



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 25

THURSDAY 29TH MARCH 2019

Rights Respecting Schools Article 21 (adoption)

"Governments must oversee the process of adoption and make sure it is safe, lawful and that it priorities 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.

Thank you Mr Agnew! Happy Retirement!

I would like to thank Mr Agnew for his many years of dedication and service to Ashgrove Primary and for making an impact on so many young people and families. His musical talents and high standards of teaching have truly benefitted our children and indeed the whole school. Many of our present parents will know Mr Agnew as past pupils themselves and will have fond memories of school productions and choir rehearsals!

Mr Agnew will be a special invited guest at our Leavers Service in June.

On behalf of the Staff, Pupils, Parents and Governors of Ashgrove Primary we all wish Mr Agnew a long, happy and healthy retirement!

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together



SCIENCE WEEK

Science week is happening in school during next week! 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.

Our Science Factor Competition is voluntary... this is change for our budding Scientists to get creative!

Welcome Miss McClune!

On Monday 1st April, Miss Hannah McClune joins our Ashgrove teaching staff and will teach Mr Agnew's class to the end of this academic year. I trust that all the children, parents and staff will make her feel most welcome.

Mobile Phones in school

Just a few weeks ago I put a reminder in our Newsletter about pupils bringing mobile phones to school. I would like to thank parents for their vigilance and support. We do understand that some working parents require their child to have a mobile phone so they may contact them out of school hours. If your child must bring a mobile phone to school, **it must remain switched off and stay in their school bag for the duration of the school day**. If you need to contact your child while they are in school this should be done via the School Office. Please take some time to explain these arrangements to your child if appropriate.



Science Week Events...

Monday 1st April: Scientific Sue taking Science Workshops for all Year groups

Science Factor Competition in classrooms

Tuesday 2nd April: Professor Alan Strong (Engineer) visiting P7

Mr Darren Lavery (Engineer & Parent in school) visiting P5

Beverly Gaston (Sustrans) visiting P4

Foundation Stage Science Open Afternoon 2.00-3.00pm
Head of Science (Miss Dowds) from Glengormley High will attend our FS Science Afternoon

Wednesday 3rd: Dr Johnston visiting P2

Science Factor Competition Continues

Thursday 4th April: P6 Science Workshops (in conjunction with Glengormley High)

P2 Visiting School at the Sea

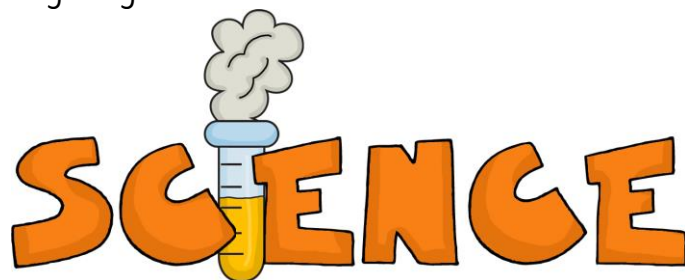
Science Factor Competition continues

Queens University Medics in Primary School to P7

Friday 5th April: Science Factor Final!

P3 visiting Cafre (College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise).

Mystery Box Feedback



Online Safety – Advice for Parents & Carers



What parents need to know about

TikTok

BEING INFLUENCED

More than one third of children aged 6-17 consider 'social media stars' to be among their top role models. There are millions of creators on TikTok, showcasing their 'talents, moments and knowledge', from singing to dancing to stunts and comedy skits, which receive thousands of likes and comments from around the world, quickly turning people into 'stars'. There is the danger that children may develop unrealistic expectations of how they should look and behave on the app in order to become the next 'star'. They may have feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem or become swayed by certain opinions.

CONCERNING CONTENT

Some of the outfits and dance moves in videos can be overly sexual and provocative. There have also been reports of some users sharing concerning content, such as videos that promote anorexia, porn, self-harm and violence.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Of course, as with many apps, there's a paid element to TikTok. Users can buy virtual coins to be exchanged for virtual gifts – for example, if they like a specific video, your child can use coins to purchase emojis to show approval. These can be expensive and easily purchased – there is the option to buy 10,000 coins for £97.99 with a one-click buy button.

DANGEROUS TRENDS & CHALLENGES

On TikTok, there are always 'trending challenges' and hashtags that users can copy or build upon, and sometimes, these challenges can pose risks to young people.

ANYONE CAN SEE YOUR CHILD'S CREATIONS

TikTok encourages users to 'share their passion and creative expression through their videos' and while something may seem fun at the time, videos can get in the wrong hands and cause embarrassment in the future. If posted publicly, anyone in the world can see your child's homemade music video and potentially cause bullying within personal friendship groups or even online.

INAPPROPRIATE SONG LYRICS

TikTok lets users lip-synch to their favourite songs and produce their own music videos. Some of the music choices contain swear words or sexual themes. So not only can children be exposed to potentially inappropriate content but they can broadcast themselves miming or singing these lyrics.

