



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 25

FRIDAY 18TH MARCH 2018

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS ARTICLE 21 (ADOPTION)

"Governments must oversee the process of adoption and make sure it is safe, lawful and that it prioritises the children's best interests. Children should only be adopted outside of their country if they cannot be placed with a family in their own country."

In school, we work with a range of agencies to ensure that all children in our care can access and enjoy their rights.

EASTER HOLIDAY!

Apologies for the typo in the Holiday dates in the newsletter last week... Just to confirm, school will close for the Easter break on **Wednesday 13th April** (**Half Day staggered home times**) - there will be NO lunches served.

School will recommence for the Summer term on **Wednesday 27th April** at the usual times. Please remember that a full list of our Holiday Dates are easily available on our website under the "Parents" section.

A Holiday List for the next academic year was included in this Newsletter...

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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS ILL?

Recently in school, there have been bouts of illness including Chicken Pox and flu. If your child is diagnosed with an illness, which means they cannot come to school, please inform us by ringing the Office on the first morning they will be absent and selecting the option to explain an absence. We ask all parents follow this up with a brief explanatory note when the child returns to school.

The following guidance is issued in our Attendance Policy, which is available to view on our website:

Chicken Pox	5 days absence from onset of rash
Whooping Cough	5 days absence from onset of rash
Scarlet Fever	5 days absence from onset of rash
Diarrhoea/ Vomiting	Until symptoms have settled for 24 hours
Headlice	None (treatment required)

(This Information is provided by the Health Protection Agency)

CONNECT FOUR TOURNAMENT...

Mr Kelly is organising a Connect Four tournament for P5-7 on **Thursday 7th April...** this promises to be a great deal of fun and a test of nerves! We will send more information home about this very soon! (Get practicing at home).

FOOTBALL PRACTICE

Mr Morrow is working with other local primary school to organise an outdoor football tournament. He is looking for some volunteers amongst P7 parents who can help with transport on occasional mornings or afternoons, if you are available to help, please get in touch with Mr Morrow.

PERIOD DIGNITY

The Department of Education is rolling out to all schools – both primary and post primary information and support on a scheme called Period Dignity. One of the aims of the scheme is to reduce the stigma and taboo in relation to periods and recognise that this is a natural part of growing-up. In school we have children who mature at different rates and some girls start their periods as young as 7 or 8 years old. As a Rights Respecting School we want to support all our learners in a caring and respectful way.

Part of the Period Dignity Scheme is to provide free sanitary products to people who need them, these will be available in the school. Mrs Luney will act as the Period Dignity Key Contact. We will consult with you in the weeks ahead on Period Dignity Policy.



HOLIDAY LIST, 2022-2023



AUTUMN TERM, 2022

School commences:

Friday 26th August (Half Day)*

Bank Holiday: Monday 29th August (School closed)

Tuesday 30th August (Half Day)*

Wednesday 31st August (Half Day)*

School Development Day 1: Friday 30th September (School closed to pupils)

HALLOWEEN: Mon 31st Oct - Thurs 3rd Nov (inclusive)

School Development Day 2: Friday 4th November (School closed to pupils)

School recommences: Monday 7th November

CHRISTMAS: Wednesday 21st December (Half Day)*

Thurs 22nd Dec - Wed 4th Jan 2023 (inclusive)

School Development Day 3: Thursday 5th January 2023 (School closed to pupils)

SPRING TERM, 2023

School recommences: Friday 6th January 2023

School Development Day 4: Monday 13th February (School closed to pupils)

HALF TERM: Tuesday 14th Feb - Fri 17th Feb (inclusive)

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

EASTER: Friday 31st March (Half Day)*
Mon 3rd - Fri 14th April (inclusive)

SUMMER TERM, 2023

School recommences: Wednesday 17th April 2023

MAY DAY HOLIDAY: Monday 1st May (School Closed)

School Development Day 5: Friday 26th May (School closed to pupils)

MAY BANK HOLIDAY: Monday 29th May (School Closed)

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



Online Safety – Advice for Parents & Carers



WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, with more than 1.5 billion people in more than 180 countries using it to send and receive text, photos, videos and documents, as well as make voice and video calls through an Internet or Wi-Fi connection. The free app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.



AGE RESTRICTION
16+






What parents need to know about WhatsApp

AGE LIMIT CHANGE

Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world. WhatsApp has not yet stated whether it will take action against anyone aged between 13 and 16 who already hold accounts under the old terms and conditions, such as closing their account or seeking parental permission.

SCAM MESSAGES

Occasionally on WhatsApp, people receive spam messages from unauthorised third parties or from fraudsters pretending to offer prizes to 'lucky people' encouraging recipients to click on a link to win a prize. A common scam involves messages warning recipients that their WhatsApp subscription has run out with the hope that people are duped into providing their payment details. Other scam messages include instructions to forward the message in return for a reward or gift from WhatsApp or another person.

FAKE NEWS AND HOAXES

WhatsApp has been linked to enabling the spread of dangerous viral rumours. In India, for example, a number of attacks appear to have been sparked by false rumours shared on WhatsApp.

THE 'ONLY ADMIN' FEATURE AND CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is the act of sending threatening or taunting text messages, voice messages, pictures and videos, with the aim to hurt and humiliate the receiver. The group chat and group video call features are great for multiple people to chat simultaneously, but there is the potential for people to hurt others with their comments or jokes. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin of a group chat greater control over who can send messages. Whilst this can be good for one-way announcements, the group admin has the power to block somebody from responding to an offensive message in a chat, which could result in a child being upset and unable to reply.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

To start a chat in WhatsApp, you need to know the mobile number of the contact you want to speak to and they also need to have the app downloaded. WhatsApp can find contacts by accessing the address book of a device and recognising which of those contacts are using WhatsApp. If your child has shared their mobile number with somebody they don't know, they can use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

LIVE LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp's 'Live Location' feature enables users to share their current location in real time to their contacts in a chat, allowing friends to show their movements. The feature, which can be found by pressing the 'attach' button, is described by WhatsApp as a 'simple and secure way to let people know where you are.' Location-sharing is already a common feature on other social apps, including Snapchat's Snap Map and Facebook Messenger and can be a useful way for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. However, if your child is in a group chat with people they do not know, they will be exposing their location.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents



CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone', 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody'. We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

REPORT SCAM MESSAGES

Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam'.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone'. The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE

If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list – they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact, your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave again, they cannot be added again.

SET TIME LIMITS

A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.

USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY

If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/may/20/whatsapp-privacy-updates> (last updated 1st May 2019) <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/technology/whatsapp-privacy-updates-what-you-need-to-know-before-updating-the-app-4015661.html>

© National Online Safety Ltd
This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

School Dinner Menu (£2.55 per day)

Monday 21st March

Fish Fingers, Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Chilli Dipping Sauce & Crusty Bread

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Kiwi & Strawberry Flan

Tuesday 22nd March

Pasta Bolognaise, Carrot Batons & Crusty Bread

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Fruit & Yoghurt

Wednesday 23rd March

Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Carrot & Parsnip, Roast & Mashed Potatoes

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Summer Fruits & Yoghurt

Thursday 24th March

Beef Burger in a Bap, Salad & Coleslaw and Spiced Cubed Potatoes

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Strawberry & Shortbread

Friday 25th March

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

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Yoghurt & Fruit

***Please remember to book both
Free and Paid school meals for
the week ahead...***

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