



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 01

FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST 2018

Welcome back to school everyone!

Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to school! We hope you all had a happy and healthy Summer break and are looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead this academic year.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils and other pupils who have joined Ashgrove Primary over the summer months. The past few days have been very useful in helping embed those all-important routines and expectations in school. We very much encourage and expect our pupils to come to school prepared with the correct equipment and uniform.

On another note, I would like to pass our congratulations to Miss McLaughlin (now MRS COULTER) in Primary 1 who was married over the Summer.

We hope you will find the information in our Weekly Newsletter useful - we recommend you keep these in a safe place as often key dates and events are shared with everyone at home. The **Diary Dates** section of our website is very useful to keep you up to date with all that's happening. Our Newsletter will be emailed to you each Friday. Alternatively, it is also to download each from our website, we will also share a link to it on our Facebook Page and Twitter accounts.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy and successful year with us in Ashgrove Primary School.

R Smith



ASHGROVE ROAD, NEWTOWNABBAY, CO ANTRIM, BT36 6LJ

T: 028 9084 8734

E: INFO@ASHGROVEPS.NEWTOWNABBAY.NI.SCH.UK

WWW.ASHGROVEPRIMARY.COM

Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

Upcoming Events in School- Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd September	Mr Morrow's class starts swimming lessons
Wednesday 5th September	Board of Governors Meeting
Thursday 6th September	Mrs Ewing's class starts swimming lessons Mrs Carberry & Mr Smith to meet our new Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
Friday 7th September	AQE Registration CLOSES
Monday 10th September	Standardised Testing Week
Tuesday 11th September	P1-4 Curriculum Information Sessions
Wednesday 12th September	P5-7 Curriculum Information Sessions
Monday 14th September	Standardised Testing Week
Wednesday 16th September	P6 Stormont Education visit
Monday 24th September	Cool for School – Individual and Family Photographs
Tuesday 25th September	P4 (Mr Hutcheson's Class) Assembly 9.15 am
Wednesday 26th September	European Day of Languages
Friday 28th September	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Monday 1st October	P1 Commence Full Day BOOK FAIR WEEK
Thursday 4th October	Mrs Carberry & Mr Smith to meet our new Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
Thursday 11th October	Mrs Carberry & Mr Smith to meet the Rights Respecting Schools focus group
Wednesday 17th October	Rights Respecting Schools, Gold Standard Assessment P5 (Mrs Carberry's Class) Assembly, 9.15 am
Friday 19th October	Harvest Assembly
Monday 22nd October	Parent Teacher Consultations (children go home @ 12.30 pm)
Tuesday 23rd October	Parent Teacher Consultations (children go home @ 12.30 pm)
Wednesday 24th October	Parent Teacher Consultations (children go home @ 12.30 pm)
Monday 29th October	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 30th – Fri 2nd Nov	School closed for ½ term



School Morning Routines...

At the beginning of a new school year it is important we establish good routines- this gives a sense of stability and security to our pupils. **As a reminder, all pupils must be in school for 8.55 am-** the bell rings at this time and marks the beginning of the school day. Pupils arriving after this time are late.

Pupils are welcome to enter the school grounds from **8.40 am** when adults will be on duty in the Playgrounds. Please take note that pupils **MUST NOT** be left unsupervised in the school grounds before this time.

BREAKFAST CLUB is available in the Dining Hall for £2.00 per day from 8.00 am.

Pupils may enter the main building via the Primary 1 entrance, this door will be closed at 8.55 am as soon as school starts. **We kindly ask Primary 2 parents to use the Primary 1 entrance rather than the main lobby.** If you are late please use the main entrance at Reception and an adult will take your child to class.

AS OF NEXT WEEK, WE EXPECT ALL PUPILS TO WALK TO THEIR OWN CLASSROOM BY THEMSELVES FROM P2-7.

Safeguarding/ Child Protection - HIGH IMPORTANCE

If you have any worries or concerns about the welfare of your child or any other child in Ashgrove Primary you should speak with either Mrs Luney (Primary 5 Teacher) or if she is not available Mrs Coulter (Primary 1 Teacher).

Mrs Luney (P5) is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

Mrs Coulter (P1) is the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

The Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Mr Edwards.

Our website contains our Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy and important information about the roles and responsibilities of the Safeguarding Team.



Voluntary Contribution to School Funds

We are once again at the start of another busy year in school. At the start of each year we ask parents to make a small voluntary contribution of £5.00 per child (maximum of £10.00 per family) to our school.