STRANGERS CAN FOLLOW YOUR CHILDREN

If your child's profile is open, strangers can use the app to comment on your child's videos. While this isn't always sinister, it gives potential predators the ability to contact your child through the platform.

National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

TALK ABOUT THE PITFALLS OF OVERSHARING

Encourage your kids to always think before they do, say, like or post anything online, explaining that their 'digital footprint' can shape their online reputation and the way that other people see them. Something they may find funny and entertaining now may impact them in the future. Talk about how to deal with peer pressure and how doing something they think will impress others could affect them.

SIGNING UP WITH THE CORRECT AGE

When signing up to TikTok, you are prompted to input your birth date. If your child inputs their age as 'under 13', the app will not allow them to sign up and will be locked for 24 hours. The app is intended for users aged 13+, so explain that the rating is there for a reason; to keep them protected from online dangers. It is actually possible to watch TikTok videos without even creating an account, so it's important to check if your underage child has downloaded the app to their devices.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you or your child see something on TikTok that appears to be inappropriate, they can report content in different ways within the app. They can report an account, video, comment or chat conversation by simply tapping 'Report'. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is also an 'Enhanced Restricted Mode' which limits the appearance of videos that may not be appropriate for all audiences.

HANDLING CRITICISM

While it's fantastic to see your child being creative and expressive and bonding with people with similar interests, they need to be aware that not everyone will be supportive online. Comments can be negative or even cruel. Make sure they know how to comment respectfully and handle negative feedback. In the app's Privacy and Safety settings, your child can decide who can react to their videos, who can comment, and who can send them private chat messages. We suggest using these settings so only their friends can interact with their posts.

USE THE 'DIGITAL WELLBEING' SETTING

If you're concerned about the amount of time your child is spending on TikTok, in the app's setting, you can switch on a feature called Digital Wellbeing. This includes 'Screen Management' to limit the amount of time your child spends on the app.

AVOID IDENTIFIABLE OBJECTS

To ensure that there's no way of anyone tracking your child's location or identity, make it clear to them that they should never film a video in their school uniform or near a landmark that gives away where they live.

SET THE ACCOUNT TO PRIVATE

This means that only people who you and your child approve of can see their creations. To make an account private, tap the three dots at the top right of the screen to access settings. Click 'Privacy and Safety'. Scroll down until you find 'Private Account' and turn this setting on.

DISCUSS IN-APP PURCHASES

To lower the risk of your child making accidental in-app purchases, teach them exactly what in-app purchases are and the risks of making them without permission. Tell them that they are not essential to enjoy the app and that if they want to make a purchase, they should always ask you beforehand. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is the option to disable the function of purchasing coins and sending gifts.

SOURCES: mediapost.com/public-affairs/article/319720/social-media-stars-influence-kids-but-parents-still.html, common.sensormedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-musical.ly, metro.co.uk/2017/03/17/musical-ly-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-app-your-children-are-obsessed-with-6516066/, youtube.com/watch?v=n06o4FGUJ, youtube.com/watch?v=VVG21ZQ4jM, static.musicn.com/website/pdf/creatorPlaybook.pdf, youtube.com/watch?v=8TaoQCHwM, support.musical.ly/knowledge-base/community-guidelines

© National Online Safety Ltd
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



Ashgrove PS... NI Sentinus STEM Finalists

Congratulations to a group of our P7's who represented Ashgrove in the NI Sentinus STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Competition. They worked collaboratively to problem solve and had some tough competition!



Reading Week...

Thank you all for your support with Reading Week (last week). We had a wonderful range of activities- included below... our sponsored Read-a-thon raised an amazing total of £1,660!



Sponsored Read-a-thon!



PIC•COLLAGE

Random Act of Kindness Day...

Thank you all for your Random Acts of Kindness today... Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors visited each classroom and talked about how we can show thoughtfulness and kindness to each other – just simple gestures to make our friends feel appreciated and valued.

Healthy Munching March

Thank you everyone who supported Healthy Munching March... The idea of the initiative was to refocus our efforts on eating a piece of fruit or vegetable at breaktime.

School Dinner Menu (£2.55 per day)

Monday 1st April

Hot Dog, Beans, Chips, Mashed Potatoes & Tomato Sauce
~
Yoghurt & Fruit

Tuesday 2nd April

Irish Stew & Crusty Bread
OR
Ham & Cheese Panini Salad & coleslaw
~
Apple Crumble & Custard

Wednesday 3rd April

Roast Beef, Turnip, Oven Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
~
Cracknel, Custard & Fruit

Thursday 4th April

Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Mixed Vegetables & Naan Bread
~
Cupcake & Fruit

Friday 5th April

Lasagne, Peas, Crusty Bread
OR
Fish Fingers, Peas, Mashed Potatoes
~
Jelly, Fruit & Ice cream

HEALTHY BREAK

P1-4, 30p per day

Tuesday: Toast, Pear & Carrot

Friday: Crusty, Red Grapes & Celery

