

Ashgrove Primary School

Ashgrove Road, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, BT36 6LJ
Principal: Peter B Waddell B Ed Dip Sc Ed
website: www.ashgroveprimary.com
e-mail: info@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk
telephone: 028 9084 8734 fax: 028 9084 4483



Newsletter

June 2005

Holiday Arrangements

This school term will end at 12:30pm on Thursday 30 June 2005.

The autumn term will commence at 8:55am on Wednesday 31 August 2005. Special arrangements will be in place for our new Primary 1 children. Everyone else will finish at 2:00pm that day.

Please note: a packed lunch should be brought on the first day as the cafeteria will not be in operation until 1 September.

Best wishes from everyone at Ashgrove Primary for a peaceful and relaxing summer break.

A list of next year's school closures is printed on page 4 of this newsletter.

Netball

Congratulations to Danielle Thompson and Jennifer McFall on their selection to play for the Newtownabbey area netball team.

Primary 7 Presentation Assembly

We will be sorry to lose our excellent Primary 7 pupils. We wish them every success in post-primary education and beyond.

Our special assembly for Primary 7 leavers and their parents will take place at 1:15pm on Wednesday 29 June. This will include the presentation of trophies.

Unfortunately limited space means that we will have no room for past pupils.

Reports

Annual reports have been put into the children's bags.

Please contact school if you did not receive a report or if you require a copy to be sent to an ex-partner with parental responsibility.

Please note that the attendance percentage that is recorded on the report is based on figures from Tuesday 31 August 2004 to Friday 27 May 2005.

Sports Day

After the postponements of a very wet week we finally held our Sports Day on Monday 20 June. The weather was excellent and a terrific crowd turned up to cheer on the children and add to the atmosphere.

Events included straight sprints, obstacle races, egg and spoon races, three-legged races, skipping races, tug-o-war, the mini marathon, sack races, the long jump and throwing the cricket ball.

Thanks to all the children for competing so sportingly, to the parents for encouraging the children and kitting them out, to the teachers who organised the events and to the kitchen staff who served tea and coffee.

School Grounds

With the brighter evenings there is a greater temptation for people to climb the school fence and play in the grounds. Rather than wait for vandalism or an injury to occur I would be grateful if you would contact the police on any occasion you see an intruder inside the fence.

Sculpture Project

Congratulations to the children in P2C, P4M and P5C! The amazing food sculptures that they produced with artist Grainne Keilty were officially opened on 24 June by NEELB Chief Executive Gordon Topping, Mayor Alderman Billy de Courcy and Mr Tayto!

A Note for Primary 7 Parents

If you are in receipt of the Job Seeker's Allowance or Child Tax Credit your child may be entitled to free school meals or a clothing allowance at his/her next school. You should contact the post-primary school or NEELB for details and form.

Flute Tuition

There is a possibility that from September we may be able to provide flute lessons for children from Primary 3 to Primary 7 every Monday night. For more details please phone 07730610054.

Piano Tuition

A number of additional teaching sessions are still available for children from Primary 3 to Primary 7 who wish to start lessons in September. If you are interested in piano tuition in school on a Monday night, contact Mr Richard Barnes, at 07734816826.

Family Fun Night

Despite the rain, the PTA's annual fun night was a great success and largely unaffected by the weather. There was the usual buzz of excitement as children and adults enjoyed the various stalls and attractions and helped to contribute over £850 for funds. Thanks to all those involved.

Would the parent who bought two polo shirts from Mr Graham please contact Mrs McDonald for her change! Thanks.

School Meals - September

Those children from Primary One and Primary Two who choose to use the canteen will continue to be provided with a set meal. Please send money for set meals on a Monday.

- - -

Primary 3 children are welcome to use the cafeteria system. Rather than pay for a set meal the children should bring money and choose from the wide range on offer. Some items change from day to day but there is always a good supply of healthy options, core favourites and new ideas.

Please remember that all cafeteria items are subject to availability.

We would recommend that you talk to your children each day about choices.

Classes for Next Year

Next year's classes will be as follows:

2004 - 2005		2005 - 2006		Room
		Mrs McCoy	P1	Rm 1
		Mrs Adair	P1	Rm 2
Mrs McCoy	→	Mrs McBride	P2	Rm 3
Mrs Adair	→	Mrs Copeland	P2	Rm 6
Mrs McBride	→	Mrs Blair	P3	Rm 4
Mrs Copeland	→	Miss Adams	P3	Rm 5
Mrs Blair	→	Miss Wylie	P4	Rm 11
Miss Adams	→	Mrs McAllister*	P4	Rm 8
		Mrs Mannion*		
Miss Wylie	→	Mrs Luney	P5	Rm 7
Mrs McAllister*	→	Mrs Christie	P5	M2
Mrs Mannion*				
Mrs Christie	→	Mr Morrow	P6	Rm 10
Mrs Luney	→	Miss Quail	P6	Rm 9
Mr Morrow	→	Mr Agnew	P7	M4
Miss Quail	→	Mr Graham	P7	M3

* Mrs Mannion and Mrs McAllister work on alternate weeks and have shared responsibility for one of our Primary 4 classes.

Parents

As their children move on to other schools, a number of parents will themselves be "leavers" at the end of June.

We are grateful for the support, time and money that have been given so generously over the years and we hope that through good memories and future visits these parents will continue to be associated with Ashgrove.

We would encourage those parents remaining and our new arrivals to become fully involved with the Parent Teacher Association and many other aspects of school life. The annual general meeting of the PTA will be held in September.

Parent Teacher Association

On behalf of the PTA Committee I wish to thank everyone for their help and support throughout the year.

Margaret Abernethy (Chairperson)

Thank You

Once again I would add a personal note and express my thanks to all the governors, staff, parents, PTA, children and visitors associated with Ashgrove. It has been a privilege to work for and with such a fine community of people.

Peter B Waddell (Principal)

School Closures 2005/2006

Christmas Term

start back	Wednesday 31 August 2005
half-term holiday	31 October - 1 November 2005
start back	Wednesday 2 November 2005
Christmas holiday	22 December 2005 - 4 January 2006

Easter Term

start back	Thursday 5 January 2006
half-term holiday	20 February - 24 February 2006
start back	Monday 27 February 2006
Easter Holiday	10 April – 21 April 2006

Summer Term

start back	Monday 24 April 2006
May Day holiday	1 May 2006
start back	Tuesday 2 May 2006
last day of term	30 June 2006

Teacher Training (Baker Days) (23, 24, 25, 26 August 2005)
(1 flexible day in July/August 2006)

Teacher Training (Exceptional Closures) (four days to be arranged)