



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 20

FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY 2021

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Article 15 (freedom of association) "Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights."

In school we offer a wide range of Clubs and Associations which our pupils are free to join, these include School Council, RRSA Steering Group, After School Clubs etc

THANK YOU MRS FLAHERTY – GOOD LUCK!

Today was Mrs Flaherty's last day with us in Ashgrove Primary. On behalf of everyone here in school I thank her for all her energy, enthusiasm and most of all for the love of children she demonstrates every day. We will of course miss her from school but we are all delighted for her success... keep in touch with us!

WELCOME MRS McCONVEY

It has been a pleasure to welcome Mrs McConvey to Ashgrove this week as one of our P7 teachers. She has already touched base with her new P7 class online this week – the children will already know her from being in school in term 1. Mrs McConvey is so looking forward to getting to know her lovely class and will be such a support to them all in the weeks ahead. I am sure all the boys and girls in P7McC will love having her as their teacher and make her most welcome in our school.

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

EXTENSION OF LOCKDOWN

I am sure you are all aware the Executive have announced an extension to the Northern Ireland lockdown until **Friday 5th March** at the earliest. Although the Department of Education have not made an official announcement that children will learn at home until this date, it is almost certain this is the case.

As I have shared with you in previous Newsletters, we understand this is an extremely challenging time for our children and families. Many of whom are balancing the demands of work, home-life, homeschooling and of course living through a pandemic. We can only ask that you find a balance between home learning and the other demands placed on you. Do please communicate with us if your household is unwell or you can not engage in home learning.

HALF TERM BREAK!

It is hard to believe that the February Half Term is almost upon us. As a reminder, school will be CLOSED the week beginning **Monday 15th – Friday 19th February (inclusive)**. School will recommence for pupils on Monday 22nd February. There will be no online learning or remote learning tasks set during this holiday period.

KEY WORKER & VULNERABLE CHILDREN

As a reminder I email to parents each week an online form to request childcare for key worker or vulnerable children. This provision should only be used when all other options are unavailable. It is important parents/carers complete this form for the purposes of track and trace.

PRIMARY 1 APPLICATIONS, SEPTEMBER 2021

The closing date for Primary 1 applications for September 2021 is today, 12.00 noon. Documents to support applications e.g. utility bills, birth certificates etc must be uploaded into the online application portal by **12.00 noon Friday 5th February**. If you need any help with any part of this process, please contact us. Alternatively, if you can not upload your supporting documentation, please bring this to reception.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet day this year is on **Tuesday 9th February**. The theme this year is, "An internet we can trust: exploring reliability in the online world." Mr Hutcheson has been recently appointed as the ICT Leader in school along with Mr Kelly. They will share information with home on online safety and learning tasks for our pupils.

A "THANK YOU" FROM MRS FLAHERTY...

Mrs Flaherty passes to all our children, staff and families her thanks, best wishes and care for the weeks and months ahead.



SAFER INTERNET TIPS FOR PARENTS, 0-5 YRS

Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children 0-5 Year Olds

Checklist

Put yourself in control

Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting internetmatters.org.

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines as well as YouTube. You can find out more at google.co.uk/safetycentre.

Set boundaries

It's never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices and start to introduce the subject of internet safety at the same time. Encourage children to use devices in a communal area, keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they can't go online without asking you first.

Pre-school children are online for an average of 71 minutes a day*



Explore together

Set your homepage to a child-friendly site such as CBeebies and give them a user account which only allows access to sites and apps you've chosen.

Help them learn through games

Games are a great way for young children to explore the internet and learn about the world around them. You can choose safe, fun and educational games free of charge from providers such as Fisher Price or about their favourite characters like Peppa Pig.

Children can now have a digital footprint before they learn to speak and often before they're even born.

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online as they grow up - with information, advice and support on all the big e-safety issues.

**internet
matters.org**

*Source: Ofcom Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2016



SAFER INTERNET TIPS FOR PARENTS, 6-10 YRS

Online safety tips for parents of primary school children 6-10 Year Olds

Checklist

Put yourself in control

Make use of the parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting internetmatters.org.

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines as well as YouTube. You can find out more at google.co.uk/safetycentre.

Agree boundaries

Be clear what your child can and can't do online - where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet.

Explore together

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about it. Encourage them to use devices in communal areas so you can see what sites they're visiting and share with them.

Check if it's suitable

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. The minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook and Instagram.

Over 65 % of parents are most concerned about their 6-10 viewing inappropriate content online*



Know this stuff matters, but don't know where to turn?

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online - with information, advice and support on all the big e-safety issues.

internetmatters.org



SAFER INTERNET TIPS FOR PARENTS, 6-10 YRS

Online safety tips for parents of 11-13 Year Olds

Checklist

- Put yourself in control**
Make use of the parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices, including your child's mobile phone. You can find out how at your broadband or mobile network provider's website. Find out how to setup safe search in Google by going to google.co.uk/safetycentre.
- Agree boundaries**
Have a family agreement about where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share.
- Have a conversation**
The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about what they do and what sites they like to visit. Discuss with them what they might come across.

62% of 11 year-olds
and 69% of 12 year
olds have a Facebook
profile despite the
minimum age of 13

13

- Check if it's suitable**
The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. The minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook and Instagram.
- Get them clued up about social networking**
Talk to children about the benefits and risks of social networking before they join any sites. Let them know that anything they upload, email or message could stay around forever online.

Help them to be critical of things they see online and judge the quality and reliability of online sources.

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