

## Ashgrove Primary School

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# Newsletter

June 2011

### All Change!

We were sorry to say goodbye at our Leavers Assembly yesterday, but the 63 Primary 7 children of 2010/11 were ready to move on to their next exciting adventure. We wish each of them every success with all the opportunities and challenges they meet and thank them for their many contributions to Ashgrove during their time with us.

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

**The autumn term will commence at 8:55am on Monday 29th August 2011. Special arrangements will be in place for our new Primary 1 children but everyone else will finish at 2:00pm that day, as well as on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st August.**

**Please note that packed lunches will be required on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as there will be no dinners served until September. Normal dinners and finishing times will commence on Thursday 1st September.**

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

### Sports Day

We finally managed to hold our Sports Day on 15th June. The weather was kind to us and even the blackest clouds drifted past.

Many thanks to all the children for trying their best and to everyone in the crowd who cheered them on. Thanks also to staff and PTA for all their help.

### Retirement

Mrs Blair will retire at the end of this term. We wish her health and happiness, relaxation and fulfilment for many, many years - free from the planning, preparation, teaching and marking to which she has given so much during more than thirty years in Ashgrove.

### Family Fun Night

Perhaps not the warmest night we've had, our Family Fun Night was nevertheless a great success. Thanks to all those who helped with games and stalls or added to the atmosphere by spending time and money at the event. Even the downpour in the last ten minutes did little to dampen spirits. More than £1300 was made in profit.

## The Recession Hits Ashgrove

For a number of years Ashgrove has managed to survive the financial pressures of the education sector. To a large degree this has been due to the professionalism of staff and to the school's good reputation within Newtownabbey, giving a steady inflow of children. However, despite a large P1 intake signed up for September and the transfer of eleven children to Ashgrove from local schools since last February, our deficit has grown and the governors have found themselves with no option but to take decisive action and declare a redundancy.

You will have heard that 360 teacher redundancies have been declared across Northern Ireland but this does not lessen the impact at local level. I am most grateful that the redundancy has been taken by a volunteer.

In practical terms the redundancy means a reduction to thirteen classes and the restructuring of the school's two smallest year-groups. From September we will have two of each class from P1 to P5 plus a P6, a P7 and a composite P6/7.

I have spent a lot of time consulting staff, parents and children and believe that all involved will do what they can to support the changes in a positive manner. With the usual careful planning, well-structured group-work and healthy relationships, high standards of care, learning and esteem should continue.



## Annual Questionnaire

If you have not already done so please return the questionnaire that accompanied last month's newsletter. Many thanks to the outgoing school council, in particular to Jack McCrory (P5) and Amy Parker (P5), for their help designing the pupil questionnaire.

## School Grounds

Every 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**



## Kitchen Talk

Please find attached a copy of the menu for next term. The cost of a dinner will remain at £2.20, with the total cash and choices for the week being required every Monday.

## Jim Galbraith 1949 - 2011

It was with sadness that we learned of the recent death of our school crossing patrolman, Jim Galbraith. Many of you will remember his warm, friendly chat and his care for the children as he crossed them over the Burnthill and Carnmoney Roads. Our thoughts remain with the family.

## Classes for Next Year

2010 - 2011		2011 - 2012			
		Mrs McCoy	P1	Room 1	
		Mrs Adair	P1	Room 2	
Mrs Adair	➔	Mrs Copeland	P2	Room 6	
Mrs McCoy	➔	Mrs McBride & Mrs Cartmill *	P2	Room 7	
Mrs Copeland	➔	Mrs Christie & Mrs Douglas *	P3	Room 10	
Mrs McBride & Mrs Cartmill	➔	Mrs Torrie	P3	Room 11	
Mrs Torrie & Mrs Kyle	➔	Mrs McAllister & Ms Mannion *	P4	Room 4	
Mrs Blair	➔	Miss Wylie & Mrs Cartmill *	P4	Room 5	
Mrs McAllister & Ms Mannion	➔	Mrs Luney	P5	Room 9	
Miss Wylie	➔	Miss Quail & Mrs Kyle *	P5	Room 8	
Mrs Luney	}	{	Mr Morrow **	P6	Mobile 2b
Mrs Christie & Mrs Douglas			Mr Agnew **	P6/7	Mobile 2a
Mr Morrow			Mr Graham **	P7	Mobile 3
Miss Quail					

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

\*\* Parents of P6 and P7 children have been sent a note of who will teach their children.

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.

Year 3 finishes at 2:50 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

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