



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 01

FRIDAY 26TH AUGUST 2021

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

It has been a pleasure to welcome our boys and girls back to school yesterday and today. We extend a very warm welcome to our new P1 pupils and those who have joined Ashgrove in other year groups over the Summer months.

I have lots of housekeeping information to share with you in this first edition of our Weekly Newsletter. Please refer to this information in the coming weeks as by keeping to our routines you help our school to manage in these challenging times.

REMINDER: SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON MONDAY 30TH AUGUST (BANK HOLIDAY)

COVID RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

Many of the risk mitigation measures which were used last year are still in place, these include the following:

- If you or your child are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 you **must not** come to school. You should follow advice from PHA.
- Pupils and parents must only arrive to school at their allocated arrival and departure times – this is to stagger pupil numbers and help maintain social distancing.
- Adults must not enter the school building or mobile classrooms.
- To prevent the spread of the virus, please do not loiter in school grounds or at the gate. Please continue to wear a face covering in school grounds.
- Remember to observe social distancing – there are various markers and clear signage around school.
- We ask that parents and all adults respect the integrity of our class 'bubbles'
- If you have symptoms of coronavirus or a positive test, you will need to follow the latest PHA guidance.

ASHGROVE ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, CO ANTRIM, BT36 6LJ

T: 028 9084 8734

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

WWW.ASHGROVEPRIMARY.COM

Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

GUIDANCE FLOWCHART FOR CLOSE CONTACTS OF A COVID CASE IN A SCHOOL SETTING

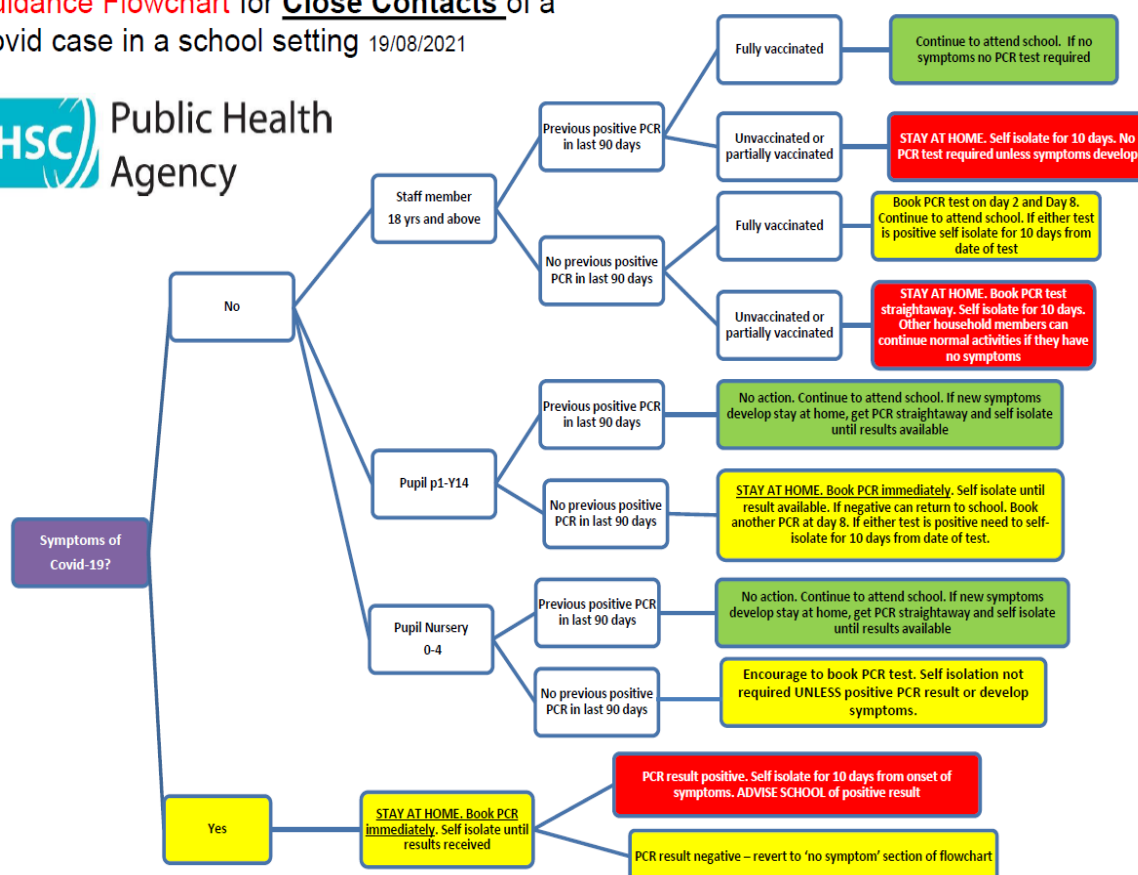
The Public Health Agency have recently shared the following guidance with schools on how to manage a positive case in the school setting. I have emailed the Flow Chart below to all parents earlier this week.

