



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 05

FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2023

### RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

#### Article 1

"Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention."

We are working hard in school to raise awareness of the rights of the child, we continue to teach about Rights in class and highlight Rights on displays...

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY- SCHOOL CLOSED

Please remember that school is **CLOSED** for Staff Development on **(FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER)**. You will need to make alternative childcare arrangements for this day. School **will reopen at the usual times on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.**

### EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES...

On **THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** we will celebrate European Day of Languages. This is an enjoyable day in school and gives us an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of languages and culture in our school community.

Year Group	Country	Colours
Primary 1	Poland	Red & White
Primary 2	Spain	Red & Yellow
Primary 3	Italy	Green, White & Red
Primary 4	Germany	Black, Red & Yellow
Primary 5	France	Blue, White & Red
Primary 6	Sweden	Yellow & Blue
Primary 7	Holland	Red, Silver & Blue

Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

## ILLNESS, COLDS & FLU...

At the start of a new academic year it is not uncommon for children to experience cold or flu symptoms. If your child is not well enough to attend school, please keep them at home until they are better. This is not only in the best interests of your child but it also helps to prevent the spread of the cold and flu to others in class.

If your child is absent from school, for any reason, please keep us informed on the first day of absence. You can simply complete the Absence Report form on the homepage of our website or by clicking the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedPdbwQMkBPHnsS7DbOT7RQw9tWuSaDfjPTNfmnGmytqMpQ/viewform>

We are required by the Department of Education to record a reason for ALL absences from school. **When your child returns to school, please follow this up with a brief note to the class teacher.**

Mrs Carberry and I regularly monitor the attendance of all children and will write to parents if this is a concern.

## ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION FORMS

Occasionally, children in school may need to take medication at some point throughout the day as a temporary measure or as part of long term condition. As a school we will not administer medication unless the correct forms are completed by a parent or legal guardian and approved the Principal – this forms part of our legally required Safeguarding measures.

Our Administration of Medication Forms are available to complete online under the Parent Area of our website. Our Administration of Medication Policy is also on our website.

## ASHGROVE SCHOOL COUNCIL...

Today, Mrs Carberry and I met with the newly elected School Councillors to discuss their important roles in school and get some of their ideas about how they would like to develop our school. The School Councillors agreed to organise an Anti-Bullying Awareness Day on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October** and arrange on **Odd Socks Day!** (more information on the next page).

The School Councillors also agreed to organise **FRIENDSHIP FRIDAY each Half Term** – this purpose of this is to foster new friendships and for us to think about what being a good friend means.

## NAMES ON CLOTHING

Please ensure you have put the name of your child on each piece of clothing and school uniform. This means we can return lost items to their owners.



# Ashgrove School Council

## SAY SOMETHING GREAT ABOUT A MATE DAY

**FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER...**  
**GIVE A COMPLIMENT TO A FRIEND OR EVEN BETTER...**  
**MAKE A NEW FRIEND !**

"You are kind to me when..."  
"You're a great friend because..."  
"One thing I really like about you is..."

*Part of our Anti-Bullying work in School*



## PRIMARY 3 PARENTS ASSEMBLY...

Our P3 parents are invited to attend a year group Assembly on **WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 9.15am**. A note with information was emailed home a couple of weeks ago. The Assembly itself will last approximately 30 minutes. Parents may arrive in the Hall from 9.00am for a 9.15am start.

We are inviting 2 adults per child (due to limited space in the Hall). If you would like to come along, please indicate your intention by completing the Google Form – see the link below:

<https://forms.gle/bPgQFALC93fNu9QZ8>

## P1 PUPILS STAY FOR LUNCH FROM NEXT WEEK...

From **MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**, Primary 1 pupils will stay for lunches in school. Next week, P1 pupils will go home at 1.15pm.

Miss Morrison and Mrs Harbinson will send home reminders of the times of the P1 day.

## ENTRANCE TO SCHOOL PREMISES

For obvious Safeguarding and Child Protection reasons parents, guests, workmen etc must all enter the school buildings & premises via Reception. If Mrs O'Donnell is not at Reception, please wait until a member of staff greets you. It is important that all adults in school **signed-in** and **sign-out** meaning we know who is in the premises. This includes guests to the mobile classrooms.

We have a clear Visitors Code of Conduct and expect adults and guests to adhere to this at all times. Guests to school will be escorted by a member of staff or representative where appropriate.

Although schools fulfil a public function, they are private places, meaning the public has no automatic right of entry. Schools therefore act to ensure they remain a safe place for pupils, staff and others in the premises. We thank all our parents and guests to school in helping us make our school safe and welcoming for everyone.

## FOREST SCHOOL GRADUATION

We would like to pass our gratitude and congratulations to the teachers and staff involved in our school gaining the **Forest Schools Accreditation!**

This has been a significant undertaking and has involved external assessors visiting school to see how we use our school grounds and natural resources to enhance learning. On behalf of the school Miss Morrison (P3) attended the Forest Schools graduation today...





## HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN...

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 our aim that any concern is dealt with quickly and efficiently.

### **PLEASE FIND BELOW THE PROCEDURE WE HAVE IN PLACE.**

It is important that we have a staged approach to raising and addressing concerns as this means issues will be heard by more than one person in a fair, consistent and unbiased way.

### HOW DO I RAISE A CONCERN?

1. Make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the matter. All parents/carers from home must make appointments to speak with the teacher.

**(Making an appointment will enable the teacher to give you the necessary time to listen attentively to your concern.**

**Teachers are not able to ring parents during class time).**

### **MOST OFTEN CONCERNS ARE RESOLVED AT THIS FIRST 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 (Miss Morrison/Mrs Torrie) or the Vice Principal, Mrs Flaherty.
3. Following the second stage, you may make an appoint with the VP, Mr McComb
4. If concerns remain, the issue can be referred to the Principal, Mr Smith.
5. Ultimately, if the issue is still not resolved the parents/carers can write to the Board of Governors, please refer to our Complaints Procedure.

**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  
MRS CARBERRY, P5 (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)**



## CAR PARKING REMINDERS

While in school premises it is vital that all drivers exercise caution when parking cars, collecting or leaving children to school.

Drivers should only park in the allocated parking spaces and not on the hazard lines – this obstructs the view for our children crossing the zebra crossings and indeed the sightline of other drivers and our Crossing Patrol Supervisor.

I once again remind drivers that the disabled parking bays are for disabled badge holders only – please show kindness and consideration to others.

## READING BOOKS IN SCHOOL

**READING BOOK AMNESTY!** We have noticed that quite a number of our Reading Books are missing from school, these may have been sent home with your child to read as homework and indeed some may be there since before lockdown. This means that we don't have complete sets of some books which hinders teachers while setting reading for their groups.

If you have ANY reading books at home which belong to school, please send them back to us so they can be used again.

## ACCELERATED READING PROGRAMME P4-7

All children from P4-7 have been enrolled in our Accelerated Reading Programme. This is an online learning platform which assesses reading abilities and pitches individual reading books at the correct level for each child. Many of you in P6&7 will be familiar with this from last year and of course from during lockdown.

P6&7 children can all login to their Accelerated Reading Accounts at home and complete reading quizzes on recent books they have read. (P5 children will have access to this from home soon). AR is a wonderful way for you as parents to develop reading at home and take an interest in supporting your child. **We can not stress enough how important it is that you read with your child every day at home.**

Each child from P5-7 have been issued with their individual Reading Level. If you are looking for additional Accelerated Reader Glengormley Library has many of their books levelled for AR.



## SCHOOL DINNER MENU

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE EACH DAY (PLEASE REFER TO WEBSITE)

<p><b><u>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September</u></b>  Savoury Mince with Carrots, Mashed Potatoes or Pasta  ~  Banana Yoghurt Pot</p>	<p><b><u>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September</u></b>  Margherita Pizza or Fish Goujon in Soft Shell Taco with Zingy Tomato Salsa with Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potato  ~  Strawberry Mousse &amp; Fruit</p>
<p><b><u>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September</u></b>  Roast Gammon with Carrots &amp; Parsnip/Cabbage. Mashed &amp; Oven Roasted Potato  ~  Strawberry Jelly &amp; Ice Cream</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September</u></b>  Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry &amp; Naan Bread with Peas/Sweetcorn &amp; Steamed Rice  ~  Chocolate Sponge &amp; Custard</p>
<p><b><u>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September</u></b>   <b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT</b></p>	<p>Please remember to book for both Free and Paid school meals   <b>School meals for the week ahead should be booked online via SchoolMoney.</b></p>

## P2-7 DOODLE MATHS & DOODLE TABLES...

We hope all our pupils are enjoying using Doodle Maths & Doodle Tables – it really is an excellent online platform to help with Maths Fluency, reinforce key concepts and quick recall. We strongly encourage all pupils to use this every day – make this part of your routine. 10 Minutes every day!

**For the Doodle Maths programme to run effectively, it is important that children complete their tasks independently.**

We know it can be tempting for adults at home to help them along but this can lead to the programme thinking that harder work needs to be set. Remember- Doodle Maths is an adaptive programme.

### **You can still help your child in the following ways:**

- Read the question to them (don't change the words though and don't give any further explanation)
- Get your child to put any questions they are unsure of in the Tricky section. You'll find this under Help. After the task is completed, go into the Tricky section and go through the questions your child found difficult. Doing an explanation in this area will not affect the results the programme uses to judge difficulty levels.
- Ensure your child is regularly working on Doodle Maths so the programme has enough data to set appropriate tasks.

