



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 16

FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018

### Rights Respecting Schools

Article 11

"Governments must do everything they can to stop children being taken out of their country illegally by their parents or other relatives, or being prevented from returning home"

### Happy New Year & Welcome back!

It is great to see all our boys and girls back again after the Christmas break. We hope everyone had a relaxing holiday and are looking forward to the new term ahead. We wish you all a happy and healthy 2018. **We extend a very warm welcome to those pupils who have joined Ashgrove over the Christmas period.**

### Primary 1 Applications for September 2017

Please remember the CLOSING DATE for Primary 1 Applications for September 2018 is **WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> January @ 12.00pm**. It is important your application is received before this time. Late applications may not receive their first preference choice of placement. If you know a family with a child of school starting age please remind them of the closing date.

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**Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together**

## Diary Dates, January-February 1/2 Term 2018

Date	Event
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Hazelwood Integrated College visiting P7
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Closing Date for Primary 1 Applications
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	After School Clubs resume
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	P1 & 2 Multisports P3 & 4 Multisports start
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Board of Governors Meeting
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Eco School, <b>Go Global, Go Green Day!</b>
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	AQE Results posted to home address
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	P7 Transfer Interviews (all week)
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	P1 (Miss Morrison's Class) to Carrickfergus Castle
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	P1 (Miss McLaughlin's Class) to Carrickfergus Castle
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February (inclusive)	Half Term Break
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Teacher Consultations, 12.30 pm finish
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Teacher Consultations, 12.30 pm finish
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Parent Teacher Consultations, 12.30 pm finish

### After School Clubs-January 2017

All teacher led After School Clubs will recommence on MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**Galaxy Multi Sports** will recommence for **P1 & 2 1.50 - 2.50pm on WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> January.** Primary 5 pupils will be invited to attend Galaxy Multi Sports 3.00 - 4.00pm starting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January - Miss Morrison will send home a permission slip very soon.

### School Council Meeting

Mrs Carberry will be meeting with our School Councillors and Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors **on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2.10pm.**

### Junior Dance classes & Yoga...

The following classes are available in **Ballyearl Arts and Leisure Centre.**

**Junior Dance Class:** Tuesday, P1-P3, 3.30 - 4.15 pm P4-P7, 4.30 - 5.15 pm

**Junior Yoga:** 4.30 - 5.30pm Cost per week £4.00 If you have 'family leisure membership' classes are FREE!



# AQE & QL Results and Transfer Procedure

AQE results will be posted to the first named contact on your registration form and delivered to your home address on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January**. Primary schools are not informed of the results before this date.

Transfer Interviews will take place during the week beginning **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January**.

## General Information and Guidance

- Transfer Forms are sent by the Education Authority to primary school principals for completion by parents.
- Completed Transfer Forms should be returned to the EA by primary schools by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018**.
- **The Transfer Form is a very important document.** It will contain all the information which your chosen post-primary schools will use to consider your child's application. (When the time comes to complete the form you will receive from your primary school a set of guidance notes to help you).
- You should list **at least 4 schools** on the Transfer Form. You can list as many school as you wish, but if you do not list at least 4 schools the possibility of your child not being admitted to a school of your preference is increased.
- You will NOT be asked for further preferences during the process so it is very important that you list all schools on the Transfer Form which you would like your child to be considered for.
- You should not enter the same school more than once. Preferences for schools located in another Education Authority region can be listed in your child's Transfer Form.
- You and you alone are responsible for ensuring that all relevant information is provided.
- That if you do not provide relevant information you may reduce the chance of your child being admitted to a school of your preference.
- That it is also your responsibility to ensure that the information you provide is correct.
- On **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March** your form will be passed to the school named as a first preference so that it can apply its admissions criteria based on the information provided. The form may need to be passed to other schools named as preferences before the process is complete.
- A letter will be posted to you by the Education Authority on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May** to tell you the outcome of your application. This **Placement Letter** will tell you the post-primary school in which your child has been placed. Schools are not permitted to tell you the outcome before this date.



## Attendance Reminders...

At the beginning of a new year it is timely to remind all parents and guardians of the importance of high levels of attendance. Excellent attendance and a punctual start to the school day are important to all children and the smooth running of our school.

Poor attendance has an impact on pupil relationships, friendships and academic achievement.

The Department of Education has shared the guide on absence below...

