



Ashgrove Primary School Newtownabbey

Our Weekly Newsletter

ISSUE: 28

FRIDAY 1ST APRIL 2022

READING WEEK

Our Reading Week has been a great success! We were all treated to incredible story-telling by the fabulous yarn spinner Pat Ryan. Everyone enjoyed his fun and interactive tales.

The P1s and P2s visited the library for even more story-telling fun on Wednesday and Thursday. All week long classes have been writing class stories together and these are being compiled into our very own book for the other classes to read. The children have also completed reading challenges at home and the photos being sent in have been brilliant!

We have so many children who love a challenge! Our book fair raised £2,201 giving school an astonishing £1,320 to spend on new reading books, so our class libraries will be filled with new and exciting books to read.

THE WINNERS OF OUR BOOK FAIR COMPETITION ARE EVERLY (P2C), ANGEL (P3M), MAISIE (P4H), JACOB (P5C) AND CALEB (P5L). EACH CHILD HAS WON A £5 TOKEN TO SPEND AT THE BOOK FAIR!

P4-P7 have taken part in a Read-a-thon today, dressed in their pyjamas. The school has never been so quiet!

Thanks to the children, parents and teachers for taking part and for making Reading Week such a wonderful success!



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Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Tues 5 th April	P5C Shared Education to Castle Espie
Wed 6 th April	P3 Shared Education event in school
Thursday 7 th April	P5-7 Connect 4 Tournament
	P6 Shared Education visit to Outdoor Learning Centre on 8 th April has been changed 10th Friday 10th June
Monday 11 th April	Primary 1 Health Checks
Wednesday 13 th April	School Closes ½ Day for Easter – no lunches will be served
Wednesday 27 th April	School Recommences for the Summer term
Thursday 28 th April	New P1 parents can view the outcome of their application on the EA Admissions Portal
Friday 29 th April	Friendship Friday!
Monday 2 nd May	School Closed (Bank Holiday)
Thursday 5 th May	School Closed for local elections
Monday 9 th May	Deadline for receipt of P1 appeals procedure

AS A REMINDER, SCHOOL FINISHES
FOR EASTER AT STAGGERED HOME
TIMES ON **WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL...**
11.40AM. 11.50AM OR 12.00PM.

SCHOOL RECOMMENCES FOR THE
SUMMER TERM ON **WEDNESDAY 27TH**
APRIL AT THE USUAL TIMES.



P7 ASHGROVE FOOTBALL TEAM WITH KINGS PARK PS...



It was great to have Kings Park PS Football Team join us here in Ashgrove this week. Congratulations to Kings Park for winning the match & well done to our Ashgrovers for playing with true sportsmanship!

SUMMER TERM UNIFORM...

After Easter, the Summer Term begins and pupils may, if they wish, wear their Summer Uniform to school. A full list of the required uniform items is available on our website. (Let's hope for some warmer weather!). As a reminder the Summer Uniform is as follows:

Girls: Green & white gingham dress, green cardigan & black shoes

Boys: Black or grey tailored shorts, white shirt & tie (P4-7) or School Polo Shirt (P1-3)

Alternatively, pupils may continue to wear their full school uniform to the end of June. Please note, black school shoes must be worn to school at all times apart from PE lessons.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

As you know, all children are expected to attend school every day unless there is a valid reason, such as illness or bereavement. Mrs Carberry and I regularly monitor the attendance of all children in school and will write to you if your child's attendance at school is a concern. Our Attendance Policy is available on our website. We kindly ask that you complete the online Absence Form on the first day of non-attendance.



INTERNET SAFETY

Yesterday I wrote to some parents raising awareness of internet safety issues amongst some children. I am very grateful for your quick action in addressing the issues raised and taking steps to remove groupchats etc from your child's mobile device – thank you all for your support, it is much appreciated. I am very aware that we have such supportive families in Ashgrove and I am sure that you would much rather know of issues so we may work together.

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends. Users can share images and videos directly to specific friends, or through a 'story' shared with their entire friend list, which documents the previous 24 hours. In a study, Snapchat was ranked the 4th most negative app in terms of having an impact on young people's health and wellbeing, with children feeling that they can use the app Snapchat to "make you look pretty."

What parents need to know about SNAPCHAT

EXPOSING YOUR CHILD'S EXACT LOCATION

The 'Snap Map' lets you share your EXACT location in real-time through a map on the app. The user's location updates when the app has been opened on the device. There is a warning on the Snapchat website about uploading images and videos to 'Our Story', stating that "snaps you submit to 'Our Story' can still show up on the Map, no matter which location setting you choose!" When uploading to 'Our Story', your child's image or video could appear in "Search results and Stories on or off Snapchat - today or in the future."

LENS EXPLORER

The 'Lens Studio' on Snapchat gives users the freedom to use their imagination to design their own filters for themselves and others to use. Snapchat states that the lenses users create "must comply with our Lens Studio Submission Guidelines and Community Guidelines and must be appropriate for Snappers ages 13+." The 'Lens Explorer' in the app now enables users to choose from thousands of these creations to alter their snaps. Anyone can create a lens for Snapchat, which gives opportunities for age-inappropriate content to be uploaded.

SCREENSHOTS & SAVED MESSAGES

While Snapchat's gimmick is that all photos, videos and text disappear eventually, users still have the capability to screenshot or record anything which has been sent to them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshots are possible and send a compromising image or message to somebody who they think they trust. They may also accidentally send an image or message to somebody who they do not trust. Simply by pressing and holding a message, the user is able to save a message they have received, which can be screenshot or used against them at a later date.

