



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 17

FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018

### Rights Respecting Schools

#### Article 12

"Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters which affect them and to have their views considered and taken seriously"

In School we work hard to achieve and realise this Right for our children. Our fantastic School Council, House Captains and Vice Captains represent their classmates and voice opinions on a range of matters. We regularly consult with everyone through questionnaires and Class Council meetings.

### Severe Weather Policy & Procedures...

As per the MET Office forecast we are due for some, unsettled weather which may bring some snow. It is only in very exceptional circumstances that we will take the decision to close the school due to snow or severe weather. We always aim to give parents as much notice about an unexpected closure as possible, we will do this through the following:

- ✓ A Text will be sent to our main contact for each child
- ✓ A notice will be placed on our website
- ✓ A notice will be posted on our Facebook and Twitter pages
- ✓ BBC NI will be notified

**Please check these before ringing the school.**

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**Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together**

## Schoolmoney – payment system...

Yesterday, you should have received a text from school with information about our new online payment system called **Schoolmoney**. This will allow parents and carers to pay for items online using their credit or debit cards – just like you would with any other online purchases e.g. Amazon. This is a very safe, secure way to pay for school items e.g. Swimming, school trips etc.

**Please follow the link on the text sent to you.**

To request a payment, we will send you a text (and/or email), you will then login to your Schoolmoney account. Here you will be able to view any payments pending. If you are having difficulties logging in to your account for the first time, we advise you to try the following:

1. Please make sure that you are not using capital letters when logging in (all lower case letters);
2. Only the first name is used e.g. katie;
3. **Make sure that school has your most up-to-date mobile number and email;** and
4. Some parents have multiple email addresses – try all email addresses
5. Try an alternative device e.g. laptop or tablet

If you need to send the Office your most up-to-date mobile number or email please send this to [klamont306@c2kni.net](mailto:klamont306@c2kni.net)

In the near future, we use this system to book and pay for school dinners – this will also give you menu choices for each day.

We hope you will find this new service a convenient way to book and pay for school related activities.

## Primary 1 Enrolment

Primary 1 places for September 2018 will be allocated in the coming weeks. If you still have a form to return, please ensure this is forwarded to the school office immediately. Should you need an additional form, please let us know, or alternatively this may be downloaded from our website.

The official closing date was Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.



## Shared Education Funding

We are delighted to have been successful in gaining a grant of £32,000 from the Education Authority for an initiative called Shared Education. The programme will offer lots of new and exciting opportunities for the children and staff our school. As part of the programme we will be working with St Michael's Primary School, Belfast. I will of course keep you fully informed as the initiative develops.

## Parent Questionnaire on website

Next week, we will make live a Parent Questionnaire on the homepage of our website, to access this you will need a password which will be sent home next week.

The questionnaire is an opportunity for the school to consult with you about our educational and pastoral provision, to listen to your views and if appropriate to act on suggested areas for improvement.

The questionnaire will be live for two weeks... please take the opportunity to complete this. The class with the highest response rate from parents will receive a night off homework!

Working alongside the Parent Questionnaire, our pupils form P5-7 will also complete an online Pupil Questionnaire.

We will share the results with you in due course.

## School Punctuality

As a reminder to all parents **school starts at 8.55am**. By this time all pupils are expected to be in school for the start of the day...

Persistent lateness means pupils miss out on important routines and this disrupts the smooth running of the school.

Pupils are welcome to enter the school grounds from **8.40am** when a member of staff will be on duty.



## How to raise a concern in school...

At intervals throughout the school year, we like to remind and advise parents as to how they may raise a concern. At all times, we aim to resolve matters swiftly and in a supportive, amicable manner.

At Ashgrove Primary School we value parents and carers as partners in the education of our pupils. The views of parents are significant and we encourage the positive contributions which parents and carers make to the life of our school.

We recognise that from time to time, a parent or carer may have a concern about some aspect of their child's life at school. By working in partnership with home, it is the school's aim that any concern is dealt with quickly and efficiently.

**Please find below the procedure we have in place.**

As a school we will deal with any concern in courteous and professional manner as the needs of our pupils are paramount.

### HOW DO I RAISE A CONCERN?

1. Make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the matter. We strongly advocate making an appointment as otherwise this impinges on teaching and preparation time. (Making an appointment will enable the teacher to give you the necessary time to listen to your concern).

*Most often concerns can be resolved at this stage.*

2. If after speaking to the teacher the matter is not resolved the issue can be taken up with the Head of Key Stage or the Vice Principal.
3. Following the second step, if concerns still remain the issue can be referred to the Princip
4. Ultimately if the issue is still not resolved the parents/carers can write to the Chairperson of the Complaints Committee of Board of Governors (Mr B. Edwards)- please refer to our Complaints Procedure.

*It is very rare for concerns not to be resolved before stage 4.*

*If you have a concern about any aspect of Child Protection or Safeguarding do not hesitate to contact either:*

*MRS LUNEY, P5 (Designated Teacher for Child Protection) or*

*MISS MCLAUGHLIN, P1 (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)*



## P7A Class Assembly

Mr Agnew's class will hold their class assembly on **TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 9.15 am**. A note has already been sent home to parents and carers inviting them to the special Assembly based on 'Resolutions'.

### School Dinner Menu, £2.60 per day

**Vegetarian Options are available**

#### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Beef Burger, Baked Beans, Chips,  
Mashed Potatoes & Tomatoes Sauce  
~  
Yoghurt & Fruit

#### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Buffet  
2 Sandwiches, 1 chicken Goujon, 1  
Pizza, Carrot stick & salad  
~  
Jam Sponge, Custard & Fruit

#### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Roast Chicken, Carrots, Roast &  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
~  
Chocolate Steamed Sponge & Custard

#### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice & Mixed  
Vegetables  
~  
Strawberry Mousse & Fruit

#### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Breaded Salmon Cake, Sweetcorn &  
Mashed Potatoes OR  
Lasagne, Sweetcorn & Crusty Bread  
~  
Biscuit, Fruit & Strawberry Milkshake

#### **HEALTHY BREAK** **P1-4, 30p per day**

Tuesday: Toast, Green Apple & Celery  
Friday: Crusty Bread, Melon & Carrot



Keep up to date with what's  
happening in school...

We work hard to keep our parents and families informed about our school... to catch up on the latest news follow us on Facebook, Twitter and remember to check our website regularly!

