



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

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FRIDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2021

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Article 16 (right to privacy) "Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect every child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation."

P1-3 RESTART

It has been widely reported in the media that P1-3 pupils are to resume face-to-face teaching in school on **Monday 8th March for two weeks.**

Staff here in Ashgrove are delighted to welcome our youngest pupils back to school on 8th March and I am sure parents of these children welcome this decision. As you know, the situation is evolving rapidly and there may be further changes before or during this Restart. I will of course keep you informed as information becomes available.

Ashgrove PS will still be open for the supervision of Key Worker children and those who are categorised as vulnerable. In light of the second Restart, the Senior Leadership Team and I are updating our Risk Assessments to ensure the safety of everyone in our school. I will share key Reminder Messages with you all before we resume.

As a school we are very mindful of the lost face-to-face learning time and the impact this will have on children's social skills, routines, structures, friendship groups and our course on their academic progress. During this Restart we aim to support our children back to school by giving them meaningful opportunities to reconnect with their friends, peers and teachers. As parents of P1-3 children I encourage you to start to have positive conversations with your child/children about restarting school.

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

P7 POST PRIMARY TRANSFER INTERVIEWS

It has been a pleasure to speak with our P7 parents this week to offer advice and support with the Post Primary Application process. This is most certainly a unique year for our P7 pupils and the difficult situation we all must navigate. I encourage you to carefully read the Admission Criteria for each school you wish to consider.

I am continuing with P7 Transfer Interviews next week. Thank you to those parents who selected a date and time for me to ring you – instructions on how to do this was emailed to all P7 parents.

As you know, Post Primary Applications are to be made online this year via the Education Authority portal. Please be aware that Year 8 school places are NOT allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Post Primary Transfer Key Dates:

- Monday 1st March – EA online application portal opens.
- Tuesday 16th March – EA online application closes @ 4.00pm.
- Tuesday 23rd March – final date for change of preference.
- Saturday 19th June – parents will receive notification of allocation of Year 8 school place via the online portal.

PAPER PACKS AND ONLINE LEARNING

Thank you for your positive feedback and kind comments about our paper packs and online provision. Many parents have reported that they find home learning much more manageable with the structured paperpacks we have provided.

I am sure you recognise the significant amount of forward planning and time teachers take to provide differentiated packs for each child. We will provide you all with another paper pack for P4-7 children to last up to Easter. I will write to each year group to inform you collection days and times next week.

SCHOOL MEALS

Our School Meals service will recommence for P1-3 pupils from **Monday 8th March** for both children who are entitled to Free School Meals and those who must pay. Families from P4-7 will still continue to receive the FSM payment if they are entitled to it. As a reminder, school meals must be booked online via SchoolMoney for the week ahead. Kerrie or Tracey in the Office will send a link for school meals next week.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day this year is on **Thursday 4th March**. We are very aware we can not celebrate this day in the usual way. Teachers will still however share fun activities and tasks to help promote the love of reading.

