



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 03

FRIDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2021

SCHOOL CARPARK

Parents and visitors to school are welcome to use the Carpark facilities in our grounds. However, it is up to all adults to ensure the safety and care of our pupils and is paramount. For this reason, we ask everyone to adhere to the following:

- Speed limit of **5 MPH** (should be strictly adhered to)
- Vehicles should not be parked on pavements or access points at any time
- All drivers must observe the one-way system
- Please do not park across the zebra crossings
- Drivers must exercise caution at all times when in school grounds
- Pedestrians should use the designated crossing areas & pathways
- Parents should get out of their car to collect their child and escort them to their vehicle or in to school (pupil safety comes first!)
- The disabled bays at the front of school should only be used by blue badge holders
- Please show consideration for other drivers and remember the safety of our pupils is paramount

Please share this information with everyone at home who may be collecting or leaving pupils to school.

P4&5 SPECIALIST MUSIC TUITION

Earlier this week I wrote to all P4&5 parents asking for expressions of interest for your child to take part in specialist music tuition in school. This is just an expression of interest at this stage. Once received a specialist music tutor will conduct a brief assessment with your child. If you would like your P4/5 child to be considered for this, please complete the online form by

Tuesday 14th September.

<https://forms.gle/nQtb1yCJucY5mY2e9>

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

UPDATED GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & PHA

Earlier today, I emailed to all parents a letter from the Department of Health and PHA outlining the new contact tracing arrangements if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in a school setting.

Essentially, the responsibility of contact tracing has been removed from schools and the PHA will undertake this task themselves. Schools will no longer need to contact the PHA COVID-19 Schools Team.

I have outlined a summary of the new arrangements below:

- Schools are no longer required to respond to every COVID-19 case and identify close contacts
- The PHA will instead undertake a “more targeted approach” to the identification of the closet contacts
- From 10.09.21 the PHA Contact Tracing Service will ask for parents/guardians support in identifying close contacts
- Those identified as close contacts will be contacted by PHA by phone or text
- Parents are encouraged to inform the school of positive cases
- Schools are NO LONGER required to contact PHA COVID-19 schools team
- Schools may be contacted by PHA to assist with the identification of close contacts

It is still important we keep our usual mitigations to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission including enhanced cleaning, ventilation, the use of face coverings while in school grounds, temperature checks and the use of consistent groups. I thank our supportive parents for your care and understating as we once again adapt to new guidelines.

Free School Meals and Uniform Grants



Are you waiting on expected approval for a Free School Meals or Uniform Grant application for your child/children? Please read below.



You Must Apply Every Year

You must reapply every year and include all children for whom you have parental responsibility and who will be full-time at school or Regional/FE College.



Not heard from us? Check your junk mail

If you have applied more than four weeks ago but have not received confirmation that your child/children will receive Free School Meals and Uniform Grants then please check your email including your junk folder



Applied within the last four weeks

If you have applied in the past four weeks you will receive an e-mail from us shortly. It can take up to four weeks to process an application. Thank you for your patience.

www.eani.org.uk/fsm



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD IS UNWELL?

If your child has temperature, or any other symptoms of Covid-19, they should not attend school and you should book a test for your child together with any members of your household who are symptomatic.

Where a child has a negative result, the pupil can return to school, providing they are well enough. We ask that parents forward their child's test result to school to the following email address: info@ashgroveps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

If your child has a **mild head cold**, they may still attend school. If they have a heavy cold, cough etc and feeling unwell they should stay at home until they are well enough to return to school.

On the first day of absence, please inform us that your child will not be attending. There is a simple google form to complete on the homepage of our website to inform us of an absence. The link below brings you directly to the absence from school form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedPdbwQMkBPnS7DbOT7RQw9tWuSaDfjfPTNfmnGmytqMpQ/viewform>

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES 24.09.21

In Ashgrove we are celebrating the European Day of Languages on **Friday 24th September.**

Each year group will study a European country (please see below for details). On Friday 24th September children are asked to come to school wearing the colours of the country – there is NO NEED to buy costumes – plain clothing please, just whatever you have at home.

<i>Year Group</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Colours</i>
Primary 1	Poland	Red & White
Primary 2	Spain	Red & Yellow
Primary 3	Italy	Green, White & Red
Primary 4	Germany	Black, Red & Yellow
Primary 5	France	Blue, White & Red
Primary 6	Sweden	Red & White
Primary 7	Holland	Red, Silver & Blue



COOL FOR SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS ANNUAL PORTRAITS

Cool for School are taking school photographs (portraits) on **THURSDAY 16th SEPTEMBER**. A note with instructions on how to register for your child's school photograph was emailed home earlier this week. You **MUST** go online and register to give consent for your child's photograph to be taken, without registration they are unable to have their photograph taken. As a reminder, see the information leaflet below.



