



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 09

FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

### RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

*Article 4 "Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights."*

In school we actively promote an awareness of the rights of our children, this include the right to an education, health care and to be kept safe and free from harm.

### HALF TERM HOLIDAY...

School will be **CLOSED** the week commencing Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October for the Half term break. We reopen at the usual time on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. We hope all our children, families and staff have a restful Half Term!



### Update Contact Information



Do you need to update your contact information with the school Office with a new address, mobile number or email? If you do, please complete our online form and we will update your information:

<https://forms.gle/ezdV9wCtBuPZQdRZ7>

It is very important we have the correct contact information for all parents & carers in case we need to get in touch with you urgently!

ASHGROVE ROAD, NEWTOWNABBAY, CO ANTRIM, BT36 6LJ  
T: 028 9084 8734

E: [INFO@ASHGROVEPS.NEWTOWNABBAY.NI.SCH.UK](mailto:INFO@ASHGROVEPS.NEWTOWNABBAY.NI.SCH.UK)

[WWW.ASHGROVEPRIMARY.COM](http://WWW.ASHGROVEPRIMARY.COM)

**Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together**

## PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Usually at this time of year we schedule a first set of Parent Teacher Consultations. Due to ongoing systemic industrial action the first set of Parent Teacher Consultations will not happen this academic year. However, the Parent Teacher Consultations in February will go ahead as planned. We acknowledge that parents may be disappointed with this ongoing situation, but we appreciate your understanding. As a school staff there is nothing more we would like to see than a quick resolution to this systemic industrial action.

As parents you may help by contacting your local MLA and ask them what they are doing to put pressure on the Department of Education and EA to resolve the situation.

Rest assured, if teachers have concerns about your child's progress or well-being they will (as per regular practice) be in contact with you.

## PARENT & CARER CONTACT DETAILS

In school we communicate with our parents in various ways including social media, email, text and our school app. It is the responsibility of parents & carers to pass new contact details to us if these have changed, we can therefore update our records and you will receive communications from us. If you are not receiving correspondence from school, please do get in touch with us so we may correct or update your information.

## **MANY COMMUNICATIONS ARE IMPORTANT, SUCH AS EARLY CLOSURES, EVENTS OR YOUR CHILD MAY BE ILL.**

Please also make sure you have downloaded our app – this is free of charge and you can download this to multiple devices meaning everyone at home can receive communications. If there is more than one adult at home, please make sure everyone has our app.

## REFLECTIVE CLOTHING & COATS

We are sure you have all noticed how dark the mornings are arriving to school, especially those who come to breakfast club. We encourage our children to wear some form of reflective outer layer of clothing such as a coat or fluorescent hat etc. After Half Term the evenings will also be darker so please take extra care if walking home from school.

## UPDATING SCHOOL POLICIES

In school we regularly work to update key policies and procedures. It is important we keep these under review so they reflect the latest statutory guidance and best suit the needs of our pupils and school.

We have been working to update the following key policies:

- Drugs Policy (all schools are required by law to have a Drugs Policy)
- Complaints Procedure & Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

In the coming weeks, we will email these key policies to you for your consultation. Please note that while we welcome the views of parents and stakeholders on our policies, we are bound by statutory guidance and procedures.





**Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October**

How can we keep our brain healthy & fit?

What senses do we have?

How does learning create memories in the brain?



### **Brain Facts...**

The adult human brain is just a bit heavier than a bag of sugar!

The brain floats in a liquid - a bit like water!

The brain has billions of tiny cells called neurons!



## DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	Neuroscience week!
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Neuroscience week!
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Neuroscience week! P2 Parent Assembly, 9.15am
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Neuroscience week! SENTINUS Workshops PTFA Halloween Disco!
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Neuroscience week! School Council Meeting
<b>30.10.23-03.11.23</b>	School Closed for Half Term
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b>	School recommences at the usual times
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	First SEAG test
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Anti-Bullying Week
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Anti-Bullying Week
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Anti-Bullying Week
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Anti-Bullying Week P5 Parent Assembly, 9.15am P7 Annual Reviews SEN pupils
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Anti-Bullying Week Odd Socks Day! P6 Business Masterclass at Mossley Mill
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	School Council Meeting
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b>	SEAG test 2
<b>P6K swimming every Monday</b>	
<b>P6E swimming every Tuesday</b>	

### SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

Our School Crossing Patrol Supervisor, Mr Jackson, will not be available all next week, both in the morning and afternoons. We ask that parents are aware of this and exercise extra caution at arrival and collection times. Unfortunately, other members of school staff are not insured or trained to cover this absence. We have however informed EA Transport of this and requested a substitute be provided. The EA Transport sector appoint and manage all School Crossing Patrol Supervisors, not the school. We will send a reminder text about this on Sunday evening.

### ATTENDANCE MONITORING & REPORTING ABSENCES

Mrs Carberry and I regularly meet to review the attendance of all pupils in school. It is important that pupils attend school every day provided they are well enough to do so. Next week, Mrs Carberry will write to parents where we have not received a reason for an absence – we are required by the Department of Education to record reasons for all non-attendance.

For ease of access we have an online form to report an absence from school. As a reminder, this simple form is available online on our website, or just click on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/KqDtssK1H1evJHfr9>

You should inform us of an absence on the first morning of non-attendance, please follow this up with a brief explanatory note to the class teacher when the child returns. We are required to record a reason for all absences from school.



### PLEASE BRING A COAT TO SCHOOL

As a kind reminder, please make sure your child brings a coat with them to school every day. Coming in to November the weather now is cold and unpredictable. All children need to wear a coat outside during break & lunchtimes. To help us, please add your child's name to the inside label of their coat – this helps us return it to them if it is misplaced.

### FLU VACCINATIONS

The community nurse was in school today to administer the annual flu vaccinations. If your child missed this, please contact your GP to make other arrangements.



As a reminder, we have our PTFA Halloween Disco on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October – see times above! Children should enter via the P1/4 entrance door and exit by the P3/5 door. For supervision reasons, children should not wear masks to the disco.

If you would still like to buy a ticket, please do so online via SchoolMoney...

As the evenings are dark, we will not release a child to walk home from school unaccompanied after the Disco, please make sure your child knows who is collecting them. Thank you for your help with this.



## School Dinner Menu, £2.60 per day VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE EACH DAY

<p><b><u>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</u></b></p> <p>Savoury Mince wit Carrots, Mashed Potatoes or Pasta ~ Banana &amp; Yoghurt</p>	<p><b><u>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October</u></b></p> <p>Margherita Pizza or Fish Goujon in Soft Shell Taco &amp; Tomato Salsa with Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potato ~ Strawberry Mousse &amp; Fruit</p>
<p><b><u>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November</u></b></p> <p>Roast Gammon, Carrots &amp; Parsnip/Savoy Cabbage with Mashed Potato/Oven Roast Potato ~ Strawberry Jelly &amp; Ice Cream</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October</u></b></p> <p>Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry &amp; Naan Bread with Garden Peas/Sweetcorn with Steamed Rice ~ Chocolate Sponge &amp; Custard</p>
<p><b><u>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</u></b></p> <p>Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup with Beans/Salad &amp; Chips or Baked Potato ~ Fresh Fruit &amp; Biscuit</p>	<p><b>PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK BOTH FREE AND PAID SCHOOL MEALS ONLINE VIA SCHOOLMONEY FOR THE WEEK AHEAD</b> <i>thank you!</i></p>

DID YOU KNOW WE ARE THE ONLY RIGHTS RESPECTING GOLD STANDARD SCHOOL IN NEWTOWNABBEY?

**WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**



**Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.**



### NEW P1 PUPILS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

We have had a number of enquiries about places for Primary 1 for September 2024 and our arrangements for Open House or tours of the school.

As per previous years, we will offer tours of the school either individually or in small groups on the following dates:

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

An online booking system for the tours of our school for Primary 1 places is now live... please visit [www.ashgroveprimary.com](http://www.ashgroveprimary.com) for more details.

