



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 12

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2016

Rights Respecting Schools

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.

A Little Bird Told me!

Rehearsals for our school Nativity- "A Little Bird Told" Me are well underway. The Nativity involves all children from Primary 1-4 and everyone will get their moment to shine on the stage!

This is an extremely popular school event and we expect there to be very high levels of attendance from parents and friends of the school. A note, along with a reply slip, was sent home for parents to complete and return to book tickets. Due to limited space in the Hall we must limit tickets to 2 per family.

To book your place please return the reply slip to the class teacher as soon as possible- some performances are almost fully booked already.

Monday 12th December- 9.30am & 11.15am

Tuesday 13th December- 9.30am & 11.15am

On **Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th December** P1-4 pupils are welcome to go home at the earlier time of **12.30pm**. This is not mandatory. P1-4 are welcome to stay in school until their usual home time.

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

Christmas Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service is due to take place in school on **Friday 16th December at 9.30am**. The Service will last approximately 1 hour and Rev. John Dickinson from Carnmoney Presbyterian Church will speak.

This promises to be a very special event and will surely get us all in the Christmas spirit!

Initially, we are able to offer two tickets per family to those pupils **singing or reading** during the service. I am sure parents and carers appreciate space in the Hall is limited and we have taken the decision to prioritise tickets to those families with children involved in the Service.

Please complete and return the reply slip already sent home to book your tickets.

Christmas Dinner in School

Our pupils will be having their Christmas Dinner in school on **Wednesday 7th December**. The cost of the meal remains the same as per usual school dinners. This will be a very busy day for the Kitchen Staff who will have to prepare hundreds of meals! We would like to mention a special word of thanks to Vivienne and everyone who works in the Kitchen who work hard all year to freshly prepare break-time snacks and lunches for the boys and girls in our school.

Primary 1 Applications for September 2017

We are now accepting Primary 1 applications forms for September 2017. If you have not yet received one please feel free to call in to the Office and collect one from Mrs Lamont. Application forms must be submitted to school before **Wednesday 11th January, 12.00 noon**.

If you know someone with a child who is due to start school in September encourage them to make an appointment to see about school,

Attendance Reminder...

Throughout the year I am required by law to monitor closely the attendance of all pupils in Ashgrove Primary. The Education Welfare Officer visits schools regularly to look at the overall percentage attendance of each child in school. Any child whose attendance persistently falls below 85% must be referred to the Education Welfare Service who will work with parents or carers to improve attendance.

Please be mindful that each day off unnecessarily is a lost day of learning.

If your child is off school with illness, medical appointments or any other reason please send a short note to the class teacher to explain the absence. We are required to record a reason for all absences. Our Attendance Policy is freely available on our school website.

IN NOVEMBER 194 PUPILS ACHIEVED 100% ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE!



Celebrating Positive Behaviour in Ashgrove

STARS OF THE WEEK!

Our focus this week: Literacy		
Primary 1 Miss Morrison Will Gray	Primary 1 Miss McLaughlin Jay Bennett	Primary 2 Miss McDowell Jacob Mudd
Primary 2 Mrs Copeland/Cartmill Ryan Flanagan	Primary 3 Mrs Douglas Jacob Wade	Primary 3 Miss Crozier/Manion Lauren Beards
Primary 4 Mrs Torrie Stephen McGaw	Primary 4 Mr Hutcheson Marcus Watson	Primary 5 Mrs Luney Lucy Foster
Primary 5 Mrs Carberry Luke McKeown	Primary 6 Mrs Ewing Ethan Byers	Primary 6 Mr Morrow Zelun Xue
Primary 7 Mr Agnew Mia Sittlington	Primary 7 Miss Taylor Bailey Coates	Next week our focus is ENDEAVOUR
<h2 style="color: red;">Happy Birthday to...</h2>		
Melissa Holbrook, Callum Gilmore, Kiera Montgomery & Jessica Woods.		

AQE Final Assessment- Good Luck!

For the final time this year we are wishing Primary 7 the very best of luck for their last AQE Assessment tomorrow morning! You should all be proud of your fine efforts and hard work to date. I would like to thank Miss Taylor and Mr Agnew for their continued efforts and dedication in making sure our boys and girls in P7 are as prepared as they can be.



