

## Ashgrove Primary School

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# Newsletter

December 2011

## End of Term – Start of Term

Thanks to you as parents for your support again this term, and particularly at this busy and exciting time. I hope the Christmas season will be a time of peace and happiness for you all.

The children are not expected to wear uniforms next week - the last Monday and Tuesday. **The term will end for all children at 12:30pm on Tuesday 20 December.** There will be no dinner that day.

Teachers have a training day on 4 January so **the new term will commence for all children at the usual time on Thursday 5 January 2012.** The menu for 5 and 6 January will be Week One.

Breakfast Club, 2-3 Club and 3-4 Club will start on 5 January; all other after-school activities will recommence on the week beginning Monday 16 January.

## Primary 1 for September 2012

Despite a delay at the printer, the prospectus and application forms for next year's Primary One classes should be available in school this week. We have been advertising in the paper but please spread the word that our Open Night will be from 7pm until 8:30pm on Thursday 12 January, with the closing date for all applications being 18 January. Anyone interested in a place for their child should contact the principal or the secretary for a form, an informal chat or a tour of the school.

## Nativity Services

I hope many of you will be able to join us for this year's nativity services on 13 and 14 December. (Full details about tickets, times, classes, etc. were sent in a previous letter.) This year we will have 8' x 6' photographs of the cast available for £5 each – ideal reminders of a special time to put away or to give as a gift! And please remember – it is important to have a settled, quiet atmosphere for the performers, so babies and pre-school children will not be admitted to the hall. A crèche will be available for those who need it.



## Children's Records

It is vital that we have up-to-date medical information and contact details for every child in the school. In order to ensure that our records are accurate we will soon be sending home print-outs which we would ask you to check. Please make any corrections (new mobile phone number, changed address, updated medical information, etc.), sign the sheet and return it to school immediately. Thanks

## Contributions to School Fund

With strong backing from parents in response to June's questionnaire we have asked each family to contribute £20 again this year. Please send your contribution in an envelope marked for the attention of the teacher, secretary or principal.

## Christmas Events



Thanks to all those many people who made the PTA Christmas Fair such a success. As always, the children loved it and it was great to see so many friends, old and new.

Thanks also to the cook and her team for the trouble they took decorating the canteen and preparing a special Christmas dinner for over 200 children. The only thing she forgot was earplugs for the supervisors!

## Flu

To date flu has not had a major impact on Ashgrove this winter but we are not complacent and various preventive measures remain in place:

- Hot water supply to the children's toilets;
- Regime of additional cleaning on surfaces, door handles, computer keyboards, etc.;
- Promotion of hand-washing and general hygiene, especially after using the toilet;
- Supply of anti-bacterial foam-wash; and
- Contacting of parents where children develop flu-like symptoms during the day.

Please continue to keep your child supplied with tissues.



## Children In Need

There were lots of laughs on Children In Need Friday as the children responded enthusiastically to the challenge to Wear Spots And Raise Lots. Thanks to Mrs Clyde for co-ordinating the day and helping us raise £350.

## Christmas Carols

With a strong singing tradition in the school it is a pleasure to accompany members of the choir as they take their happy voices and traditional carols into the community. As well as the usual residential homes and day-centres we were asked to add our voices to the gathering at the Greater Glengormley Churches Community Forum event on Friday night.

## PTA Disco



Many thanks to all those who helped make the PTA disco such a success and to all the children who added to the sense of occasion by coming in fancy dress. You didn't have to be batty to join in – but it helped!

## Harvest Charity Appeal

We were proud to hand over a cheque for £2500 to a representative from Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children at our Harvest assembly. Many thanks to all those who contributed so generously to this worthy cause.

## Cash for Clobber

When you're putting away the new Christmas clothes and thinking about clearing out the old ones, remember our textile recycling bank in school. Please put any unwanted clothing and other textiles into plastic bags and drop them into the large green container at the Primary One door. Even Dad's old socks are worth a penny or two for school funds!

