



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 23

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2018

Rights Respecting Schools

Article 18 (parental responsibilities & assistance)

"Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for their child. Governments must support parents by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children."

In school we help children access this right by liaising with many external agencies such as health & social care, education authority, social services and the local council.

Parent Teacher Consultations

Thank you for attending our Parent Teacher Consultations this week, we hope you found the online booking system convenient and thank you for your positive feedback with this regard.

We were once again pleased with the number of parents who took time to come to school to speak with their class teacher(s) and hope you found this informative. If issues which arose from the consultations which you would like to discuss further, please do so with the class teacher, Heads of Key Stage, Mrs Flaherty (Vice Principal) or Mr Smith (Principal).

ASHGROVE ROAD, NEWTOWNABBAY, CO ANTRIM, BT36 6LJ

T: 028 9084 8734

E: INFO@ASHGROVEPS.NEWTOWNABBAY.NI.SCH.UK

WWW.ASHGROVEPRIMARY.COM

Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

School Code of Conduct

Throughout the year we like to remind parents and pupils of our School Code of Conduct. To help with the smooth running of the school we expect everyone in school to play their part in supporting these guidelines.

For a safe and happy school we are expected to...



- | | |
|--|---|
| ☺ Arrive at school on time; | ☺ Walk sensibly and quietly in the corridors; |
| ☺ Wear our school uniform; | |
| ☺ Show respect to everyone in school; | ☺ Keep our school litter free; |
| ☺ Be truthful, well-mannered and kind; | ☺ Set a good example to others; |
| ☺ Take pride in our school building; | ☺ Exercise self-control; & |
| ☺ Look after our books; | ☺ Line up quickly and quietly. |

Local Council Elections

I have been notified that school will be **CLOSED on Thursday 2nd May** as the building will be used as a Polling Station for the Local Council Elections. Please make alternative childcare arrangements for this day.

School Crossing Patrol Updates

I have been in contact with the Education Authority about our School Crossing Patrol. After advertising the post a number of times they have assured me they have now received applications for the position. Interviews will commence soon and an appointment made. I have stressed the need to the EA for a Crossing Patrol at this busy road.

In the meantime, I once again stress the need for parents and adults collecting children from school to exercise caution when parking and driving in school grounds. The PSNI will monitor parking at our busy times.



Diary Dates to Easter 2019

Diary dates are all on our website – please check regularly for any changes or updates

Date	Event...
Tuesday 5 th March	P4 Shared Education Day
Thursday 7 th March	P5 Shared Education Day
Friday 8 th March	World Book Day – come to school dressed as a Book Character P3 Shared Education visit
Tuesday 12 th March	Stage 5 Annual Reviews – Mrs Doherty will contact parents
Wednesday 13 th March	Beverly from Sustrans visiting school
Thursday 14 th March	P2 Shared Education Day
Friday 15 th March	PTA Break the Rules day
Week comm. Mon 18 th March	Reading Week in school (further note to follow)
Tuesday 19 th March	P2 McDowell Assembly, 9.15 am
Thursday 21 st March	School Council Meeting with Mr Smith & Mrs Carberry
Friday 22 nd March	P7 Shared Education Day
Monday 25 th March	P6 Shared Education Day
Friday 29 th March	Random Act of Kindness Day!
Week commencing Monday 1 st April	Science Week
Tuesday 2 nd April	P4 Shared Education Day
Thursday 4 th April	P7 Shared Education Day
Friday 5 th April	P3 to Greenmount Shared Education
Monday 8 th April	Cool for School photographs Online Safety, Parents Information Evening, 7.00 pm
Tuesday 9 th April	P3D Assembly, 9.15 am P6 Shared Education
Thursday 11 th April	Health & Fitness Day P5 Shared Education Day
Friday 12 th April	12.00 pm finish for Easter
Monday 29 th April	School recommences after Easter



World Book Day!

WORLD BOOK DAY

We are celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 8th March**. This is a chance to come to school dressed as your favourite book character... Mrs Luney has planned a whole school Reading Week commencing Monday 18th March...

Online Safety Advice for Parents...

Many parents are now aware of the latest online threat for young people. We have shared guidance on our social media accounts about how to make digital devices safe for children to use. Please see below a summary of key points shared:

- **Youtube** → select settings → select safe search filtering → tick strict
- **Safari** → select settings → general → restrictions → select the restrictions you wish for your children
- **App purchases** → select settings → general → restrictions → turn off in app purchases
- **Disallow uploading Apps** → select settings → general → restrictions → installing apps or deleting apps

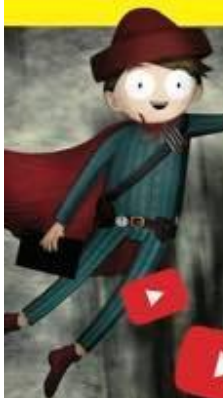
Online Safer Internet Evening for parents

Mrs Flaherty has arranged a Safer Internet Evening for parents and carers on **Monday 8th April, 7.00pm**. The evening will offer advice and guidance to parents about how we can all help our young people to use the internet responsibly and what to do if we come across something inappropriate. Please make a point of attending! She will write to all parents nearer the time with more information.

