



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 05

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Article 1

"Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention."
We are working hard in school to raise awareness of the rights of the child, we continue to teach about Rights in class and highlight Rights on displays...

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY- SCHOOL CLOSED

Please remember that school is **CLOSED** for Staff Development on **(FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER)**. You will need to make alternative childcare arrangements for this day. School **will reopen at the usual times on Monday 5th October.**

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

Many thanks to those of you who have paid their voluntary contribution to school. These are indeed challenging financial times for all schools and the contribution you make means we can buy additional resources for our children to use. If you have yet to make your contribution, I encourage you to do so next week. Please pay this online via SchoolMoney.

We ask for a donation of £5.00 per pupil (Maximum of £10.00 per family).

Thank you!

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

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

I am sure you are all aware of the latest restrictions announced by Stormont because of Coronavirus. This is a reminder to all of us in school to maintain social distancing in school grounds and keep up with handwashing and good respiratory hygiene.

Now is not the time for us to relax our staggered drop-off and collection times in school and these messages only remind us as to why our measures are in place. I do thank you for your support and understanding with our arrangements.

FLU VACCINATIONS

This week you should have received a consent form for the administration of the Flu Vaccination. The Chief Medical Officer has asked all schools to encourage all pupils and adults in school to get the flu vaccination this year. The vaccination will not give immunity from Coronavirus but will help to protect vulnerable members of our community.

Please return your consent forms to school by **Monday 12th October** at the latest. We can not accept forms after this date. If your child misses the vaccination or is unwell on the day, you as parent/legal guardian, you will be sent a letter from the Community Nurse explaining that you should now contact your GP.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION FORMS

Occasionally children in school may need to take medication at some point throughout the day as a temporary measure or as part of long term condition. As a school we will not administer medication unless the correct forms are completed by a parent or legal guardian. Our Administration of Medication Forms are available online under the Parent Area of our website. Our Administration of Medication Policy is also on our website.

NAMES ON CLOTHING

Please ensure you have put the name of your child on each piece of clothing and school uniform. This means we can return lost items to their owners.

BLENDED LEARNING AND REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

Over the past few weeks we have worked to develop a Blended Learning and Remote Learning Policy. This document outlines the online learning provision that will be made available to your child in the event their class bubble is instructed to isolate, full school closure, shielding, if your child is ill etc. The Policy outlines the Roles and Responsibilities of school staff, parents and pupils.

Please be aware, if your child can not attend school because they are ill we will not set work online for them to complete. Instead children who are unwell should recuperate and focus on returning school when they are better.

Once the Policy is completed you will receive a copy of this document via email.



HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN...

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 our aim that any concern is dealt with quickly and efficiently.

PLEASE FIND BELOW THE PROCEDURE WE HAVE IN PLACE.

It is important that we have a staged approach to raising and addressing concerns as this means issues will be heard by more than one person in a fair and unbiased way.

HOW DO I RAISE A CONCERN?

1. Make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the matter. All parents/carers from home must make appointments to speak with the teacher. Due to COVID-19 adults must not enter the school building.

(Making an appointment will enable the teacher to give you the necessary time to listen attentively to your concern. Teachers are not able to ring parents during class time).

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 (Miss Morrison/Mrs Torrie) or the Vice Principal, Mrs Flaherty.
3. Following the second stage, you may make an appoint with the VP, Mrs Flaherty.
4. If concerns still remain the issue can be referred to the Principal, Mr Smith.
5. 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)



READING BOOKS IN SCHOOL

READING BOOK AMNESTY! We have noticed that quite a number of our Reading Books are missing from school, these may have been sent home with your child to read as homework and indeed some may be there since before lockdown. This means that we don't have complete sets of some books which hinders teachers while setting reading for their groups.

If you have ANY reading books at home which belong to school, please send them back to us so they can be used again.

