

Ashgrove Primary School

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Newsletter

September 2007

Welcome Back!

If you didn't manage to see the sun this summer, I hope you had a chance to relax and have a bit of fun wherever you were.

It has been lovely to meet everyone again at the beginning of another school year and to welcome our new children, parents and friends to the Ashgrove community. If you are joining us for the first time I hope you feel involved and valued already.

Results of Questionnaire

Last term you were invited to give us some feedback on the service that we provide. Replies were received from about one third of our families with the vast majority being very positive. (A summary is enclosed.) During the course of the year we will address a number of suggestions, such as the provision of information about your child's curriculum and information about the role of the governors. We will continue to develop healthy eating and lobby for the drop-off lay-by and the replacement of our mobile classrooms.

Black Shoes

School uniform ensures that all children are seen as equal, it contributes to a working atmosphere and of course it is a reminder to the wider community of Ashgrove's good reputation, but it is only with your help that the children come to school looking so well. **Many thanks**; especially for the support you have shown for the black shoes, which make all the difference.



Please check that each item is labelled!

Tesco Sports Tokens

It's that time again! Please send us your tokens for free PE equipment.

Nut Allergy

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



Water

If you wish to send water for your children to sip as they work, please keep to still, unflavoured water in plastic bottles with a sipper/sports top.

Healthy Eating

It has been our policy for some time to encourage healthy breaks on Mondays and Wednesdays. I would now ask you to support us in extending this to break and lunchtime every day. **Please avoid sending fizzy drinks, sugary sweets, etc. to school** and so help to keep your child settled and learning throughout the day.



The kitchen now provides a choice of two set meals every day. As these are made to the National Nutritional Standards chips are only available on Fridays. I would recommend these meals to you. As well as a main course and a dessert the children are offered milk and a range of fruit and bread - all for £2.20.

Because of the shift from cafeteria to set meals our kitchen staff has been reduced. This means that dinner money can only be accepted on a Monday.

For specific information about meals and menus you may prefer to contact our cook, Mrs Anna McAllister but if I can be of any further assistance do not hesitate to contact me.



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 parents look over homework and sign the appropriate books/reading cards.



Lisburn Crystal Image

Last June many parents bought three dimensional images of their Primary 7 children as souvenirs of their time in Ashgrove. The finished products were of such a high standard that the company has been asked back to work with the whole school at the end of September. More information will follow. Unless there is significant demand for our usual photographs only teams, Primary 1 and Primary 7 class photographs will be available this year. As this is a service for you, please let me know your views on this matter.

Update of Pupil Information

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

Volunteers Please

We are keen to register more volunteers. If you are interested please contact the secretary.

Parent Teacher Association

The Annual General Meeting of the PTA will take place at 7pm on 1 October. More information will follow but why not make a note in your diary now to join us that Monday?

Medicine

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

Are You Any Good At Painting?

We have been developing an early years outdoor play area and have now installed a tremendous train that was built by a friend of the school. If you have old clothes and could spare a couple of hours some Saturday please contact Mrs McBride or myself. We want to seal the wood and add a bit of colour before the winter – that's the cold and wet season that comes after the warm and wet one!



Photography & Internet Policies

We are currently checking to make sure that all our children comply with school policy. If you receive a form in relation to either photography or the internet, please complete the slip and return it to school as quickly as possible.



After School Activities

Information will soon be with you about times and choices of our clubs, which will commence during the week beginning 26 November. With a large staff we are able to offer a reasonable range, but the school policy will remain to prioritise senior classes. Your child's turn will come!

Security

In order to ensure the safety of children and staff, I would remind you that all visitors must 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.

A Last Request!

In Ashgrove we understand how important relationships are in a child's education and we are keen to keep in touch about any problem or news that is important to your child, however it is not practical for a teacher to have a lengthy conversation at the classroom door when preparation, supervision and learning are the priorities. The secretary or I will be happy to set up an appointment for anything other than a quick exchange of information. Many thanks.

Peter B Waddell (Principal)