

Ashgrove Primary School

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Newsletter

June 2010

We will be sorry to say goodbye at our Primary 7 Leavers Assembly this Friday, but the class of 2010 is ready to move on to their next exciting adventure. We wish them every success with all the opportunities and challenges they meet.

For the children in Primaries 1-6, the summer term will end at 12:30pm on Wednesday 30 June. There will be no dinners served that day.

The autumn term will commence at 8:55am on Monday 30 August 2010. Special arrangements will be in place for our new Primary 1 children but everyone else will finish at 2:00pm, both that day and on Tuesday 31 August. Normal times will commence on Wednesday 1 September – please see overleaf.

Until then ... stay safe, have fun and try to have a rest wherever you may be.

Questionnaire Results

Thanks for your responses to our annual questionnaire. Please keep them coming. All your opinions and comments will be collated over the summer and discussed by the management team during the annual review. They will then feed into the school development plan.

Sports Day

Many thanks to all those who helped make this year's sports day such a success. We were lucky to get a bright, warm day on our second attempt and the children entered into the spirit of things by doing their best and entertaining the crowd.

Once again we were delighted to welcome the children, staff and parents of St Mary's to Ashgrove when they held their sports in our grounds on 11 June.

School Meals

School meals will only be available from Wednesday 1 September when the menu will be pizza, salad and chips followed by mousse and fruit. From Thursday 2 September the menu will follow the enclosed monthly pattern.

All money for the week should be sent on the Monday. A page of slips has also been enclosed for your convenience.

New Girls' Hockey Kits

Many thanks to M Large Tree Services Ltd for their generous donation of a new kit for the girls' hockey team. Just the job as both boys' and girls' teams reached the NI finals this year.

Uniform

Please note that school uniform is not required on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.



Free School Meals

Being on the free school meals register does not commit your child to school meals every day but I would encourage you to apply if you think you are eligible. As well as benefiting families, **our budget receives additional funding for every child registered.** Please contact the NEELB for details at 028 2565 3333.

B Safe

Once again our Primary Seven classes attended the Bee Safe event in Ballyearl. Organised by the PSNI, the children were presented with information about many dangers that they might face in their everyday lives and how to deal with them safely.

Play Equipment

Outdoor play is an essential part of the Foundation Stage curriculum. Please contact school if you know of anyone who might contribute a large piece of equipment or sponsor its purchase.

Family Fun Night

Many thanks to all those who supported our Family Fun Night by helping with games or stalls or behind the scenes; and a huge thank-you to all who turned up to support us. Once again we had a beautiful, warm evening and a great crowd contributing to the party atmosphere. The event made a profit of £1300 for PTA funds.

Non-Uniform Day

Many thanks to all those who supported our non-uniform day. £300 was raised towards PTA funds as we marked the start of the World Cup.

Thanks to the PTA

Many thanks to all those members of the PTA who have given so much of their time this term to the big public events and to the less-obvious background work. It is very much appreciated.

School Grounds

Each summer the security monitoring company is alerted by our intruder alarm.

As each call-out costs us money, I would be grateful if you would contact the police on any occasion you see an intruder inside the fence or lighting a fire in the trees at the roundabout.

PSNI: 028 9065 0222

Toys & Games

Please note that any child who chooses to bring a toy or game to school does so at his/her own risk.

Galaxy Coaching

By now you should have received information about James Parker's summer coaching school. James, who used to operate as Team Theme, will be providing his usual mixture of skills coaching, competitive games and fun between 26 and 30 July, in Ashgrove PS. You may contact James at 07973751786.

New Tracksuits

We are grateful to Browns Houston & Williamson for their generous gift of £100 for a set of school tracksuits in smart Ashgrove green and school logo.

School Garden

During this school year Mrs McAllister has guided our children in planning and creating a garden in the school grounds. In line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum, children can now be given the opportunity for hands-on experience of growing flowers, fruit and vegetables. There is also a wild life area with a "minibeast mansion" and a water feature. A compost bin and water butt also contribute to recycling in the school.

The pupils gave many suggestions about where the garden would be and what should be included and in the end a committee was formed of two children from each of the upper classes to put together the design and help with the building of the garden. Funding was secured from "The Big Deal" Lottery Fund to purchase the raised beds, ground cover, greenhouse, plants etc. During the cold winter months pupils, parents and grandparents all worked together to create a wonderful learning environment.

"Putting the raised beds together was really hard," said Rachael from P7, "but it was great fun".

"I am looking forward to growing some strawberries and peas," said Emma from P5.

Each primary now has an area to grow the kinds of plants children want. P2 will be growing plants for healthy eating while P1 has scented plants and P3 has the opportunity to experience minibeasts firsthand. Fruit trees have been planted and the whole area has been surrounded by a living willow "fedge" which in years to come will thicken and give shelter to the garden.

We would like to thank everyone who helped in the creation of the garden, including The Big Deal Lottery Fund, Cecil Quinn from NEELB grounds staff, M Large Tree Services, Coleman's Nursery, Templepatrick, Clive Lytle of Welig Crafts, Noel Douglas, all the parents, grandparents and children who helped – and especially the project manager, Mrs McAllister, without whom this garden would not have been realised.

We look forward to many years of fun, learning and successful growing.



The greenfield site



Planting out the beds



Putting down the bark



Building a greenhouse by numbers



Living willow "Fedge" now planted



Dealing with the dry season

Reports

Reports will be put into envelopes in the children's bags: Primary 7 today and the rest of the school on Tuesday 29 June. Please contact school if you do not receive a report or if you require a copy to be sent to an ex-partner with parental responsibility. The attendance percentage recorded on the report is based on figures up to the end of May.

Classes for Next Year

2009 - 2010		2010 - 2011		
		Mrs McCoy	P1	Room 1
		Mrs Adair	P1	Room 2
Mrs McCoy	➔	Mrs Copeland	P2	Room 6
Mrs Adair	➔	Mrs McBride & Mrs Cartmill*	P2	Room 7
Mrs Copeland	➔	Mrs Blair	P3	Room 8
Mrs McBride & Mrs Cartmill	➔	Mrs Torrie & Mrs Kyle*	P3	Room 11
Mrs Torrie & Mrs Kyle	➔	Mrs McAllister & Ms Mannion*	P4	Room 4
Mrs Blair	➔	Miss Wylie	P4	Room 5
Mrs McAllister & Ms Mannion	➔	Mrs Christie & Mrs Douglas*	P5	Room 10
Miss Wylie	➔	Mrs Luney	P5	Room 9
Mrs Luney	➔	Mrs Quail & Mrs Kyle*	P6	Mobile 2a
Mrs Christie & Mrs Douglas	➔	Mr Morrow	P6	Mobile 2b
Mr Morrow	➔	Mr Graham	P7	Mobile 3
Miss Quail	➔	Mr Agnew	P7	Mobile 4

*A letter explaining the job-share arrangements has been given to the children concerned.

Please note the finishing times for your child next year:

Years 1 and 2 finish at 2:00 pm
(Until Hallowe'en, Year 1 children go home before lunch at 12:30 pm.)

Year 3 finishes at 2:00 pm on Monday and Thursday
2:50 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

Years 4, 5, 6 and 7 finish at 2:50 pm

Final Thanks

Many thanks to all the members of our board of governors, to our whole-staff team, to the PTA, and to all parents, friends and children for making 2009/2010 another great year for Ashgrove Primary School.