This work will go towards or 360 online (Safer Internet Accreditation Award) which we aim to have achieved by the end of June 2019.



It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created this guide to raise awareness of the issue and offer advice on helping parents to talk to their children about making safer decisions online. See also our '7 conversation starters' guide for more tips on better communication with your child.



Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly)... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

What parents need to know about

MOMO

CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents

TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in: no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is
0800 1111.

SOURCES:
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/sick-videos-youtube-youtube-kids-14052196>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47359623>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Phone - 0800 368 8061



Ashgrove Primary School Our Weekly Newsletter

School Dinner Menu, £2.60 per day

Vegetarian Options are available, please refer to website

<p><u>Monday 4th March</u> Hot Dog, Beans, Chips, Mashed Potatoes & Tomato Sauce ~ Yoghurt & Fruit</p>	<p><u>Tuesday 5th March</u> Irish Stew & Crusty Bread or Ham & Cheese Panini Salad & coleslaw ~ Apple Crumble & Custard</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 6th March</u> Roast Beef, Turnip, Oven Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy ~ Cracknel, Custard & Fruit</p>	<p><u>Thursday 7th March</u> Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Mixed Vegetables & Naan Bread ~ Cupcake & Fruit</p>
<p><u>Friday 8th March</u> Lasagne, Peas, Crusty Bread OR Fish Fingers, Peas, Mashed Potatoes ~ Jelly, Fruit & Ice cream</p>	<p>HEALTHY BREAK 30p per day Tuesday: Toast, Pear & Carrot Friday: Crusty Bread, Red Grapes & Celery</p>

Mr Agnew...

It is 19 years ago today (1st March 2000) that Mr Agnew started in Ashgrove Primary. It is apt that I let you know today that he is retiring after a long and successful teaching career on 31st March 2019. (His last day in school will be Friday 29th March).

I'm sure all our past and present pupils, parents, staff and governors wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

The Board of Governors have recently appointed a new permanent teacher to our Ashgrove team – Miss Hannah McClune will join us on 1st April 2019 and will teach Mr Agnew's class to the end of this academic year. I'm sure everyone will also make Miss McClune feel most welcome.



Healthy Munching March!



During the month of March ALL our pupils should
eat a Healthy Breaktime snack

(FRUIT OR VEGETABLE ONLY)

Please no crisps, chocolate, sweets, fatty foods or
sweet yogurts.

As an incentive...

- 1 week – sticker
- 2 weeks – night off written Homework
- 3 weeks – NO Friday test
- 4 weeks – Bouncy Castle

Holiday List, 2019-2020

Our 2019-2020 holiday list is available to download on our website.



Autumn Term, 2019

<u>School commences:</u>	Wednesday 28 th August	(Half Day)*
	Thursday 29 th August	(Half Day)*
	Friday 30 th August	(Half Day)*
Exceptional Closure 1:	Friday 27 th September	(Staff Development Day)
Exceptional Closure 2:	Monday 28 th October	(Staff Development Day)
HALLOWEEN:	Tuesday 29 th October - Friday 1 st November (inclusive)	
<u>School Recommences:</u>	Monday 4 th November	
CHRISTMAS:	Friday 20 th December	(Half Day)*
	Monday 23 rd Dec - Friday 3 rd January 2020 (inclusive)	
Exceptional Closure 3:	Monday 6 th January 2019	(Staff Development Day)

Spring Term, 2020

<u>School recommences:</u>	Tuesday 7 th January 2020	
HALF TERM:	Monday 17 th February - Wednesday 19 th February (inclusive)	
Exceptional Closure 4:	Thursday 20 th February (Staff Development Day)	
Non Operational date:	Tuesday 17 th March 2020	
EASTER:	Friday 3 rd April 2020	(Half Day)*
	Monday 6 th April - Friday 17 th April (inclusive)	

Summer Term, 2020

<u>School recommences:</u>	Monday 20 th April 2020	
MAY DAY HOLIDAY:	Monday 4 th May 2020	
Exceptional Closure 5:	Friday 22 nd May 2020	(Staff Development Day)
MAY BANK HOLIDAY:	Monday 25 th May 2020	