READING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Next week, we will restart our Reading Partnership Programme in school. This is boost or catch-up programme targeted at P3 or P4 children. The programme lasts for 10 weeks and involves one to one support for pupils with a trained adult in school.

In previous years the children who engaged with the programme have made impressive progress and developed a real enthusiasm for reading. We do however acknowledge the children who make the most progress are those who also read every day at home with their parents. We will write to those parents in P3 or P4 to seek your written consent to join the programme, it is important you return this consent.

ACCELERATED READING PROGRAMME P5-7

All children from P5-7 have been enrolled in our Accelerated Reading Programme. This is an online learning platform which assesses reading abilities and pitches individual reading books at the correct level for each child. Many of you in P6&7 will be familiar with this from last year and of course from during lockdown. Mrs Luney and Mrs Carberry have introduced the AR programme to their P5 classes this month.

P6&7 children can all login to their Accelerated Reading Accounts at home and complete reading quizzes on recent books they have read. (P5 children will have access to this from home soon). AR is a wonderful way for you as parents to develop reading at home and take an interest in supporting your child. I can not stress enough how important it is that you read with your child every day at home.

Each child from P5-7 have been issued with their individual Reading Level. If you are looking for additional Accelerated Reader Glengormley Library has many of their books levelled for AR.



LET'S ALL KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE

We need your help! We want everyone to be safe, healthy and enjoy school.
So, make sure you follow these new rules...

IF YOU ARE SICK YOU MIGHT HAVE TO STAY AT HOME

Going to school is really important but if you have a bad cough or feel very warm,
tell a grown up right away.



GIVE EACH OTHER SPACE

Keep a safe distance from your
teachers and friends as much
as you can. You should try to stay
in your bubble.



CATCH YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES

Cover your face with your elbow
or use a tissue. (Don't forget to
put used tissues in the bin!)



WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands lots of times
during the day. (Make sure you
wash them as soon as you get
to school too!)



HOLD ONTO YOUR OWN ITEMS

You shouldn't share things
like pencils, food and drinks
with your friends.



IT'S OK TO HAVE QUESTIONS!
YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK A
PARENT, CARER OR TEACHER.



Department of
Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

EDUCATION RESTART



SCHOOL DINNER MENU

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE EACH DAY (PLEASE REFER TO WEBSITE)

<p><u>Monday 28th September</u> Tuna & Sweetcorn Bap ~ Cookie & Apple Juice</p>	<p><u>Tuesday 29th September</u> Cheese & Tomato Baguette & Bottled Water ~ Yoghurt & Melon Slice</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 30th September</u> Chicken & Salad Sandwich & Milk ~ Chocolate Brownie & Pineapple Slice</p>	<p><u>Thursday 1st October</u> Sweet Chilli Chicken Wrap, Cucumber Sticks & Bottled Water ~ Jelly & Fruit Pot & Shortbread Biscuit</p>
<p><u>Friday 2nd October</u> SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>School meals are only available to those entitled to Free School Meals at present. School meals for the week ahead should be booked online via SchoolMoney.</p>

CORONAVIRUS TESTING

We have seen a significant increase in the amount of our pupils being tested for Coronavirus. It is important you notify us if you have arranged for your child to be tested and you should also let us know the result before returning to school.

We have made our expectations very clear in terms of symptoms and school attendance. As a reminder these are as follows:

- Anyone who exhibits symptoms associated with COVID-19 must not attend school
- All symptomatic pupils and staff are expected to follow the advice and obtain a test
- Where an individual has had a negative result and everyone with symptoms in their household receive a negative result, the pupil or member of staff can return to school providing they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours
- Anyone who tests positive will be contacted by the Contact Tracing Service in PHA . If your child or a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19 you should inform the school immediately by emailing info@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

Children who become symptomatic while in school, will be sent home and you will be asked to follow PHA guidance for possible coronavirus infections. Children who are symptomatic will be isolated in a room and appropriate adult supervision will be provided.