P6&7 Ski Trip Reminder!

Every second year we offer a Ski Trip for P6/P7 pupils. Previous School Ski Trips have been a great success and interest has already been expressed by parents in our 2018 trip. Our last two trips were in conjunction with Glengormley Integrated Primary School and we hope to continue this successful link.

Skiing is a very popular sport with the Northern Ireland public and increasingly so with Primary Schools. Skiing allows pupils to improve their general fitness and skills level in an outdoor environment. It encourages self-confidence and independence and teaches pupils a healthy and safe way to enjoy outdoor activities. Pupils will also broaden their European knowledge by experiencing different language, currency, food and scenery.

School-based trips allow pupils to ski at a reasonably affordable cost, avoiding peak holiday times, in an environment specifically geared towards primary schools. The proposed week-long trip would be to Austria or Italy in January - March 2018.

By paying an early deposit, Topflight Ski will guarantee us a 2018 trip at the 2017 price. The 'Flexideal' operated by Topflight also offers a discount of well over £100 on the normal price and Topflight are working to absorb current £/€ current fluctuations. Dates and venue are confirmed by Sept/Oct 2017. In order to avail of this deal, we need to have deposits paid by early December 2016. This should also secure a Belfast flight departure. A savings scheme will then be available to help pay for the balance.

It is hoped that all interested pupils can be included in the trip. In order to comply with Education Authority's prescribed adult/pupil Health & Safety ratios however, it may be necessary to add one or two vetted parent volunteers to the team of teachers. Adults would be entitled to the same package as pupils – the cost being £120 more than for a child.

NB – Both pupils & adults will be expected to meet the school's Code of Conduct for Educational Visits.

If interested, please return the attached interest slip to school as soon as possible and not later than 8th December, along with a £120 deposit (Non-refundable).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or why not ask pupils who went on the last Ski Trip for their opinion!

Payment Details - £120 deposit by 8th December 2016
Second deposit £120 due April 2017
Balance – 12 weeks prior to departure.

N Agnew (Trip Organiser)



Christmas Poetry House Competition

Mrs Luney has launched a poetry competition in school based on the theme of WINTER. We are looking for creative poems with lots of descriptive language, similes, metaphor etc.

The closing date for the submission of poems is **THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER!** There will be a prize of a £5.00 book voucher for the winning poem from each House... get creative and good luck!

Christmas Holiday Reminder...

School finishes for Christmas on **Monday 19th December**. All children will go home at 12.00pm, no lunches or school dinners will be served on this day.

School will reopen to pupils on **WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 2017** at the usual times.

Primary 3&4 to see Aladdin

Primary 3&4 are heading to the Braid Arts Centre on **Wednesday 14th December** to see Aladdin. We hope all our boys and girls will enjoy this Christmas treat!

Magic George

On **Thursday 15th December** Magic George is coming to school to see Primary 1&2. Some of the boys and girls from Ashgrove Nursery will be coming along to join us too!

School Dinner Menu

<p><u>Monday 5th December</u> Sausages, Beans, Chips, Mashed Potatoes & Tomato Sauce ~ Flakemeal Biscuit, Fruit & Milkshake</p>	<p><u>Tuesday 6th December</u> Savoury Mince, Sweetcorn & Mashed Potatoes OR Pizza, Sweetcorn & Salad ~ Yoghurt & Fruit</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 7th December</u> Roast Chicken, Diced Carrots, Oven Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy ~ Rice Pudding & Fruit</p>	<p><u>Thursday 8th December</u> Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Naan Bread & Carrot Sticks ~ Apple Crumble & Custard</p>
<p><u>Friday 9th December</u> Pasta Bolognese, Cheese & Crusty Bread OR Fish Fingers, Peas & Mashed Potatoes ~ Pear & Chocolate Flavoured Sponge & Custard</p>	<p>HEALTHY BREAK P1-4, 30p per day</p> <p>Tuesday: Toast, Red Apple & Cucumber Friday: Crusty Bread, Orange & Pepper</p>

