



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 14

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

### RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Article 10 "Governments must respond quickly & sympathetically if a child or their parents apply to live in the same country. If a child's parents live apart in different countries, the child has the right to visit and keep in contact with both of them"

### FINISHING TIMES on 21.12.23 & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB...

School finishes for Christmas on **THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**. All children will go home early at staggered times to help with congestion in the carpark. No lunches or school dinners will be served.

#### STAGGERED HOME TIMES (THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER)

Year groups	Home Time
P1&2	11.40am
P3&4	11.50am
P5-7	12.00pm

There will be **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB on Thursday 21<sup>ST</sup> December** as this is a Half Day finish for everyone in school.

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUB & BREAKFAST CLUB IN THE DINING HALL WILL RECOMMENCE ON THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 AS USUAL.**

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**Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together**

## NATIVITY- IT'S A BABY!

It is with much anticipation and joy that we look forward to sharing with you our P1&2 Nativity It's a Baby! starting on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you all for booking your Nativity tickets online the proceeds of which will be donated to Children's Hospice and Diabetes UK.

During the Nativity we kindly ask for your understanding and co-operation that you do not take group photographs during the Nativity - we have some children for whom photographs may not be shared on social media etc. We will post on the school's social media accounts pictures which may be shared and enjoyed.



## THINKING MATTERS

In previous newsletters I have shared information with you about Thinking Matters. In Ashgrove we are well along the journey of becoming a recognised Thinking School which is accredited by the University of Exeter.

We have trained all teachers to enhance their understanding of metacognition - the processes in how children learn, think, store information and retrieve it again.

One of the strategies we have use are Thinking Frames. This is a whole school, consistent approach, introduced from P1-7 which make the language of thinking explicit. In addition we are focusing on developing the 16 Habits of Mind - I'm sure you have noticed certificates sent home for these habits. We have also shared information on our social media accounts.



## OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW P1 PUPILS

The first of our Open House tours for new P1 pupils and parents are taking place in school next week. Tours of the school are available on:

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 11.20 and 1.40pm
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 11.20 and 1.40pm
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am and 12.30am
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 11.20 and 1.40pm
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 11.20 and 1.40pm

Most of the dates and times above are almost fully booked with limited availability. To book a tour of Ashgrove please visit our Open House Page on our website... or simply click on the link below.

<https://www.ashgroveprimary.com/open-house-for-new-p1-pupils/>



Ashgrove Primary School  
**Primary 1**  
**September 2024**

EA P1 application portal opens on Tuesday 9th January

Tours of Ashgrove available on Thursday 7th, Friday 8th & Saturday 9th December

book online at [www.ashgroveprimary.com](http://www.ashgroveprimary.com)

The banner features the school logo, a bee, a sun, a graduation cap, a girl holding a trophy, and alphabet blocks.

## Ashgrove Nursery School

Join us on our open day.

THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER BETWEEN 5-7PM.

[Parents only for this occasion]

Please join us to have a look around our Nursery and see what we have to offer!

It is an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have and meet the team.

If you cannot make the open day but would like to know more then please do not hesitate to get in touch by phoning us on 02890843178.

The online portal to submit your application will open on 09/01/24 until 12 noon on 26/01/24.

Portal website: - [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)

We look forward to meeting you all then!



## SCHOOL COUNCIL CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Our School Councillors are organising a Christmas Jumper Day on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** – this is the same day our school Christmas Dinner Box will be served in the Dining Hall. There is no need for families to buy a Christmas Jumper just for this occasion, but if you already have one, please wear it to school. If you don't have a Christmas Jumper wear some tinsel or clip some Christmas baubles to your school jumper instead!

## PTFA VICTORIAN HIGH TEA

Thank you all for the response to our PTFA Victorian High Tea on **FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 10.00-11.00AM**... all of the spaces are now booked – they did go very quickly!

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, P7 pupils are taking part in a Victorian's Day and will serve our Ashgrove Grandparents with a Victorian High Tea. Our Senior Choir and musicians will also sing and perform.

## SENIOR CHOIR TO ASHWOOD HOUSE & GLENABBEY MANOR

Our Senior Choir will be spreading some Christmas cheer to the residents of Ashwood House on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**. They will also visit Glenabbey Manor on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** to spread further festive cheer. Mrs Warke who leads the Senior Choir will write to choir members with more information.

## SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

We are now at that time of year when very cold weather can bring disruption with ice and snow. Our Building Supervisor works hard to grit the main paths and walkways in school grounds, but we do ask that guests and pupils to school still exercise caution. Obviously, adults driving in the Turning Circle need to be extra vigilant.

It is rare for school to be severely disrupted due to poor weather, if this is the case, following a risk assessment, we will communicate with you as early as possible through our usual communication channels i.e. text, email, school app and social media accounts.

Please make sure we have all relevant up-to-date contact details.

## SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS

In school we have a dedicated team of adults who work to promote key safeguarding messages with our children, staff and parents.

The Designated Teacher for Safeguarding in Ashgrove is Mrs Luney. If you have any concerns for the welfare of any child in our school you may speak with her.

Mrs Carberry is the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection – she works alongside Mrs Luney and Mrs Carberry is the Pastoral Care Leader in school. You may also raise concerns or issues with Mrs Carberry.

Mr Smith (Principal) is also a member of the Safeguarding Team. He is kept fully informed of all Safeguarding issues and supports the Safeguarding Team in promoting a safeguarding culture.

Mrs Gillian McDade-Hasting is the designated Safeguarding Governor – it is a requirement that all schools have a governor designated to safeguarding.



# ASHGROVE PRIMARY CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER  
9.30 & 11.00AM



[www.ashgroveprimary.com](http://www.ashgroveprimary.com)

## SCHOOL MEALS MENU, £2.60 PER DAY

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers, Baked Beans/Coleslaw with Chips or Mashed Potato

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Arctic Roll with Peaches & Pears

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Italian Beef with Crusty Bread & Garden Peas

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Fresh Fruit Pot

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Roast Beef, Carrot & Parsnip with Cauliflower Cheese and Roast & Mashed Potatoes

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Melon Wedge

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Chicken Curry, Naan Bread, Boiled Rice & Mini Corn on the Cob

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Lemon Drizzle Cake & Custard

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Pork Sausages with Tomato Ketchup/Gravy with Peas or Spaghetti Hoops, Chips/Mashed Potato

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Decorated Fairy Cake

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK BOTH FREE AND SCHOOL MEALS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD ON SCHOOLMONEY

