



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 07

FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017

### Rights Respecting Schools

#### Article 3

"The best interests of the child must be a top priority."

In school we strive to ensure that we keep the best interests of our children at the fore of everything we do. The above article is written in to our new policies and will be embedded in the ethos statement of the school this year.

### Some very exciting news!

As some parents are no doubt aware we have a number of mobile classrooms in school... although these have served us well for many years they are in need of replacement. **A proposal has been put forward through the School Enhancement Programme for Ashgrove Primary to benefit from a major extension costing approximately £3m.** While the proposal looks favourable, and has been costed by the Education Authority, we need our MLA's to formally approve such a major expenditure.

With the lack of a functioning Assembly in Stormont, I ask our parents to lobby your MLA to keep the interests of Ashgrove Primary at the fore to allow our school to push forward with this enhancement programme.

**This is wonderful news; a very welcome development for our school and will ensure we can continue to provide the highest standard of education for many more years to come.**



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**Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together**

## OPEN NIGHT FOR PRIMARY 1 & NEW PUPILS

Thank you for returning your Primary 1 pre-enrolment forms or for sharing these with other parents. Open Night for new P1 pupils (or pupils moving in the area) is on **THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 6.30 pm. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

### Flu Vaccinations...

Our Flu Vaccinations are due to take place in school on **FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.** These are administered by the Community Nurse via a nasal spray (no needles are required). Please note that we cannot administer the vaccination unless we have permission from home. Parents are not required to attend.

### Parent Teacher Consultations

This week, you should have received home a note and reply slip about our forthcoming Parent Teacher Consultations on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October.** We ask that you sign and return the reply slip as this helps with our preparations.

As per the note, all children will go home at the earlier time of **12.30 pm** on these days. There will be no TEACHER AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS during the week commencing Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. However, to help working parents we are extending our Club (which usually runs from 2.00 – 4.00 pm) to start at 1.00 pm on these days – further information and a booking slip will be sent home next week.

We hope you will find the Parent Teacher Consultations a useful opportunity to be updated on your child's progress. This is also a chance, if required, for you to share relevant information about home.

We kindly ask parents to be mindful that Parent Teacher Consultations should last between 10-15 minutes per pupil. Please be mindful that there will most likely be other parents waiting to see the teacher. If necessary, you may make an additional appointment.

### PTA Monster Ball

The PTA Monster Ball is taking place on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October.** This is always a fun and popular PTA event. This year the PTA are holding three separate Disco's as follows:

- P1 & 2            5.30 – 6.30 pm
- P 3 & 4            6.45 – 7.45 pm
- P5 - 7              8.00 – 9.00 pm



## Half Term Holiday

It is hard to believe that the Half Term Holidays are fast approaching! A full list of all diary dates and Holidays are available on our website. As a reminder, school will be closed for the Half Term break from **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** (inclusive). Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November is a Staff Development Day. **School will recommence at the usual times on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

## AQE & GL Assessment Information

I would like to remind those parents who have children sitting the AQE assessment that the tests will be held on the following dates:

- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00 am- First AQE Assessment
- Saturday 18th November: GL Assessments
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00am- Second AQE Assessment
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 10.00am- Third AQE Assessment
- Saturday 9th December: GL Supplementary Entrance Assessment

## Harvest Service

Thank you to those of you who have returned your reply slip to attend our Harvest Services on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**. As per last year, we are holding two Services- 9.30am & 11.15am. Your ticket will be sent home next week- please keep this in a safe place.

It will state clearly on your ticket which Service you should attend to see your child/children.

**Please remember that all children will go home at the earlier time of 2.00pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October.**

### Cash for Clobber – Eco Schools

This year, our Eco council is taking part in the **CASH FOR CLOBBER** competition run by Cookstown Textiles. We can raise money by simply recycling all types of clothing and shoes (pairs only please), household textiles, handbags, scarves and hats.

If you have any unwanted clothes we would greatly appreciate you donating them to school. Collection bags are available in the school office. Once you have filled the bags just drop them back into school. Our school can win prizes for all of your unwanted clothes.

The school that collects the most clobber per pupil wins a magnificent cash prize.

