



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 10

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2020

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Next week is Anti-Bullying week (Monday 16th – Friday 20th November). This year's theme as set by the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum is "Unite Against Bullying".

Pupils will take part in a range of lessons throughout the week and discuss various types of bullying and what is the difference between bullying and unacceptable behaviour.

On Friday 20th November we are having a WEAR BLUE Day... children can come to school dressed in non-uniform blue clothing (please donate £1.00) to mark Anti-Bullying Day. Remember if it's not blue it won't do!

If you would like to find further information on this year's campaign please go to www.endbullying.org.uk/

Also on Friday 20th November we will have our **"Say Something Great About a Mate Day!"** There is more information about this day further in the Newsletter. This is a lovely way to create a positive culture and ethos in school..



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

VIRTUAL TOUR OF SCHOOL...

Unfortunately this year we are unable to hold our annual Open Night for prospective parents for P1. Instead we have been thinking creatively and are producing a virtual tour of our school... this will have lots of information about Ashgrove to allow prospective parents to make informed school choices.

We do realise and appreciate that new parents like to visit us to get a 'feel' for the school and to ask questions. We are in the process of arranging individual tours (after school hours) and will share more information with you very soon.

PRIMARY 1 PRE-ENROLMENT FORM

A link to our Primary 1 pre-enrolment form is now live please click on the link below to complete the form online. Please share this with prospective parents for September 2021.

<https://forms.gle/tytv4mzrPEF5G5mm8>

COVID. PARENTS ESSENTIAL NOTICE

We have been extremely fortunate in Ashgrove that none of our class bubbles have yet been instructed to self-isolate due to COVID. We have a range of safety and screening measures in place to make school as safe as we can for our pupils, families and staff.

I once again remind us all of the importance of good hand and respiratory hygiene and of course to observe social distancing in school grounds. I thank our parents and visitors to school for wearing a face mask or covering.

It is imperative if a member of your household is getting a test or displaying symptoms that you do not send your child to school. Please inform us through our school email if your child is absent due to COVID.

AQE ASSESSMENTS

At present our P7 pupils are planned to sit their AQE Tests in January 2021. This means an extension of preparation from November to January.

P7 staff are working hard to do this preparation as creatively as possible – particularly over the Christmas term dates and holidays. Should these Tests not be possible, for Covid-19 reasons, all post primary schools have been instructed by DE to have emergency entrance criteria for 2021. We will keep you informed of any changes.



DOODLE MATHS...

In Ashgrove we are introducing for each child an individual online maths programme via Doodle Maths. Some groups of children in school have been trialing the initiative and we have received very positive feedback. In the next few weeks, you will receive home individual login details for Doodle Maths. I encourage you to download the Doodle Maths (and Doodle Tables) app to your digital devices. Teachers may set Doodle Maths as a homework task... We encourage all our children to login every day and spend 10-15 minutes on their assigned tasks.

The tasks set are individualised for each child meaning that work is pitched to each child's particular level. The programme will identify what your child already knows and will then set new learning tasks to help move them on with their learning.

As parents, you have a vital role to play in encouraging your child to engage effectively with this. If you would like to find out more about Doodle Maths please follow this link...

<https://www.doodlemaths.com/parent-resources/>



SAFEGUARDING IN ASHGROVE PRIMARY ...

In Ashgrove Primary we have a Safeguarding Team. If you have any worries or concerns please speak with one of the following people:

- Mrs Luney- Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- Mrs Coulter- Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- Mr Smith- Principal
- Mr Edwards- Designated Governor for Safeguarding

In Ashgrove PS our School Council has defined Bullying as...

"Bullying is behaviour which is done on purpose and happens over and over. It can make people feel hurt and upset. It can be verbal, social, physical, emotional or aggressive behaviour which is caused repeatedly by a person or a group of people.

It can mean that someone is picked on or made fun of almost every day and they cannot stop it happening. Not all nasty behaviour is bullying behaviour. Some bad behaviour may have been done only once or by an accident, but bullying is planned and keeps happening."



School Dinner Menu, £2.60 per day

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE EACH DAY

<p><u>Monday 16th November</u></p> <p>Fish Fingers, Beans & Chips ~ Yoghurt & Melon</p>	<p><u>Tuesday 17th November</u></p> <p>Chicken Curry, Rice, Peas & Naan Bread ~ Jelly, Ice-Cream & Fruit</p>
<p><u>Wednesday 18th November</u></p> <p>Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Carrots, Parsnip, Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy ~ Yoghurt & Oranges</p>	<p><u>Thursday 19th November</u></p> <p>Steak Burger in a Bap, Salad, Coleslaw & Spiced Cubed Potatoes ~ Chocolate & Pear Sponge with Chocolate Sauce</p>
<p><u>Friday 20th November</u></p> <p>Pasta Bologaise, Carrots & Crusty Bread ~ Yoghurt & Apple</p>	<p>School Meals are now available to all families. These MUST be booked online in advance via SchoolMoney.</p>

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY REMINDERS

If your child is absent for any reason please email school on infor@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk giving a reason for non-attendance on the first day of absence, please follow this up with a brief email on their return. This is for the Education Welfare Service. Thank you to those who already do so. We understand this year is particularly challenging for our families in maintaining excellent attendance, however we use a particular code on the register for children absent because of COVID meaning we can take this into consideration when monitoring attendance. The Minister of Education has made clear, that children absent due to COVID will not be flagged up as non-attenders.

Lateness is also monitored by the Education Welfare Officer so please endeavour to get your child in to school by their allocated staggered time.

Mrs Carberry and I continue to monitor the attendance of all children each month and will write to parents where attendance is a concern.

PLEASE BRING A COAT TO SCHOOL

The past couple of weeks there has been a distinct chill in the air... Please ensure your child brings a coat with them to school during the winter months. It is most helpful if parents label all items of clothing – this helps us return lost items.

