



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 17

FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019

### UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools

#### Article 12

*“Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters which affect them and to have their views considered and taken seriously”*

*In School we work hard to achieve and realise this Right for our children. Our fantastic School Council, House Captains and Vice Captains represent their classmates and voice opinions on a range of matters. We regularly consult with everyone through questionnaires and Class Council meetings.*

### Teacher led After School Clubs recommence

The following teacher led After School Clubs recommence next week for this term up to Easter:

**Monday:** Orchestra & Badminton

**Tuesday:** Drama Club, Tag Rugby, Yoga, Coding Club & Scripture Union

**Wednesday:** PlaySport & French

**Thursday:** Eco Club, Library Club, Hockey & Dance

**As a reminder, the school offers childcare to parents from 2.00-5.30pm every day. Places for our childcare should be booked online via SchoolMoney.**

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**Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together**

## Primary 1 Enrolment

Thank you to everyone who has made their applications for Primary 1 for the new academic year. We are very aware that some parents have experienced difficulties with the EA website. However, if anyone requires help with the online application we are happy to help – just call in to school at any time before the closing date of Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

## Primary 7 Post Primary Transfer Interviews

It is hard to believe that we are once again at the time of year when we are preparing for P7 Transfer Interviews. We are offering parents and carers the opportunity to complete the Transfer Form with us in school. By now, P7 parents should have received a text to their nominated first contact number prompting them to select an interview date and time online. Please note, this is not a compulsory interview and parents may wish to complete the Transfer Form themselves at home. If this is the case, please inform either Mrs Flaherty or Mr Agnew and we will arrange for a Transfer Form to be sent home on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January.**

## Severe Weather Policy & Procedures...

We have been fortunate this Winter that so far we have not experienced much unsettled or extreme weather. It is only in very exceptional circumstances that we will take the decision to close the school due to snow or severe weather. We always aim to give parents as much notice about an unexpected closure as possible, we will do this through the following:

- ✓ A Text will be sent to our main contact for each child
- ✓ A notice will be issued via our App
- ✓ A notice will be placed on our website
- ✓ A notice will be posted on our Facebook and Twitter pages
- ✓ BBC NI will be notified

**Please check these before ringing the school.**

## Digital Devices in school...

Some of our pupils may have received new digital devices as Christmas gifts such as phones, ipads (or tablets) or smart watches with recording capabilities. As kind reminder to parents and carers if a child brings a mobile phone to school, this must remain switched off for the duration of the day. The same applies to any recording device.

Tables such as ipads should not be brought into school – these are expensive and may be accidentally broken. In addition, the unsupervised use of these devices are a distraction.

For full information, please refer to our Mobile Phones and Related Technologies Policy on our website. Thank you for help with this.



## Say Something Great About a Mate Day!

Today our P7 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors organised a special day – Say Something Great About a Mate! Everyone in school was encouraged to thank someone for being a good friend... this ranged from a word of thanks for being a friend to telling someone their jokes are funny! Kind words and encouragement were shared between pupils, staff to pupils, pupils to staff etc... Everyone in school was given a slip of paper to write something great to a mate... see below some of the wonderful things shared!

*I like hearing your jokes! Joshua Redfern*

*Ella, you're super nice and sometimes silly! You're super good at drawing and pretty.  
I am happy to be your friend! To Ella Sloan from Niamh Stewart*

*"I love your hair style it really suits you!"  
To Lauren Beards from Ellie Sloss*

*"Tsai, you have very nice hair!" to  
Tsai from Jack*

*"You're really funny & kind, plus I  
love your Art!" to Reuben G from  
Sophie D*

*"I love the way you have stuck with me through the years – you're such a  
good friend!" to Anna from Carley*

*"You are kind and thoughtful, you are really pretty and you respect other  
peoples feelings – you are a good friend to have!" To Brooke from Megan*

### School Punctuality

As a reminder to all parents **school starts at 8.55am**. By this time all pupils are expected to be in school for the start of the day...