Cool for School Photography

"To have your child's photo taken you **must register!"**

Get ready for
PHOTODAY!

Register now so you can view your photos for free on your phone, as soon as they are ready. Just follow these three simple steps.

We will be taking photos in your child's school on:

**THURSDAY
16th SEPTEMBER**

Please register by 7pm on the day before your Photoshoot



STEP 1

Grab your phone and go to
orders.coolforschoolphotography.com

STEP 2

Enter your unique school code.

JRE4JYC



STEP 3

Choose **your child's** class from drop down menu. Fill in **Pupil's** name and complete the other email and mobile information.

That's it! You will receive an email and/or SMS with instructions when photos are ready to view.

Your contact details will be securely stored and kept private, due to strict GDPR compliance. Feel free to visit our webpage for further information. If you have any queries, please contact our friendly customer service team on ... 02892683966



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

As a reminder, school is closed to pupils on Friday 1st October for Staff Development.

Please make childcare arrangements for this day.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Thank you everyone for your help and efforts in maintaining social distancing in school grounds especially during drop-off and collection times. It is important you still observe this. Once you have left your child to school, we respectfully ask that you do not loiter and chat with other parents.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Last week, I informed you that our **Administration of Medication forms are available to complete online via our website.** These can be accessed from the "Parents Section". Thank you to those of you who have completed these forms online and submitted them to school.

As a reminder, we can not administer medication to children unless the correct forms have been submitted by a legal guardian and approved by the Principal. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure the correct forms are completed, the medication supplied is in date and we have an adequate supply of medication e.g. inhaler. It is also the responsibility of parents to ensure the safe disposal of medication once they are no longer required.

MEDICAL OR DIETARY CARE PLANS

Does your child have a Medical or Dietary Care Plan? If so, you must give us the most recent copy of this Care Plan. Care Plans should be reviewed annually by a healthcare practitioner. Thank you for keeping us up-to-date.

HEALTHY BREAK & SNACKS IN SCHOOL

Help your child get their five a day by including some fruit or vegetables as a snack for their morning break. This includes all fresh fruit and vegetables and pots or tins of fruit in fruit juice, but not in syrup.

A portion could be:

- 1 medium sized piece of fruit, e.g. apple, orange, banana, pear
- 2 small fruits, e.g. kiwi fruits, satsumas, plums
- 1 cup of grapes, cherries or berries
- 1 large slice of pineapple or melon
- 1 cereal bowl of salad, e.g. lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber and celery
- 3 heaped tablespoons of fresh veg, e.g. chopped or sliced carrots, peppers or sugar-snap peas
- 3 heaped tablespoons of fruit salad (fresh or tinned in fruit juice)



SCHOOL MEALS MENU

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE EACH DAY – REFER TO WEBSITE

Monday 13th September

Fish Fingers, Baked Beans & Mashed Potatoes
with Wholemeal Bread

~

Chocolate Sponge, Pears & Custard

Wednesday 15th September

Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Carrots & Parsnip,
Mashed & Roast Potatoes & Gravy

~

Summer Fruits & Yoghurt

Friday 17th September

Gourmet Homemade Pizza with Chicken &
Tomato Topping, Side Salad, Coleslaw &
Chips

~

Fresh Fruit Salad & Yoghurt

Tuesday 14th September

Pasta Bolognese, Carrot Batons & Crusty
Bread

~

Yoghurt & Trio of Fruits

Thursday 16th September

Steak Burger in a Bap, Salad, Coleslaw with
Spiced Cubed Potatoes

~

Strawberry Shortcake Stack

New Primary 1 pupils will stay for
lunches from week commencing Monday
27th September...

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

At the beginning of each academic year, we like to share with everyone at home key information about what your child will learn in school this year and how you can help support them at home. During the week commencing Monday 20th September, teachers will share with you a video, PowerPoint and Curriculum Information Sheet. We hope you find this information useful.

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

As part of our endeavours to keep you informed about your child's progress in school, we are holding Parent Teacher Consultations on **Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th October.** All children will go home at an earlier staggered time after lunches have been served.

This year, for obvious reasons, Parent Teacher Consultations will be held online via Zoom. Your attendance at these is much appreciated. The consultations should last between 10-15 minutes each.

If your child has an IEP (Individual Education Plan), the teacher may explain this to you during the consultation – this will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions or seek clarification.

