's level of attainment in Literacy and Numeracy. In addition, some tests also assess the ability level for each child.

These tests give our teacher valuable information on each pupil and allows them to tailor their teaching approaches to target particular needs. This information is at times requested by external agencies e.g. Educational Psychologist, AQE etc

Traditionally these tests are conducted in May each year, however due to the pandemic this was not possible. The tests are computerised and will be administered by Mrs Doherty (SENCo) and Mrs Hawkins (Learning Support Teacher) in the ICT Suite. Therefore, Mrs Doherty and Mrs Hawkins will not be available for withdrawal support.

We do not want any child to feel apprehensive about these tests and indeed there is no cause to be. At this stage there

## MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

As a general rule we discourage pupils bringing mobile phones to school as these are not required or permitted during the day. If you need to contact your child during school time, you must do so via the Office – messages will be passed on. We do however understand that some older children need a phone to contact parents or carers after school. If mobile phones must be brought to school, they must remain switched off and from next week stay in the pupil's schoolbag.

### SCHOOL DINNER MENU

*Vegetarian options are available if required*

<p><b><u>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September</u></b> BBQ Chicken Wrap, Vegetable Rice &amp; Bottled Water ~ Toffee Yoghurt &amp; Flakemeal Biscuit</p>	<p><b><u>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</u></b> Chicken &amp; Salad Sandwich and Milkshake ~ Vanilla Rice Pot &amp; Peaches</p>
<p><b><u>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</u></b> Ham &amp; Cheese Bagel, Carrot Sticks &amp; Bottled Water ~ Chocolate Cookie</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September</u></b> Chicken Tikka Baguette, Cucumber Sticks &amp; Bottled Water ~ Fruit Jelly Pot &amp; Oatmeal Biscuit</p>
<p><b><u>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September</u></b> Sweet Chilli Chicken Wrap, Veg Pasta Pot &amp; Apple Juice ~ Popcorn Cookie &amp; Apple Wedges</p>	<p>School meals are only available to those entitled to Free School Meals at present.  School meals for the week ahead should be booked online via SchoolMoney.</p>