SNAPSTREAKS & ADDICTION

'Snap Streaks' are gained when snaps have been sent back and forth consecutively between friends. The longer that snaps are sent between users, the longer the streak becomes. Furthermore, Snapchat rewards users who have achieved high Snap Streaks, by gifting emojis, adding incentives for users to keep the streaks. Children invest time into making their streaks as long as possible, which can put an incredible amount of pressure on both themselves and their friendships.

SEXTING

Due to 'Snaps' disappearing, (users can even send a one-second photo or video), Snapchat has become the chosen platform for children and young people to send sexually explicit images or 'selfies'. Once a photo/video has been screenshot, or recorded using another device or software, this can lead to further dangers, such as blackmail and cyberbullying. It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18. This also includes any sexual images, photos and videos that a child may have taken of themselves. However, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed, but taking formal action isn't in the public interest.

SNAP ORIGINALS

Through 'Snap Originals', users can watch content which has been created by Snapchat on the app, including comedy shows, drama, news and more. Additionally, there are new lenses and filters available, inspired by the 'snap originals' shows. This is another feature to encourage addiction.

Top Tips for Parents

THE RISKS OF SEXTING

It can be slightly awkward talking about this topic with your child, but if it helps them protect themselves, it is worth it. Talk to them about the consequences of sexting and make sure that they're aware of the risks. Ensure your child knows that 'snaps' can be screenshot. Teach them that if they post anything potentially embarrassing or harmful (either of themselves or someone else) it can have severe consequences as the message, image or video can be shared further.

REPORTING A STORY, LENS, FILTER, SNAP OR MESSAGE

If your child comes across inappropriate Snapchat content sent directly to them or in another person's story, advise them to report it immediately. This may include an inappropriate lens, filter, message or snap. To report an offensive lens, they should open the app and select the lens they want to report. An info button will appear above the lens. Click this, followed by the flag icon. This will send a report to Snapchat for further investigation. Reports can also be made on the Snapchat support website: support.snapchat.com.

USE 'GHOST MODE'

We highly recommend enabling 'Ghost Mode' on the app so that your child's location will no longer be visible to anyone on the 'Snap Map'. To enable this, go onto the Snap Map and tap the cog in the top-right corner. Here, change the setting to 'Ghost Mode'.

HOW TO DELETE A MESSAGE

Advise your child never to send any negative messages (or images) through gallery in the chat on the app) as screenshots can still be taken. You should also advise your child to screenshot any negative comments they receive as the sender can also delete them. To delete a message, simply press and hold the sent message and press delete.

TURN OFF 'QUICK ADD'

'Quick Add' helps friends find each other on the app. This is based on mutual friends or if their number is in their phone book. Explain to your child that this feature can open up their profile to strangers. We highly recommend that your child turns off the 'Quick Add' feature. This can be done in the settings.

RESTRICT STORY VIEWS

Your child can add videos and images to their 'Story' throughout the day which will last for 24 hours. By default, anyone in a user's friends list can see their story. We recommend checking the privacy settings to ensure that this has not been edited. This can simply be done in the app settings under the 'Who Can View My Story' section. The options to choose from are 'My Friends', 'Everyone' or 'Custom' - we suggest that it is set to 'My Friends'.

National Online Safety

A whole school community approach to online safety

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061

Source of Risk: Social media and young people's mental health | Life in 100s - Children's Commissioners Report | Google Play Store | <https://support.snapchat.com/en-US> | <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com> | BT.com | ndependent.co.uk

UNCOLLECTED CHILDREN ...

For Safeguarding reasons, it is important that all children are collected on time. Please either arrive on time to collect your child or arrange for them to attend our After School Club where supervision is provided.

To help parents who can not collect children at home time we offer a 2.00 – 3.00pm and 3.00 – 5.00pm Club, please ring the school Office if you will be late and arrange for your child to go to this Club, thank you.

MAY & JUNE BANK HOLIDAYS & ELECTIONS

As per our 2021-2022 Holiday List, school is closed on **Monday 2nd May** for the first May Bank Holiday. During this week school will also be closed on **Thursday 5th May** as the building is used as a Polling Station for local elections.

At the beginning of June school is closed for the second Bank Holiday on Thursday 2nd June and we are closed on **Friday 3rd June** for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. School is also closed for Staff Development on **Monday 6th June**

School Dinner Menu, £2.60 per day

Vegetarian Options are available – refer to Menu on Website

Monday 5th April

Fish Fingers, Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Crusty Bread

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Forest Fruit & Yoghurt

Tuesday 6th April

Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice, Naan Bread & Carrot Sticks

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Biscuit & Fruit

Wednesday 7th April

Roast Pork, Stuffing, Diced Turnip & Broccoli. Roast & Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

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Cheese, Crackers & Apple

Thursday 8th April

BUFFET

Chicken Goujon, Cocktail Sausages, Crusty Bread, Pizza & Carrot Sticks

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Muffin, Milkshake & Banana

Friday 9th April

Hawaiian Burger, Salad, Coleslaw & Chips

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Fruit & Yoghurt

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK BOTH FREE AND PAID SCHOOL MEALS ONLINE VIA SCHOOLMONEY FOR THE WEEK AHEAD...