**So, get collecting now – the rules couldn't be simpler!** Thank you – Miss McDowell





## Maths Week...

This year, we will be participating in Maths Week for the first time. The children will be participating in activities based on using different codes to unravel messages. This will require them to work systematically to be successful – a vital process within Numeracy.

P1 – P4 will be completing a Treasure Hunt. They will follow picture cues to various stations. At each station, they will need to answer a mathematical question. Each answer will correspond with a letter which they will use to find the punch line to my extremely funny jokes.

P5 – P7 will have a different type of coding system to use each day to discover messages. They will also have a homework challenge where they will need to work out how a code works and solve two messages – they may need some guidance with this. Estimation skills will be put to the test to guess the number of sweets in the jar. All children throughout the school will have a guess – no money is required.

P6 and P7 will be tuning into a live maths show, broadcast by Living Maths, on Tuesday at 11:30am. This will be an interactive maths show where 8 schools in Ireland will be active participants in a Maths Show that will feature schools from all across the world using Google Hangouts. Thank you – Mrs Ewing (Numeracy Leader)

## Skoolbo App

As part of Maths Week next week, we will be using a new App in School called Skoolbo. This App is free and lots of fun whilst providing revision, practice and new learning in a game format. The children will create their own avatar and fly through 3D worlds answering lots of questions and gaining rewards.

As a School we do not advocate prolonged periods of screen time but we feel this App will benefit your child and consolidate learning in addition to the many creative Apps that will enhance their personal thinking skills. \* Next week, your child will receive a Skoolbo log in card with their personal log in details. You can then download the App on an Apple or Android device and this will link to our school account which will help us compete against the other 50,000 schools who are successfully using this app. Don't worry if you can't download the App to your device/ laptop as you can still play online in your browser at [www.Skoolbo.co.uk](http://www.Skoolbo.co.uk).

**Although this App plays both Numeracy and Literacy games and even Languages we will be having a class competition next week to see which classes answer the most questions and hopefully we will appear on the national leaderboard too.**

Please be aware that this is an online game and will use data if used on a phone rather than a WiFi network.

**THERE IS NO ADVERTISING ON SKOOLBO AND NO IN-APP PURCHASES, CHILDREN CAN NOT COMMUNICATE WITHIN SKOOLBO AND THEREFORE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF UNSAFE INTERACTIONS.**

We can't wait to get started, P7F have been piloting this over the last few weeks and absolutely love it, we hope others will too.

Thank you, K Flaherty (Vice Principal)



## School Councillors to London!

Last Friday, our School Councillors from P5-7 visited the Houses of Parliament, London. We had a wonderful time and learnt about how the House of Commons and House of Lords work.

**Thank you Mrs Carberry for organising the event!**



**SCHOOL COUNCILLORS**

**VISIT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT!**





## School Dinner Menu, £2.60 per day

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE EACH DAY

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Fish Fillet, Peas, Chips, Mashed Potatoes & Tomato Sauce

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Yoghurt & Fruit

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Chicken Nuggets, Beans & Mashed Potato OR Salmon Cakes, Beans & Mashed Potatoes

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Egg Sponge Flan & Custard

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Roast Pork, Carrot & Parsnip, Oven Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

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Biscuit, Fruit & Strawberry Milkshake

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Broccoli & Naan Bread

~

Carrot Cake & Custard

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Pasta Bolognese, Sweetcorn & Crusty Bread

OR Pizza, Salad & Crusty Bread,

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Rice Pudding & Fruit

### HEALTHY BREAK

30p per day

Tuesday: Toast, Watermelon & Yellow Pepper

Friday: Crusty Bread, Orange & Cucumber



**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Ashgrove Primary PTA would like to invite you to the Annual General Meeting

In current times of financial difficulty for schools what the PTA do, and how they help school is more vital than ever!

Please come along for a cuppa and hear about what's been happening and what's to come!

Wednesday 18th October 2017  
School Canteen  
7pm  
We'd love to see you there!

### Eco Club News...

One of our priorities for development this year is to gain the Eco Schools Green Flag Award.

This week...

- ✓ Eco Warriors have made sure all lights are switched off at lunchtime
- ✓ Eco Warriors have collected litter from the Playground
- ✓ Eco Warriors have recycled old CD's to use as tree decorations

**Well done Eco Warriors- keep up the excellent work!**

