

## Ashgrove Primary School

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# Newsletter

October 2011

## P4 Football at Windsor Park

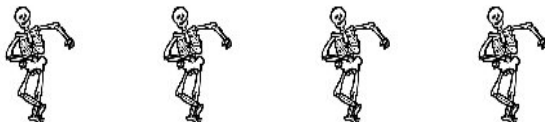
Congratulations to our Primary 4 team who beat Donegall Road Primary, 4-2 at Windsor Park on Saturday!



## Half-Term Break

Don't forget! The school will close for half-term at the end of a normal day on Wednesday 26 October. School will then re-open at the usual time on Wednesday 2 November.

Keep safe and have fun!



## Gardening Club

Please note that the Gardening Club continues even on wet days, when alternative indoor activities are provided.

## School Fund

Many thanks to all those families that have already donated £20 to this year's school fund. We rely heavily on this voluntary contribution for the purchase of learning resources and improvements to the school grounds. If you have still to contribute, please send £20 in an envelope marked for the attention of the teacher, secretary or principal. Thanks.

**Snow Days!** With the threat of another severe winter on the way please read the accompanying letter explaining our policy on school closures.

## Show Jumping Success

Congratulations to our P7 pupil, Lauren O'Donnell, who recently achieved a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the team event at the NI Inter-Schools Show Jumping competition.

## Parent Interviews

The first round of parent interviews will be held on **Thursday 10** and **Tuesday 15 November**. Appointments are issued separately but please note that **on these dates all children finish at 12:30pm, after an early lunch.**

## Healthy Breaks & Lunches

Don't forget that we are a health-promoting school. Please encourage your child with healthy breaks and lunches and keep those fatty, sugary and salty snacks for treats.

## Would a 3-4 Club Help You?

If you have children in P1, 2, 3 or 4, make sure you have seen the note about a trial extension to the 2-3 Club after Hallowe'en.

## Change to the Menu

Please note a change to the menu on the first day back after the Hallowe'en holiday – Wednesday 2 November:

Chicken Nuggets, Chips, Beans

or

Tuna Salad Roll, Chips

.....

Arctic Roll

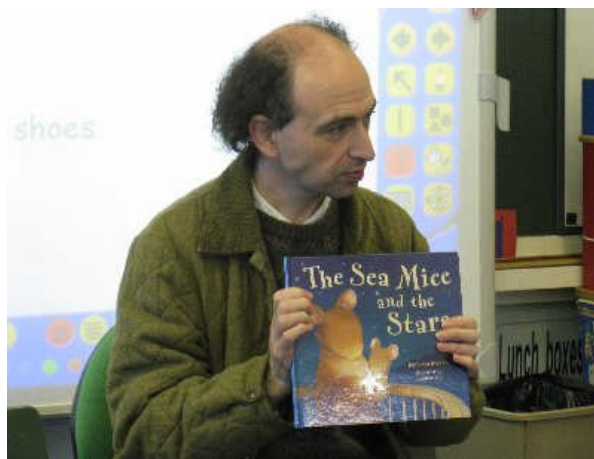
## Free School Meals

Have you thought about letting your child have a warm meal in the middle of the day? With winter coming in fast there is room for everybody.



In particular I've noticed that only 38 of the 60 children who are currently entitled to free school meals eat in the canteen regularly. Please contact the school secretary if you are not sure whether your child is still on the free meals register.

## Visit by Kenneth Steven



Scottish poet and children's writer, Kenneth Steven was in school recently to read from his books and to work with two senior classes. You can check out his website at [www.kennethsteven.co.uk](http://www.kennethsteven.co.uk).

## Foster Care

There is currently an extreme shortage of foster carers to support children, particularly to help with emergency care and to provide respite. If you think you can help with this important work you may wish to collect a leaflet in school or contact the **Fostering Recruitment and Initial Assessment Team at 03001231155**.

## Mini Hockey

Ballyclare Ladies Hockey Club has places available for girls in P4-P7 who would like to play mini hockey. The club meets every Saturday between 10am and 11am at the pitches at Ballyclare Rugby Club, Cloughan Lane, Doagh Road, Ballyclare. For details contact Aimee at 07773053986.



## Half-Term Disco

Don't forget the PTA disco on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, tickets £1.50.

P1 - P3: 6:45pm – 7:45pm

P4 – P7: 8:00pm – 9:15pm



Fancy Dress Optional

## Harvest Charity Appeal

This year our Harvest Appeal was in support of a fund-raising project by the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. The hospital aims to raise £2,000,000 to buy a scanner that will be available for the exclusive use of child patients. To date £2200 has been brought in by the children of Ashgrove. Many thanks for all your support with this charity appeal.



## Strictly Siblings!

Congratulations to Jack McCrory, who was recently awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> place at the UK Dance Experience and to his sister Eva McCrory, who won 1<sup>st</sup> in the Hip-Hop section.



## PTA Christmas Fair

We are currently collecting prizes for the Christmas ballot. Many thanks to all those who have already sent in items. Anyone who would like to donate something should contact Mr Graham or Mrs Noble.

## Glengormley Library

The opening hours of Glengormley Library are now under threat. Concerns about the reduction of this important educational resource may be registered using the questionnaire in the library.

## Matched Funding

In the next few months the PTA will become a registered charity. This is a new requirement with a number of advantages, not least in relation to money.

If you own or work for a business that offers matched funding, and if you would consider applying this to fund-raising in Ashgrove, please contact Mr Graham, Mrs Noble or Mr Waddell.

## Notes to Parents

Keep checking your child's bags for notes. Whenever possible these will be sent on Mondays and Thursdays. I would also request that you look over homework and sign the appropriate books/reading cards.

## 3-4 Club

Responses to the proposed 3-4 Club have been encouraging so we have decided to run this service for a trial period on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3 November until the Christmas holiday - a letter will follow.