



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 12

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2020

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS – GOLD STANDARD

Article 8 “Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must protect and respect this right and protect the child’s name, nationality or family relationships from being unlawfully changed”

In School, we ensure each child is called by their proper name and registered with us by the name on their birth certificate.

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER 2020

School Council Christmas Post: Week commencing Mon 7th Dec

P7 bubbles return to school: Tuesday 1st December

Readathon Sponsorship due: Friday 4th December

Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 11th December

Half Day in School: Friday 18th December
(more information in Newsletter on departure times)

EA publishes info on P1 admission: Friday 18th December

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

VIRTUAL TOUR OF SCHOOL

In light of COVID we can not this year host our annual Open Night. We realise it is so important for new P1 parents to “get a feel” for our school as new parents often speak of the warmth they feel when visiting.

We are producing an interactive 3D tour of school (similar to Google Streetview) which will allow you to virtually visit each classroom and other facilities in school. In addition, we are arranging individual tours of the school and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Individual tours of the school can be booked online via the homepage of our website.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Christmas this year will be somewhat different for all of us and it is no exception here in school. We do however want to make this an enjoyable and rewarding time of year for our pupils and families. We have thought creatively about how we can still enjoy this time of year and share celebrations with you at home.

P1-4 are rehearsing for an alternative Nativity which will be recorded and shared with you at home.

P5-7 pupils are working on producing their own Christmas celebration which we will share one ready.

PRIMARY 1 APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The Education Authority are encouraging parents to apply for Primary 1 places for September 2021 via their online portal, this has been the case for the past few years. **The online portal will be available from 12.00 midday on 07.01.20.** We of course will offer parents any help they require with their online applications.

Alternatively, parents may if they wish, make a paper application to the school of their choice and again if parents require help with this we are happy to help in any way we can.

Please see below for key dates for the application process:

- **Friday 18th December 2020** – EA publishes information on website about the P1 Admission Procedure and criteria for schools
- **Thursday 7th January 2021** – EA P1 online portal opens @ 12.00 midday
- **Friday 29th January 2021** – EA online portal closes (applications received by this date are considered to be punctual when applying admission criteria).
- **Friday 5th February 2021**– birth certificate and supporting documentation to be with first preference school
- **Friday 12th February 2021**– date by which p[ri]mary schools select pupils at the first preference stage
- **Tuesday 27th April 2021**- Parents receive notification of outcome of P1 applications

We will keep you notified on our school app of other dates and the enrolment process.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY REMINDER...

There is a lot of speculation in the media about an early school closure for Christmas. Schools have not received any information from the Department of Education indicating an early closure, in fact the Minister of Education is insisting schools must remain open. In Ashgrove Primary, our planned Holiday List still stands- this is available on our website and school app. School finishes for Christmas on **FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER**. All children will go home early at staggered times to help with social distancing. No lunches or school dinners will be served.

STAGGERED HOME TIMES (FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER):

Arrival Time	Home Time
8.40am	11.40am
8.55am	11.50am
9.10am	12.00pm

School will reopen to pupils on **TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY** at the usual times.

COURT ORDERS AND CARE LIST

Some parents have requested their child's name to be placed on our Care List which is only for pupils who have a Court Order in place to prevent them being collected by a birth parent. Please note this list exists only for these circumstances which have been ruled by Court. For others, Staff will only permit collection from school of P1-4 pupils by the prior arrangement of parents – this has always been our practice – children are dismissed by the teacher responsible each day unless they attend our After School Club.

SHOULD YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, it is your responsibility to keep us informed and provide us with the appropriate documentation.

P5-7 pupils often have their own arrangements for walking, cycling, or meeting with parents after school each day. Teachers will supervise their exit from school as normal.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Mrs Carberry and I regularly review the attendance of all children in school. **We are very fortunate that the vast majority of children in Ashgrove are strong and regular attenders– we thank our parents for their support with this.**

If the attendance of your child at school is a concern we are required to write to you informing you of this matter in the hope that improvements will be shown in the coming weeks. Mrs Carberry and I will also send home **Absence Reply Slips** for us to record a reason for absence if your child has been off school – please complete these and return to the class teacher. It is important we record a reason for all days off school. Please remember to send a note to school informing us why your child has been off on their return, alternatively you may email school on info@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.com

For a minority of pupils, persistent lateness is a recurring problem. We very much appreciate and thank our parents and carers who ensure their child/children are in school on time ready to start their day. Lateness can be disruptive to the whole class and not just to the children who are late.



UNCLAIMED UNIFORM AND CLOTHING ITEMS...

We have once again collected quite a number of lost clothing and uniform items. We are sure that many of these items are costly and we would like to reunite them with their owners! If your child has misplaced items in school please check our lost property. To help us return lost property to children, please label all items.

SCHOOL DINNER MENU, £2.60 PER DAY

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE

<p><u>Monday 30th November</u> Steak Burger in a Bap, Sweetcorn & Chips ~ Yoghurt & Melon</p>	<p><u>Tuesday 1st December</u> BUFFET 2 Sandwiches (1 Chicken Mayo & 1 Cheese), 1 Pizza Finger, 2 Cocktail Sausages, 1 Chicken Goujon & Carrot Sticks ~ Pear Muffin & Milkshake</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 2nd December</u> Roast Pork, Stuffing, Turnip, Cauliflower, Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy ~ Flakemeal Biscuit, Frozen Yoghurt & Watermelon</p>	<p><u>Thursday 3rd December</u> Chicken Curry, Rice & Baton Carrots ~ Sponge, Custard & Pineapple</p>
<p><u>Friday 4th December</u> Fish Fingers, Beans & Mashed Potatoes ~ Yoghurt & Oranges</p>	