We do appreciate this can be an expensive time of year for parents and carers buying new uniforms, stationery etc. However, every penny is precious in school and this money will be used with the sole purpose of buying resources to enhance the education of your child/children.

We will send out a text soon with a link to make the payment via SchoolMoney.
THANK YOU!

Mobile Phones & related technology in School...

We discourage children from bringing mobile phones to school, however we do understand that some may require these to keep in touch with parents after school. If a child needs to bring a mobile phone, this **must remain switched off** and stay in the pupil's schoolbag throughout the day.

If you need to contact your child urgently while they are in school, please ring the Office where the Secretary will be happy to help.

Standardised Testing...

In our Diary Dates section of the newsletter you may have noticed we will have Standardised Testing commencing **Monday 10th September**. The purpose of this is to establish a very clear baseline of where each child is in academically. Teachers and adults will then use this information to help plan for the needs of all children and tailor their teaching strategies to ensure that all learners make excellent progress.

The computerised tests will involve all children from Primary 3-7. While these are important, we do not want the children to feel anxious or worried. During our Staff Development Day on **FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER** teachers will examine the results.



School Dinner Menu, £2.60 per day

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE EACH DAY – Refer to website

Monday 3rd September

Sausages, Beans, Chips, Mashed Potatoes & Tomatoes Sauce

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Yoghurt & Fruit

Tuesday 4th September

Savoury Mince, Sweetcorn, & Mashed Potatoes

OR Pizza, Sweetcorn, & Salad

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Flake meal & Milkshake

Wednesday 5th September

Roast Chicken, Diced Cabbage, Oven Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

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Rice pudding & fruit

Thursday 6th September

Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Naan Bread & Carrot Sticks

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Canadian Tart & Custard

Friday 7th September

Pasta Bolognese, Crusty Bread

OR

Fish Fingers, Peas & Mashed Potatoes

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Chocolate flavoured sponge & custard

HEALTHY BREAK

P1-4, 30p per day

Tuesday: Toast, Red Apple & Cucumber

Friday: Crusty Bread, Orange & Pepper

School Collection Times...

For the month of September all Primary 1 pupils will go home at 12.00 pm, as of **MONDAY 1st OCTOBER** Primary 1 pupils will stay in school to 2.00 pm.

Primary 2 pupils leave school at 2.00 pm every day from Monday 3rd September.

Primary 3 go home at 2.00 pm on Monday and Thursday afternoons, all other days Primary 3 pupils stay in school to 2.50 pm.

Primary 4-7 pupils stay in school to 2.50 pm every day from Monday 3rd September.

Please be aware that uncollected children will go to our After School Club, there is a charge of £2.50 per hour or part thereof.

Our website contains a page which gives an outline of the school day – please refer to this for further information. Our **HOLIDAY LIST** for this academic year is also available on our website in the PARENT AREA.



Healthy Breaks

Pupils should not eat sweets, chocolate, biscuits, crisps etc for break. Fruit, vegetables, yoghurt cheese or bread based products may be eaten. Please do not send NUT BASED products into school.

Speaking with the Class Teacher...

We understand that on occasions, you may need to speak with your child's class teacher. If this is the case, we kindly ask that you ring the school Office to make an appointment.

Teachers are not available first thing in the morning as many have duties and classroom preparations. Making an appointment helps us to give you due care and time – thank you in advance for your help with this matter.

AQE Registration

The closing date for AQE registration is **FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER**. If you wish your Primary 7 child to sit the AQE test, you **MUST** register their details with AQE by this date. Registration forms are available to download on the AQE website: www.aqe.org.uk. You also need to send a photocopy of your child's Birth Certificate, two passport sized photographs and payment.

P4-7 PE Kit

Before the start of the new term I shared with parents and carers our required PE kit. As a reminder this is as follows : plain white polo or t-shirt, black shorts or track suit bottoms, trainers or plimsolls. Children **MUST** wear their PE kit during PE lessons. PE days for classes are booked as follows:

• Primary 4 - Wednesday	• Primary 5 – Friday
• Primary 6 - Friday	• Primary 7A – Friday
• Primary 7F – Monday	

Labelling School Items

Please remember to label all items of uniform with your child's name and class. This helps us to return lost items to their correct owner quickly.

(Don't forget about lunchboxes and school bags!)

