



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 25

FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

### RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS ARTICLE 21 (ADOPTION)

*"Governments must oversee the process of adoption and make sure it is safe, lawful and that it prioritises the children's best interests. Children should only be adopted outside of their country if they cannot be placed with a family in their own country."*

*In school, we work with a range of agencies to ensure that all children in our care can access and enjoy their rights.*

### ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

In school we very much value high levels of attendance and good punctuality. These are great habits to form for life and in school helps to ensure a smooth start to our day for everyone. High levels of attendance allows our pupils to make the most of the opportunities in school, both academically and socially.

Next week in Ashgrove we are focusing on punctuality. As a reminder, school gates open at 8.40am and children should be in class for 9.00am. Children arriving to school after 9.00am are late. From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, all pupils arriving to school on time will receive a house point every day.

We do thank our families for being punctual – this helps our teachers and children have a calm start to their morning in school.

ASHGROVE ROAD, NEWTOWNABBAY, CO ANTRIM, BT36 6LJ  
T: 028 9084 8734

E: [INFO@ASHGROVEPS.NEWTOWNABBAY.NI.SCH.UK](mailto:INFO@ASHGROVEPS.NEWTOWNABBAY.NI.SCH.UK)

[WWW.ASHGROVEPRIMARY.COM](http://WWW.ASHGROVEPRIMARY.COM)

**Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together**

## BALLYCLARE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Congratulations to all our pupils who took part in the Ballyclare Music Festival this week. We mention a special word of congratulations to the following pupils who were placed in the competition:

Lydia Murphy – second place in the P7 solo piano  
Molly Murphy – third place in the P6 woodwind class  
Rosa Child – third place in the P4 recorder class

## WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS ILL?

It is common in schools for bugs and coughs to circulate. If your child has an illness, which means they cannot come to school, please inform us by completing our online Absence Form or by ringing the Office on the first morning of non-attendance and selecting the option to explain an absence. We ask all parents follow this up with a brief explanatory note when your child returns to school.

The following guidance is in our Attendance Policy, which is available to view on our website:

Chicken Pox	5 days absence from onset of rash
Whooping Cough	5 days absence from onset of rash
Scarlet Fever	5 days absence from onset of rash
Diarrhoea/ Vomiting	Until symptoms have settled for 24 hours
Headlice	None (treatment required)

(This Information is provided by the Health Protection Agency)

The Board of Governors recently to update and ratify our Attendance Policy.

## EASTER HOLIDAY!

As a reminder, school finishes for Easter **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (Half Day staggered home times)** - there will be NO lunches served. School will recommence for the Summer term on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April** at the usual times. Please remember that a full list of our Holiday Dates are easily available on our website under the "Parents" section.

## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY REMINDER

As a reminder, school will close early for St Patricks Day on 18.03.24. **No school meals will be served on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. No after school clubs will be available on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

Staggered home times will apply as follows:

Year Groups	Home Time
P1&2	12.00pm
P3&4	12.10pm
P5-7	12.20pm



## HOLIDAY LIST, 2024-2025



### AUTUMN TERM, 2024

**School commences:**

Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	(Half Day)*
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	(Half Day)*
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	(Half Day)*

School Development Day 1:	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	(School closed to pupils)
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School Development Day 2:	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	(School closed to pupils)
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HALLOWEEN:	Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> November	(inclusive)
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**School recommences:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November

CHRISTMAS:	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	(Half Day)*
	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec – Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2025	(inclusive)

School Development Day 3:	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	(School closed to pupils)
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### SPRING TERM, 2025

**School recommences:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

School Development Day 4:	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	(School closed to pupils)
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HALF TERM:	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	(inclusive)
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St Patrick's Day:	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	(Half Day)*
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EASTER:	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	(Half Day)*
	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	(inclusive)

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### SUMMER TERM, 2025

**School recommences:** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

MAY DAY HOLIDAY:	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	(School Closed)
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School Development Day 5:	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	(School closed to pupils)
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MAY BANK HOLIDAY:	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	(School Closed)
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End of School year:	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	(Half Day)*
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\*Half Day- School closes at 12.00 pm, lunches will not be served. The above holiday dates are all inclusive.





# **Punctuality** **HOUSE POINTS** **GIVEAWAY!**

**Monday 11th-Friday 15th  
March**

**Earn House Points for  
every day you are  
punctual to school!**

**DOORS OPEN 8.40AM**

**BE IN CLASS FOR**

**9.00AM**



## READING WEEK!

Next week is Reading Week in Ashgrove! Mrs Luney (Literacy Leader) has organised lots of fun activities to inspire and foster a love of reading. The Travelling Book Fair will be in school and Mrs Luney has arranged lots of Literacy activities and competitions. Storytellers will also be joining us during the week

**We are looking forward to seeing all your wonderful creations from home – either a Book in a Jar or a Spoon Book Character.**

Teachers too are decorating their classroom doors as book covers!



### SCHOOL DINNER MENU (£2.55 PER DAY)

#### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Oven Baked Pork Sausages with Gravy,  
Baked Beans/Peas and Mashed Potato

~

Ice Cream & Two Fruits

#### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Pulled Pork Pizza Wrap, Sweetcorn/Baton  
Carrots with Chips/Garlic & Paprika Wedges

~

Jaffa Cake Pots

#### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Roast Beef, Stuffing & Gravy with Seasonal  
Greens & Mash/Oven Roast Potatoes

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Fresh Fruit Salad & Yoghurt

#### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo with Garden  
Peas/Carrots and Baby Potatoes/Jacket  
Potato

~

Fruit Sponge & Custard

#### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Beef Burger/Bean Burger in Bap with  
Onions, Corn on the Cob/Pasta Salad with  
Chips/Steamed Rice

~

Lemon Shortbread & Melon Wedge

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK BOTH FREE  
AND PAID SCHOOL MEALS FOR THE  
WEEK AHEAD...**



# I opened a book...

I opened a book;  
Who did I meet?

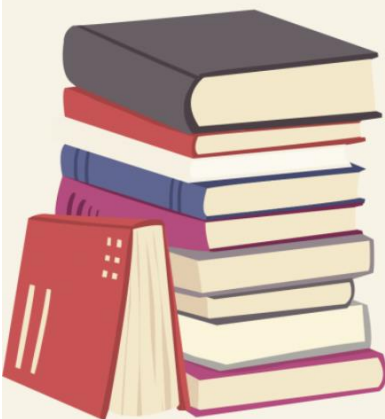
A giant, a wizard - so many to greet!  
A talking flamingo, a kind chimpanzee;  
I was simply astounded by what I could see!

I opened a book;  
There was nothing to lose.  
I had freedom to do whatever I choose!  
I could climb a high mountain;  
I could swing through the trees;  
I could fly to the moon or sail the high seas.

I opened a book;  
What was inside?  
A chance to escape, a safe place to hide.  
A great dose of courage, when I didn't feel brave.  
A chance to be naughty when I had to behave.

I opened a book;  
What did I find?  
For a while, I could leave all my worries behind.  
There were places to visit when I must stay at home  
And someone to talk to when I felt all alone.

I opened a book;  
What did I see?  
A world of adventure,  
Waiting for me!



We have started a new section in our Newsletter – Weekly Wellbeing, here we will find a Weekly Challenge and a motivational quote! These are some activities we can do in school or at home to connect with others, develop friendships and reflect on what qualities make us more resilient.



# WEEKLY WELLBEING



## Weekly Challenge

Call a friend you haven't played with in a while...

## Motivational Quote

"A person who never made a mistake,  
never tried anything new!"

Albert Einstein