100% Attendance	0 days missed	Excellent
95-99% Attendance	See above for details	Very Good- Good
95% Attendance	9 days of absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 days of absence 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 days of absence 5 weeks and 3 days of learning lost	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 days of absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 days of absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning	Unacceptable

As a reminder, our school routines are as follows:

- Pupils may enter the school from 8.40 am- at this time members of staff are on duty and can ensure appropriate supervision.
- The school day starts at 8.55 am- we expect all children to be in class at this time.
- Any child arriving to school after 8.55 am is late.
- A child arriving to school after 8.55 am will need to come to the main school entrance. Parents are welcome to escort their child to the Reception area. The Secretary will give the child access to the school building.
- Pupils who are late in to school are expected to walk by themselves to their classroom.

If your child is absent from school, please inform us on the FIRST DAY of absence by leaving a message with the Office. On the return of your child to school, you should follow this up with a brief explanatory note – we are required to record a reason for all absences.



## Food Waste Challenge



Dear Parent/ Guardian

Ashgrove Primary School is taking part in the **Food Waste Challenge** run by local councils. We are focusing on Global Perspectives as part of our Eco Schools initiative and aiming to reduce our global footprint. As many homes already recycle food waste we are encouraging children to do the same in school.

**Wrapper less lunches** will be introduced in February 2018. Children will be encouraged to take home any food waste that they do not eat in school. Yoghurt pots, drinks and any wet waste food items can still be placed in the bin in school. Children are encouraged to also reduce the number of wrappers and packaging contained within their lunchboxes.

### Food Waste Challenge Photo Competition

Parents and pupils are encouraged to become involved and take part in a photo competition at home. Take a picture of your child or family being a **Wastehero** and post it on social media to win prizes. Post the picture containing the hash tag **#wastehero** and link Eco schools NI and your local council using the links below. **One school in each council area will win £200 for the best Home Actions photo.**

Closing date for entries is: **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Facebook - @EcoSchoolsNI**

**Twitter - @Eco\_SchoolsNI**

Council	Facebook	Twitter
Antrim & Newtownabbey	@ANBorough	@ANBorough
Ards & North Down	@ArdsandNorthDownBoroughCouncil	
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	@armaghbanbridgecraigavon	@abcb_council
Belfast City	@belfastcitycouncil	@belfastcc
Causeway Coast & Glens	@CausewayCoastandGlensCouncil	@CausewayCouncil
Derry City & Strabane	@derrycityandstrabanedistrictcouncil	@dcsdcouncil
Fermanagh & Omagh	@fermanaghomagh	@fermanaghomagh
Lisburn & Castlereagh	@LisburnCastlereagh	@lisburncc
Mid & East Antrim	@MEABoroughCouncil	@mea_bc
Mid Ulster	@MidUlsterDistrictCouncil	@MidUlster_DC
Newry, Mourne & Down	@nmdcouncil	@nmdcouncil

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miss McDowell (Eco Schools Co-Ordinator)



## School Dinner Menu, £2.60 per day

Vegetarian Options are available

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Sausages, Beans, Chips, Mashed Potatoes & Tomatoes Sauce

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Yoghurt & Fruit

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Savoury Mince, Sweetcorn, & Mashed Potatoes or Pizza, Sweetcorn & Salad

~

Flake meal Biscuit & Milkshake

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Roast Chicken, Diced Cabbage, Oven Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

~

Rice Pudding & Fruit

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Naan Bread & Carrot Sticks

~

Canadian Tart & Custard

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Pasta Bolognese, Cheese & Crusty Bread **OR** Fish Fingers, Peas & Mashed Potatoes

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Pear & Chocolate Favoured Sponge & Custard

### HEALTHY BREAK

P1-4, 30p per day

Tuesday: Toast, Red Apple & Cucumber

Friday: Crusty Bread, Orange & Pepper

## Safeguarding & Child Protection reminders

Safeguarding and Child Protection is very important to us in Ashgrove Primary. As such I would like to remind parents about how to report any Safeguarding concerns you may have...

1. If you have any worries or concerns about the welfare of Safeguarding of any child in our school you can report your concern to the class teacher.
2. If you are still concerned speak with Mrs Luney (Designated Teacher for Child Protection). If she is not available speak with Miss McLaughlin (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection).
3. If you are still concerned you can write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors- Mr Gerard McIlroy.
4. At any time you can talk or write to a Social Worker or the Police.

