



# Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

## Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 05

FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### 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 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER)**. You will need to make alternative childcare arrangements for this day. School **will reopen at the usual times on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October.**

### PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS (VIDEO)

At the beginning of each academic year we like to share with everyone at home an overview of what your child will learn in school. Pre-COVID this was done by inviting parents into school, however this is not possible in the present climate.

However, we have adapted to make a presentation video from our year group teachers to share this key information with you. A link to the video will be emailed to you today along with a Curriculum Overview sheet of what children will be learning in school this term to Christmas – we hope you find the information useful in helping to support your child with their learning at home.

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**Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together**

## ILLNESS, COLDS & FLU'S

A significant number of children in school are experiencing cold or flu symptoms. If your child is not well enough to attend school, please keep them at home until they are better. This is not only in the best interests of your child but it also helps to prevent the spread of the cold and flu to others in class.

If your child is absent from school, for any reason, please keep us informed on the first day of absence. You can simply complete the Absence Report form on the homepage of our website or by clicking the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedPdbwQMkBPHnsS7DbOT7RQw9tWuSaDjffPTNfmnGmytqMpQ/viewform>

We are required by the Department of Education to record a reason for ALL absences from school. When your child returns to school, please follow this up with a brief note to the class teacher.

Mrs Carberry and I regularly monitor the attendance of all children and will write to parents if this is a concern.

## 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 to complete online under the Parent Area of our website. Our Administration of Medication Policy is also on our website.

## ASHGROVE SCHOOL COUNCIL...

Yesterday, Mrs Carberry and I met with the newly elected School Councillors to discuss their important roles in school and get some of their ideas about how they would like to develop our school. The School Councillors agreed to organise an Anti-Bullying Awareness Day on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October** and arrange on **Odd Socks Day!** (more information on the next page).

The School Councillors also agreed to organise **FRIENDSHIP FRIDAY** on the last Friday each month – this purpose of this is to foster new friendships and for us to think about what being a good friend means.

## 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.



# ASHGROVE PS SCHOOL COUNCIL ODD SOCKS DAY!

Friday 15th October



**£1.00 PER SOCK**

PART OF OUR ANTI-BULLYING  
EVENTS





## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Today in Ashgrove we celebrated the European Day of Languages. Our classes were each allocated a European Country and we learned about their food, culture and language.

Here are just a few snaps of what's been happening in school today... Teachers will share lots more pictures on See-Saw and on the "news" section of our website.



PIC•COLLAGE



## 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, consistent 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 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)**



## CAR PARKING REMINDERS

While in school premises it is vital that all drivers exercise caution when parking cars, collecting or leaving children to school.

Drivers should only park in the allocated parking spaces and not on the hazard lines – this obstructs the view for our children crossing the zebra crossings and indeed the sightline of other drivers.

I once again remind drivers that the disabled parking bays are for disabled badge holders only – please show kindness and consideration to others.

## 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.

## 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.



# Accelerated Reader





# 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](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

## EDUCATION RESTART

**WE ALL  
MUST DO IT  
TO GET  
THROUGH IT**



STAY SAFE



SAVE LIVES



## SCHOOL DINNER MENU

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

<p><b><u>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September</u></b></p> <p>Fish Fingers, Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes &amp; Crusty Bread</p> <p>~</p> <p>Melon Wedge &amp; Yoghurt</p>	<p><b><u>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September</u></b></p> <p>Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Naan Bread &amp; Carrot Sticks</p> <p>~</p> <p>Biscuit &amp; Yoghurt</p>
<p><b><u>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September</u></b></p> <p>Roast Pork, Stuffing, Diced Turnip, Broccoli, Mash &amp; Roast potatoes &amp; Gravy</p> <p>~</p> <p>Cheese, Crackers &amp; Grapes</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September</u></b></p> <p>Hawaiian Salad Burger, Coleslaw &amp; Chips</p> <p>~</p> <p>Melody of Fruit &amp; Yoghurt</p>
<p><b><u>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October</u></b></p> <p>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Please remember to book for both Free and Paid school meals</p> <p>School meals for the week ahead should be booked online via SchoolMoney.</p>

## POSITIVE TESTS OF COVID-19

We continue to see confirmed cases of COVID in school. I thank parents for continuing to keep us informed if your child has tested positive. It is well known that PHA are now responsible for Track and Trace in school settings and informing identified close contacts.

An absence due to COVID will be recorded as such on our school registration, this will not adversely affect your child's overall attendance



**You can now follow us  
on Instagram  
@ashgroveps**