This new guidance is quite complex – this reflects the ongoing circumstances and changes with changes with vaccination status etc

Key Messages:

- If you or your child has symptoms of COVID, book a PCR test
- If the result is positive, you must self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms
- If your child is a CLOSE CONTACT of a positive COVID case, has no symptoms and has NOT has a positive PCR test in the last 90 days, you must stay at home and book a PCR test immediately & self-isolate until the result is available.
- If your child is a CLOSE CONTACT of a positive COVID case, has no symptoms and has HAS HAD a positive PCR test in the last 90 days, you do NOT need to take any action. If new symptoms develop, book a PCR Test.

Guidance Flowchart for Close Contacts of a Covid case in a school setting 19/08/2021



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 ARE 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, Mr McComb.
3. Following the second stage, you may make an appoint with the VP, Mr McComb.
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 CARBERRY, P5 (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Yesterday, I wrote to all parents whose children had a Medical or Dietary Care Plan last year. It is important that you, as parents, ensure we have the most up-to-date Care Plan. If the Care Plan has been reviewed by a medical practitioner, you must give us the most recent copy. If over the previous few months your child has received a Medical or Dietary Care Plan it is imperative, you inform us and give us a copy of the Care Plan. This is especially important for any new pupils who have joined Ashgrove recently.

If a child has to take medication in school their parent or guardian **MUST** complete a school **Administration of Medication Form** OR **A Request for a Pupil to Carry His/Her Medication**. Medication will NOT be administered unless the appropriate form is completed and received by school.

The above mentioned forms should be completed online and are available on our website under the "Parents Area". For safety reasons, children should **NOT** bring their own medication to school – this should be brought by an adult and left in the office.

Please remember, if your child requires an inhaler (or any other type of medication) it is your responsibility to ensure there is an adequate supply in school and the medication is in date.

Please remember, school staff can only administer medication in accordance to prescribed instructions or instructions from a GP or Care Plan.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

As per our Holiday List, school is **CLOSED on Monday 30th August** for the Bank Holiday. We reopen on Tuesday 31st August (Half Day). Remember to arrive to school at your allocated time until further notice.

A copy of our Holiday list for this academic year is available on the "Parents Section" of our website. I have also included a copy of our Holiday List in this Newsletter.

MEASLES IN SCHOOL...

We are asking all our parents in school to be extremely careful and vigilant with the spread of measles in our school and the community. We have a child in school who is particularly susceptible to measles due to medical treatment. If your child has measles, please keep them at home and inform us immediately of any infections – your help with this is much appreciated!

PRIMARY 3 – EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY...

Starting next week, P3 families have a new school routine to adapt to. P3 children will stay for a longer school day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Each P3 child has their own staggered home time on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday – please refer to the letter email to you for your individual times.

On Monday & Friday, all P3 children will go home at 2.00pm and exit via the Boiler House Gate. The P3 teachers will send you reminders of these arrangements on See-Saw.



TEACHING STAFF IN ASHGROVE PRIMARY

Please see below for a list of Teaching Staff in school as of August 2021. As you can see some members of staff hold positions of responsibility for areas of the curriculum or leadership posts.

