

Ashgrove Primary School

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Newsletter

January 2006

Apologies!

Sincere apologies for the inconvenience that was caused when the heating system broke down on Tuesday 11 January!

We greatly appreciate your understanding and the help many of you gave as we organised the early collection of the 365 children in our care.

I am assured that the heating is now working better than ever.

Winter Clothes

Please remind your child to wear a coat on the journeys to and from school.

In order to face the arctic gales of the Ashgrove climate, children are expected to be dressed appropriately during break and lunch times.

Nativity

The sincere thanks of the Ashgrove school community are extended to all those whose efforts contributed to our recent nativity services – children, staff and parents.

Anyone who attended will be aware of the talents of the children and staff who made each service a joyful celebration of the true meaning of Christmas.

It was wonderful to have the support of families and friends filling the hall on both mornings and then staying for a chat and refreshments in the canteen.

Next Year's Primary 1

Application forms are now available for children starting in September 2006. Please ring the school at 9084 8734 or call with the secretary if you would like copies.

The principal is very happy to talk to anyone who would like more information or a tour of the school.

Forms must be returned to school by Wednesday 25 January 2006.



Healthy Eating

Following in the footsteps of Jamie Oliver our cook is keen to implement new guidance from NEELB. The two-week menu set out above will be in operation for P1, P2, free meals and as a choice for P3 – P7 from Monday 16 January. The cafeteria will continue to provide a range of healthy options each day. We are keen to extend healthy eating generally and would ask for your support in gradually extending the healthy breaks of Monday and Wednesday to every day of the week. The kitchen plans to make similar changes over time.

Exceptional Closures

Please note the dates of our four teacher training days this year:

17 February 2006 **26 May 2006**

27 February 2006 **29 May 2006**

Half-Term Holiday

The school will be closed for half-term during the week of 20 – 24 February 2006. Taking into account the teacher training days mentioned above the children will finish at their normal times on Thursday 16 February and return to school on Tuesday 28 February.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One	rice, chicken, vegetables & curry sauce or gravy yoghurt	homemade ham & pineapple pizza with salad apple sponge custard	roast beef, gravy, roast potatoes & vegetables fresh fruit	Golden Fishy, beans & creamed potatoes oven-baked custard tart	pasta bolognese & a half chip ice cream & orange sauce
Week Two	chicken stir fry with rice & vegetables pear sponge & custard	cottage pie & mixed vegetables meringue nest with fruit & cream	roast pork casserole with vegetables & roast potato chocolate mousse	sausage, spaghetti hoops & boiled potato rice pudding & fruit	fish fingers, peas & chips shortbread & milkshake

Swimming Bus Volunteers

We have recently reviewed our policy for educational visits.

As a result we are now looking for volunteers to accompany the classes and teachers going to swimming lessons each Monday and Thursday morning. If you can spare a couple of hours, even occasionally, please contact the school.



Transfer Dates

Parents of Primary Seven pupils will soon be invited to interviews during February. These interviews are a vital element of the process in which children and parents make their choices of post-primary schools.

Clay Fun

As part of an Early Years Arts scheme the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the National Lottery have supplied us with a kiln and we have recently been introducing a number of classes to the joys of clay.

It is hoped to organise a few Monday night sessions of claywork for parents in the near future. If you are interested please contact Mr Waddell or the school secretary.

Parent Teacher Association

The next event to be organised by the PTA will be a table quiz on 16 February. More details will be sent home closer to the time

Yellow Pages

Please keep sending in your old copies of the Yellow pages.

Not only is the school keen to recycle as many as possible, we would love to win the prize for the most copies collected.

Guitar Lessons

It is hoped that we may be able to offer guitar lessons on a Monday night to children in P4 – P7. If you are interested, please contact the school for more details



The Cedar Foundation

Our school Christmas card delivery service raised £180 for The cedar Foundation this year. Many thanks for supporting this appeal by buying the Christmas stamps.

After-School Activities

Our after-school clubs will re-commence during the week beginning Monday 16 January*. Arrangements will be the same as they were last term.

Because of all their hard work in the run-up to Christmas, the members of the orchestra will start a week later, on Monday 23 January 2006.

Mr Morrow will take rugby each Thursday instead of hockey. Special arrangements will be made to play a few hockey matches.

Arty Children's Challenge!

Are you expecting to be bored this Saturday? Why not produce a picture for Mr Waddell's notice board? Pick a room in your house, look out the window for a while until you think you have seen everything there is to see, then draw or paint the view in the box below showing all the detail. Go on, have a go . . . and then return it to Mr Waddell. Who knows, there may even be a small prize!

Name:

Title:

Class: