



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 25

THURSDAY 22ND MARCH 2018

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.

Upcoming Dates & Events

Monday 25 th March -	P6 Shared Education to W5
Tuesday 26 th March -	Ashgrove & St Mary's Football Match
Thursday 28 th March -	Mrs Carberry & Mr Smith to review attendance
Friday 29 th March -	Random Act of Kindness Day Mr Agnew's last day!
W/c Mon 1 st April-	Science Week!
Tuesday 2 nd April-	P4 Shared Education
Thursday 4 th April-	P7 & P2 Shared Education. P6 Science workshops!
Friday 5 th April -	P3 to Greenmount, Shared Education
Monday 8 th April-	Cool for School Class Photographs Online Safety Evening
Tuesday 9 th April -	P6 Shared Education

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

What do I do if my child is ill?

Recently in school, there have been bouts of illness including Chicken Pox and flu. If your child is diagnosed with an illness, which means they cannot come to school, please inform us by ringing the Office on the first morning they will be absent and selecting the option to explain an absence. We ask all parents follow this up with a brief explanatory note when the child returns to school.

The following guidance is issued 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)

Primary 5 to Greenhill, Residential...

Information about our Primary 5 residential to Greenhill (Newcastle) was sent to parents last week. Primary 5 will stay for a one night residential on **Tuesday 14th May**. The final payment of £25 is due on Friday 5th April – thank you to those parent who have already made this payment or indeed paid in full.

We kindly ask that parents use the SchoolMoney payment system – thank you!

Primary 5 start Swimming

Primary 5 pupils start swimming lessons at the Valley Leisure Centre after the Easter break. The classes will swim on the following days:

- Mrs Carberry's class will swim each Thursday starting on 09.05.19
- Mrs Luney's class will swim each Monday starting on 29.04.19

Please make sure that your child brings their swimming kit with them on the appropriate day. Children should NOT need to bring money with them to the Valley Leisure Centre.



Reading Week...

Thank you to everyone who embraced our Reading Week so positively. We were sent a super range of photographs of children Reading at home and in unusual places – we have included some of them below!



During Reading Week a local storyteller (Liz Weir) visited school and told stories to all our pupils. Each afternoon teachers swapped classes for 15 minutes and read a story!



Thank you to Tesco for donating a £20 book voucher, Eason's £10 voucher & Scholastic for donating 2 books per class (donations will be raffled). We also mention a special word of thanks to Mrs Cluney who donated popcorn to all children P4-7 for their sponsored reading day today.

Sponsorship donations for our Reading Day should be sent to school by Wednesday 27th March.



SCIENCE WEEK

Science week is happening in school during the week commencing 1st April 2019. During this week there will be lots of exciting science activities in school focused on practical Science and STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Maths). This is part of our work towards gaining our Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM).

SCIENCE FACTOR COMPETITION

During Science Week **P4-7 pupils** will take part in our **SCIENCE FACTOR COMPETITION!** Pupils should bring in from home a science experiment to share with their class. Children should bring their experiments on **Monday 1st April**. These will be shared with classmates throughout the week with the top experiments going forward to our Science Factor Finals on **Friday 5th April**.

This is a great opportunity to work with your child to find a simple, fun experiment to share with classmates... for straightforward ideas check Pinterest or Dadlab.

Easter Holiday!

School will close for the Easter break on **MONDAY 15th APRIL, 12.00 pm** - there will be NO lunches served. School will recommence for the Summer term on **Monday 29th April** at the usual time. Please remember that a full list of our Holiday Dates are easily available on our website under the "Parents" section.

A Holiday List for the next academic year was included in our Newsletter last week, this is also available on our website!

Healthy Munching March

Thank you everyone for your support with Healthy Munching March. The increased uptake of healthy breaks – fruit or vegetable is impressive. By doing this we are encouraging our children to form healthy habits making them more likely to choose healthy options in adult life.

Next week, all children who have eaten a healthy break for the full month of March will go on our Bouncy Castle!



Online Safety – Advice for Parents & Carers



WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, with more than 1.5 billion people in more than 180 countries using it to send and receive text, photos, videos and documents, as well as make voice and video calls through an Internet or Wi-Fi connection. The free app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.



AGE RESTRICTION
16+






What parents need to know about WhatsApp

AGE LIMIT CHANGE

Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world. WhatsApp has not yet stated whether it will take action against anyone aged between 13 and 16 who already hold accounts under the old terms and conditions, such as closing their account or seeking parental permission.

SCAM MESSAGES

Occasionally on WhatsApp, people receive spam messages from unauthorised third parties or from fraudsters pretending to offer prizes to 'lucky people' encouraging recipients to click on a link to win a prize. A common scam involves messages warning recipients that their WhatsApp subscription has run out with the hope that people are duped into providing their payment details. Other scam messages include instructions to forward the message in return for a reward or gift from WhatsApp or another person.

FAKE NEWS AND HOAXES

WhatsApp has been linked to enabling the spread of dangerous viral rumours. In India, for example, a number of attacks appear to have been sparked by false rumours shared on WhatsApp.

THE 'ONLY ADMIN' FEATURE AND CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is the act of sending threatening or taunting text messages, voice messages, pictures and videos, with the aim to hurt and humiliate the receiver. The group chat and group video call features are great for multiple people to chat simultaneously, but there is the potential for people to hurt others with their comments or jokes. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin of a group chat greater control over who can send messages. Whilst this can be good for one-way announcements, the group admin has the power to block somebody from responding to an offensive message in a chat, which could result in a child being upset and unable to reply.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

To start a chat in WhatsApp, you need to know the mobile number of the contact you want to speak to and they also need to have the app downloaded. WhatsApp can find contacts by accessing the address book of a device and recognising which of those contacts are using WhatsApp. If your child has shared their mobile number with somebody they don't know, they can use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

LIVE LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp's 'Live Location' feature enables users to share their current location in real time to their contacts in a chat, allowing friends to show their movements. The feature, which can be found by pressing the 'attach' button, is described by WhatsApp as a 'simple and secure way to let people know where you are.' Location-sharing is already a common feature on other social apps, including Snapchat's Snap Map and Facebook Messenger and can be a useful way for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. However, if your child is in a group chat with people they do not know, they will be exposing their location.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents



CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone', 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody'. We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

REPORT SCAM MESSAGES

Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam'.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone'. The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE

If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list – they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact, your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave again, they cannot be added again.

SET TIME LIMITS

A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.

USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY

If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/may/29/whatsapp-privacy-updates> [see under 'the privacy is how'] <https://whatsappbrand.com/>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/news/whatsapp-update-what-you-need-to-know-before-updating-the-app-8456611.html>

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This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

School Dinner Menu (£2.55 per day)

<p><u>Monday 25th March</u></p> <p>Fish Fillet, Peas, Chips, Mashed Potatoes & Tomato Sauce</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~</p> <p>Yoghurt & Fruit</p>	<p><u>Tuesday 26th March</u></p> <p>Chicken Nuggets, Beans & Mashed Potato OR Salmon Cakes, Beans & Mashed Potatoes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~</p> <p>Egg Sponge Flan & Custard</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 27th March</u></p> <p>Roast Pork, Carrot & Parsnip, Oven Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~</p> <p>Biscuit, Fruit & Strawberry Milkshake</p>	<p><u>Thursday 28th March</u></p> <p>Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Broccoli & Naan Bread</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~</p> <p>Carrot Cake & Custard</p>
<p><u>Friday 29th March</u></p> <p>Pasta Bolognese, Sweetcorn & Crusty Bread OR Pizza, Salad & Crusty Bread,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~</p> <p>Rice Pudding & Fruit</p>	<p>HEALTHY BREAK</p> <p><i>P1-4, 30p per day</i></p> <p>Tuesday: Toast, Watermelon & Yellow Pepper</p> <p>Friday: Crusty, Orange & Cucumber</p>

School Crossing Patrol

I am pleased to inform you that the Education Authority have now set a date to interview for the vacant post of School Crossing Patrol Supervisor. This post will be filled in the coming weeks. This appointment is the of the responsibility of the EA – not the school, however the Governors have strongly expressed their concerns about the slow progress of recruitment.

Random Act of Kindness Day

Our Ashgrove Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have organized a RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY on **Friday 29th March**. This is part of our strong ethos in school to promote a kind and nurturing environment where all pupils are valued for their contributions to the life of our school.

The idea is simple... give a random act of kindness to someone in school – this could be holding open a door, carrying a school bag, telling someone a funny joke, picking some flowers, giving a small gift, including others in your game etc. Please take the opportunity this week to speak with your child about how they can show Random Acts of Kindness to others 😊.