YEAR GROUP	TEACHERS
Primary 1	Miss Morrison (Head of Foundation Stage & Clubs) Miss Woods/ Mrs Coulter
Primary 2	Miss McConvey Mr Cassidy & Mrs Cartmill
Primary 3	Mrs Douglas (Drama & Shared Education) & Miss Morrison Miss Crozier
Primary 4	Mrs Torrie (Head of Key Stage 1) Mr Hutcheson (C2K Manager)
Primary 5	Mrs Luney (Designated Teacher for Child Protection & Literacy Leader) Mrs Carberry (PDMU/Pastoral Care Leader & Attendance)
Primary 6	Mrs Ewing (Numeracy Leader) Mr Kelly (ICT)
Primary 7	Mr Morrow (PE) Mr McComb (Vice Principal)
SEN Support	Mrs Doherty (SENCO) Mrs Hawkins (Learning Support Teacher, 1 day per week)

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER...

School will be CLOSED to pupils on **FRIDAY 1st OCTOBER 2021** for Staff Development. Although staff will be in school this day, parents will need to make alternative childcare arrangements.

SCHOOL FUND/ VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

At the beginning of each academic year, we ask parents to make a voluntary contribution of £5.00 per child (maximum of £10.00 per household) to our school fund. This year we have so many additional pressures on our school resources as we continue to adapt to the demands of COVID-19.

We are mindful that school restart can be an expensive time of year for parents, however we will use all monies carefully to help of children. Please make your Voluntary Contribution online via SchoolMoney by the end of September.



2021-2022 HOLIDAY LIST

AUTUMN TERM, 2021

School commences:

Thursday 26 th August	(Half Day)*
Friday 27 th August	(Half Day)*
Tuesday 31 st August	(Half Day)*

Bank Holiday:	Monday 30 th August	(School closed)
---------------	--------------------------------	-----------------

School Development Day 1:	Friday 1 st October	(School closed to pupils)
---------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------

School Development Day 2:	Monday 25 th October	(School closed to pupils)
---------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------

HALLOWEEN:	Tues 26 th Oct – Fri 29 th Oct	(inclusive)
------------	--	-------------

School recommences:

Monday 1st November

CHRISTMAS:	Tuesday 21 st December	(Half Day)*
	Wed 22 nd Dec – Tues 4 th Jan	(School Closed)

School Development Day 3:	Wed 5 th January 2022	(School closed to pupils)
---------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------

SPRING TERM, 2022

<u>School recommences:</u>	Thursday 6 th January 2022
----------------------------	---------------------------------------

School Development Day 4:	Monday 14 th February	(School closed to pupils)
---------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------

HALF TERM:	Tuesday 15 th Feb – Fri 18 th Feb (inclusive)
------------	---

St Patrick's Day:	Thursday 17 th March	(Half Day)*
-------------------	---------------------------------	-------------

EASTER:	Wednesday 13 th April	(Half Day)*
	Thurs 14 th April – Tues 26 th April	(inclusive)

SUMMER TERM, 2022

<u>School recommences:</u>	Wednesday 27 th April
----------------------------	----------------------------------

MAY DAY HOLIDAY:	Monday 2 nd May
------------------	----------------------------

Non Operational Day:	Thurs 2 nd & Fri 3 rd June	(inclusive)
----------------------	--	-------------

School Development Day 5:	Mon 6 th June	(School closed to pupils)
---------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------

End of School year:	Thursday 30 th June	(Half Day)*
---------------------	--------------------------------	-------------

*Half Day- School closes at 12.00 pm. The above holiday dates are all inclusive.



School Meals Menu

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE EACH DAY – refer to website

Monday 31st August

**SCHOOL CLOSED
BANK HOLIDAY**

Tuesday 31st August

**HALF DAY FINISH, NO LUNCHES
SERVED**

Wednesday 1st September

Beef Burger in a Bap, Sweetcorn & Chips

~

Yoghurt & Fruit Cocktail

Thursday 2nd September

Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice & Peas with Naan
Bread

~

Cookie & Milkshake

Friday 3rd September

Sausages, Beans & Potatoes with Wholemeal
Bread

~

Ice-Cream & Fruit

Breakfast Club is already available and
After School Club starts on Wednesday 1st
September – these must be booked in
advance online via SchoolMoney.

NEW SCHOOL ROUTINES

I would like to thank our families for helping our boys and girls adapt to our new routines and expectations in school.

Next week, P2-7 pupils will move to a full school day commencing Wednesday 1st September. (There are separate arrangements for the induction of new P1 pupils). Your allocated arrival times will remain unchanged (please stay to this time). Home time collections will differ, check the letter emailed to you for collection times.

As you know, Breakfast and After School Clubs are available to book online!