Persistent lateness means pupils miss out on important routines and this disrupts the smooth running of the school.

Pupils are welcome to enter the school grounds from **8.40am** when a member of staff will be on duty.



## How to raise a query or concern in school...

At intervals throughout the school year, we like to remind and advise parents as to how they may raise a query or concern. At all times, we aim to resolve matters swiftly in a supportive, amicable manner.

At Ashgrove Primary School we value parents and carers as partners in the education of our pupils. The views of parents are significant and we encourage the positive contributions which parents and carers make to the life of our school.

We recognise that from time to time, a parent or carer may have a concern about some aspect of their child's life at school. By working in partnership with home, it is the school's aim that any concern is dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Please find below the procedure we have in place.

As a school we will deal with any concern in courteous and professional manner as the needs of our pupils are paramount.

### HOW DO I RAISE A QUERY OR CONCERN?

1. Make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the matter. We strongly advocate making an appointment as otherwise this impinges on teaching and preparation time. (Making an appointment will enable the teacher to give you the necessary time to listen to your concern).

Most often concerns can be resolved at this stage.

2. If after speaking to the teacher the matter is not resolved, the issue can be taken up with the Head of Key Stage or the Vice Principal.
3. Following the second step, if concerns still remain the issue can be referred to the Principal.
4. Ultimately if the issue is still not resolved the parents/carers can write to the Chairperson of the Complaints Committee of Board of Governors (Mr B. Edwards)- please refer to our Complaints Procedure.

It is very rare for concerns not to be resolved before stage 4.

*If you have a concern about any aspect of Child Protection or Safeguarding do not hesitate to contact either:*

MRS LUNEY, P5 (Designated Teacher for Child Protection) or

MRS COULTER, P1 (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)



## TEXACO CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION

This year, Texaco Children's Art Competition are inviting young artists to participate in a national celebration of Children's Art to mark 65 years of running the competition.

*Getting your entry ready...*

### SUBJECT

The entry can be about anything that interests you.

### USE OF MATERIALS

You can use any type of paper. You can use pencil, charcoal, pen, ink, markers, crayon, pastel, watercolour, gouache, acrylics, oils, poster colour or collage. Your work can be a print. It can also be submitted on canvas.

### ORIGINALITY

Your work should be original and unaided. Please do not copy another person's work.

An application form should be signed by an adult at home and attached securely to your piece of art.

### CLOSING DATE

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED PLEASE SPEAK TO MRS  
COULTER (P1) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



## P7A Class Assembly

Mr Agnew's class will hold their class assembly on **TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 9.15 am**. A note has already been sent home to parents and carers inviting them to the special Assembly based on 'Resolutions'.

### School Dinner Menu, £2.60 per day

Vegetarian Options are available

#### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Beef Burger, Baked Beans, Chips,  
Mashed Potatoes & Tomatoes Sauce

~

Yoghurt & Fruit

#### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Buffet

2 Sandwiches, 1 chicken Goujon, 1  
Pizza, Carrot stick & salad

~

Jam Sponge, Custard & Fruit

#### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Roast Chicken, Carrots, Roast &  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

~

Chocolate Steamed Sponge & Custard

#### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice & Mixed  
Vegetables

~

Strawberry Mousse & Fruit

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Breaded Salmon Cake, Sweetcorn &  
Mashed Potatoes OR

Lasagne, Sweetcorn & Crusty Bread

~

Biscuit, Fruit & Strawberry Milkshake

#### **HEALTHY BREAK**

**30p per day**

Tuesday: Toast, Green Apple & Celery

Friday: Crusty Bread, Melon & Carrot



Keep up to date with what's  
happening in school...

We work hard to keep our parents and families informed about our school.. to catch up on the latest news follow us on Facebook, Twitter and remember to check our website regularly! Don't forget to download our Ashgrove App.

