

## Ashgrove Primary School

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# Newsletter

September 2006

### Welcome back!

It has been lovely to see everyone again at the beginning of another school year and on behalf of the Ashgrove community I would extend a warm welcome to our new children, parents and friends. The partnership between home and school is vital so together let's make 2006/2007 the best year yet for the care and education of our children.

### Home Time Traffic

Traffic continues to be a problem during the day. For reasons of safety and to avoid congestion I would ask that all but staff cars remain outside the gates. Children are led to the zebra crossing and dismissed in classes.

### Medicine

If your child needs to take any form of medication during school hours, please speak to his/her class teacher who will give you a permission form to complete with a signature and details of the dosage.

### Nut Allergy

With two of our children suffering from severe nut allergies we must ask that no items containing nuts or nut traces be sent to school. Thanks.



### School Fund

For many years parents have made a voluntary contribution to school funds and recently this has been £10 per family. This money allows us to provide the children with a broader and fuller range of experiences than most primary schools. Last year funds contributed to the purchase of additional infant play equipment, a performance by a visiting theatre company, transport for sports fixtures and specialist teaching materials. If you feel you can help, cheques should be made out to Ashgrove Primary School General Purpose Fund. If you prefer, please send cash in a labelled envelope. Many thanks.

## Uniform

Many thanks for your support with uniforms and PE kits. We are particularly grateful for your help in re-establishing black shoes.

It is important that children have a change of footwear for PE in the hall. This reduces the possibility of slipping or falling on mud or stones carried indoors. Black shoes should be worn during the rest of the day.

We encourage children to wear coats in cold weather.

Please label each item to prevent confusion.

**Any unclaimed lost property from last year will be disposed of in mid-September. All items have now been shown to the children.**

## Behaviour Outside School

Please remind your children that they are representing Ashgrove Primary on their journeys to and from school.

Sectarian, aggressive or destructive behaviour will continue to be met with the most robust sanctions available.

## Punctuality

The school bell rings at 8:55am every morning, letting the children settle into their classes by 9:00am. Any children arriving after 9:15am must officially be recorded as late. This can affect their attendance percentage. I would appreciate your support with getting the children into school on time.

## Healthy Breaks

We plan to continue our promotion of healthy lifestyles this year and already you will have noticed changes in the canteen.

I would be grateful if you would also support our healthy breaks on Mondays and Wednesdays – every day if possible!

Those children who wish to improve their concentration in class might consider sipping water. This should be plain water in a non-spill bottle with sports top.

## Security

In order to ensure the safety of children and staff, I would remind you to report to reception upon first entering the main school and before visiting the mobiles. Child protection guidance requires that no parent is permitted access to the playground.

From reception it should be possible for a member of staff to help you fairly quickly.

## Life Education Centre

Don't forget to read the letter explaining details of an exciting visit from the Life Education Centre in two weeks.

## Late Collection of Children

Please note that, in the interests of safety and child protection, any child whose parents are delayed at home time will be supervised at the office.

## Dogs

For health and safety reasons dogs are not permitted into the school grounds or building.

## After School Clubs

Clubs will begin for children in P4 – P7 during the week beginning Monday 25 September. Details will follow.

## School Meals

Those children from Primary 2 who choose to use the canteen this year will continue to be provided with a set meal at a cost of **£2.20**. Please send the exact money for the week's meals on a Monday.

Primary 3 children are welcome to use the cafeteria system along with those children from Primaries 4, 5, 6 and 7. 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. A list of the items provided regularly and their prices is included with this newsletter. Please talk to your child about the choices you are happy with.

## School Closures 2006/2007

<b>Christmas Term</b>	start back half-term holiday start back Christmas holiday	Wednesday 30 August 2006 30 October - 31 October Wednesday 1 November 2006 25 December 2006 - 5 January 2007
<b>Easter Term</b>	start back half-term holiday start back Easter Holiday	Monday 8 January 2007 12 February - 16 February 2007 Monday 19 February 2007 2 April – 13 April 2007
<b>Summer Term</b>	start back May Day holiday start back last day of term	Monday 16 April 2007 7 May 2007 Tuesday 8 May 2007 29 June 2007
<b>Teacher Training</b>	<b>(Baker Days)</b>	(23, 24, 25, 29 August 2007) (one flexible day in July/August 2007)
<b>Teacher Training</b>	<b>(Exceptional Closures)</b>	(27 October 2006) (9, 19 February 2007) (4 May 2007)

## Basic Kit

Please make sure that your child has a pencil case containing a pencil, a rubber, etc. and that this is brought to school each day.

We would also request that parents check their children's bag for notes each evening, look over homework and sign the appropriate books/reading cards.



## Getting Your Child Out Early

If you need to take your child out of school during the day please send in a note for our files and to enable us to have the child ready.

The child then needs to be collected from reception. We are unable to let a child walk home unaccompanied other than at the end of the school day.

## Have You Heard The Latest?

Over the years Ashgrove has often been described as an integrated school. It is not, of course, officially integrated and yet the ease with which our various children play and learn together might be an example to schools in any sector.

This is largely due to the commitment of governors, staff, parents and children to the natural mixing, tolerance and enjoyment of each other within a wide range of backgrounds. We believe that the variety within our school population enriches us.

The school is happily involved in cross community programmes but, contrary to rumour, we have no plans to take on quotas or labels that might weaken the natural integration that we have enjoyed for so long, and which is in harmony with the caring values of the broader Ashgrove community.

## Update of Pupil Information

This will be carried out formally within the next week but please remember to keep us up-to-date with any changes in contact/medical details during the year.

## Tesco Sports Tokens – Again!

Yes the collection has started again. Please remember to send in your Tesco tokens and help us restock our PE store. Perhaps you shop in Tesco yourself, perhaps you can persuade neighbours and friends to keep them for us or perhaps you would like to enter an on-line draw for 10,000 tokens at:

<http://www.tesco.com/sport/competitions/index.html>