



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 16

FRIDAY 10TH JANUARY 2020

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, healthy & prosperous 2019.

PRIMARY 1 APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

The EA online portal for Primary 1 applications for September 2020 is now live – to make an application simply click on the link on the homepage of our website or go directly to the EA website. The application process itself is straightforward. There has been a very heavy demand on the EA website over the past few days and some parents have experienced difficulty with the website. However, do not worry as you have until the end of January to apply for your school place. As a reminder, you must bring a copy of your child's **BIRTH CERTIFICATE** to us by **FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY, 12.00 PM.**

If you need any help with the online (or paper) application process feel free to call in to school at any time and we will be happy to help!

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

DIARY DATES, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020

As you can see the next Half Term is due to be very busy in school with so many things happening! Please remember to regularly check our website and Weekly Newsletters for updates...

DATE	EVENT
Friday 10 th January	Closing Date for AQE remark
W/C Mon 13 th January	Teacher led After School Clubs recommence
Tuesday 14 th January	P7 Shared Education to Queen's PEC
Thursday 16 th January	Ballyclare High visiting P7 Belfast High visiting P7
Friday 17 th January	P2C to St Michael's (Shared Education) P1 to W5 Shared Education Say Something Great About a Mate Day!
Saturday 25 th January	AQE Results posted to registered address
Monday 27 th January	NON Transfer Test interviews this week Board of Governors Meeting
Tuesday 28 th January	P3 to Ulster Museum (Dinosaur Workshops)
Thursday 30 th January	CLOSING DATE for P1 applications Amazing Journey Assembly
Friday 31 st January	Primary Science Quality Mark Award Ceremony
Monday 3 rd February	Transfer Test interviews this week P6 to St Michael's (Shared Education)
Friday 3 rd February	P1 admission supporting documents to be submitted to school
Monday 10 th February	Parent Teacher Consultations – all children go home @ 12.30pm
Tuesday 11 th February	Parent Teacher Consultations – all children go home @ 12.30pm
Wednesday 12 th February	Parent Teacher Consultations – all children go home @ 12.30pm
Mon 17 th – Thurs 20 th Feb	HALF TERM, SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 26 th February	Ulster Scotts in Ashgrove



AQE & GL Results and P7 Transfer Procedure

P7 AQE results will be posted to the first named contact on your registration form and delivered to your home address on **Saturday 25th January**. Primary schools are not informed of the results before this date.

Transfer Interviews with Mr Smith will take place during the week beginning **Monday 27th 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 **Wednesday 5th February 2020**.
- **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.
- 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 **Saturday 30th 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.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS, TERM 2

Teacher led after school clubs will recommence the week beginning Monday 13th January.

Badminton	Ms Manion	Monday	January to Easter	P4-7
Instrument club (for children undertaking paid lessons in school)	Miss McClune	Tuesday	January to Easter	P4-7
Yoga (£1 a week charge to cover equipment)	Mrs Coulter	Tuesday	January to Easter	P6&7
Coding Club	Mrs Ewing	Tuesday	January to Easter	P4
Dance	Miss Crozier	Thursday	January to Easter	P5-7
Library Club	Mrs Cartmill & Mrs Carberry	Thursday	January to Easter	P4-7
Eco Club	Miss McDowell	Thursday	January to Easter	P4-7

PARENT & CATER CONTACT DETAILS

In school we communicate with our parents in various ways including social media, email, text and our school app. It is the responsibility of parents & carers to pass new contact details to us if these have changed, we can therefore update our records and you will receive communications from us.

MANY COMMUNICATIONS ARE IMPORTANT, SUCH AS EARLY CLOSURES, EVENTS AND YOUR CHILD MAY EVEN BE ILL.

Please also make sure you have downloaded our app – this is free of charge and you can download this to multiple devices meaning everyone at home can receive communications. If there is more than one adult at home, please make sure everyone has our app.

Some parents may have changed phone numbers or contact details over the Christmas period – if this is the case, please send your updated information to Office.





Ashgrove Anti-Bullying Ambassadors...
(ABBA's)

**SAY SOMETHING GREAT
ABOUT A MATE DAY!**

When... FRIDAY 17th JANUARY

How? Say to a friend what makes them great! Even better... make a new friend!



Anti Bullying Mascot &
Slogan designed by Evan
Mayes

"Be strong & soar above bullying. Keep an eagle eye out for others"



SCHOOL DINNER MENU, £2.60 PER DAY

Vegetarian Options are available

Monday 13th January

Fish Fingers, Baked Beans & Chips

~

Fresh Fruit Salad & Yoghurt

Tuesday 14th January

Steak Burger, Salad, Coleslaw & Spiced
Cubed Potatoes OR Chilli Chicken Pasta,
Salad & Wheaten Bread

~

Pear & Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate
Sauce

Wednesday 15th January

Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Carrots &
Parsnip, Oven Roast & Mashed
Potatoes & Gravy

~

Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt

Thursday 16th January

Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Naan Bread
& Garden Peas

~

Fruit Jelly & Ice Cream

Friday 17th January

Pasta Bolognaise, Carrots & Crusty
Bread **OR** Chicken Goujon Wrap,
Tossed Salad

~

Yoghurt & Fruit

HEALTHY BREAK

30p per day

Tuesday: Toast, Green Apple & Celery

Friday: Crusty Bread, Melon & Carrot

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

We take this opportunity to wish all those connected with Ashgrove Primary School a very happy and successful 2020. At this time of year many reflect on life issues and make resolutions to change things for the better.

May we suggest we all adopt 'consideration' as one of our resolutions for this year. We expect the staff to be considerate, encourage it in our pupils and we hope that parents will also see it as something very important.

We would especially ask for consideration to be a prime focus for drivers when children are being dropped off/collected - to/from school. We believe a considerate approach will go a long way to ensuring a safe and pleasant beginning and end to the school day.

Ashgrove Primary School Board of Governors

