

Fernielea Features

Happy Safe Achieving



August 2014

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Welcome Back!

For once I can say that in Aberdeen the weather was lovely over the summer break and we all benefitted from a number of glorious days. All the children have returned to school with many stories of exciting things they did over the six week break.

The first week of school is always very busy with our Nursery Open Day, new children and staff starting at Fernielea. However after all the excitement of the first few days all of our children are now getting back to completing tasks with a positive attitude, which I hope will last through until July 2015!

At school it has been a very busy summer holidays with major work taking place replacing the original windows in the hall, gym, library, ICT suite, kitchen and front entrance. The work is almost completed, with the last few snagging tasks to be sorted over the next week or so. I must say it makes a HUGE difference to the light in school, and I am confident that when winter arrives we will really benefit from the double glazing keeping us warm! The facilities team for the school and the city worked extremely hard during the last few days before school opened to make sure that everywhere looks as great as normal, a big thank you to everyone who helped!

Our next big school building improvement is the refurbishment of some of the toilet blocks in school. I hope most of this will happen during the October holidays.... Watch this space for more information.

Staffing

This year we welcome Miss Coull as our P3C teacher. Miss Coull is joining us from Cults Primary School. Miss Thomson will be teaching PE and Technology to most classes this year, and will be teaching P3R class on a Thursday, allowing Mr Robertson to complete his Principal Teacher duties. We also welcome Miss Keith and Mrs Milne as Pupil Support Assistants and Miss Smith as our new Escort.

Over the summer holidays Miss Parrot was married and is now Mrs Lamb. We congratulate her and have enjoyed hearing about her special day. She will be teaching in the nursery classes on Monday and Tuesday, and will be in P2 from part of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

School Improvement Plan

This year we have been very specific about areas we will be developing, as we want to make a significant difference to the learning for all our children. Our main focus will be reviewing our Maths work in school. As you will know, last year we started implementing Big Maths from P1 - 7 to improve recall of number facts and process, this will continue this school year. We will also be looking at assessing aspects of Maths along with our colleagues in the other schools in our ASG (Hazlehead Academy, Hazlehead, Airyhall and Kingsford Primary Schools and Hazlewood School.) We have a number of joint sessions after school and on Inservice Days where staff will work together ensuring there is a shared understanding of standards. At Fernielea we will also be developing our Technology programme. Miss Thomson will be working on this with the staff, to ensure a clear programme of skills are taught to all our pupils from Nursery to P7. We will be collaborating with the Technology team at Hazlehead Academy. I will keep you updated over the course of the year with our progress.

Class Projects

Following the success of previous years we have once again decided to start the year with a literacy focus.

Nursery	Nursery Rhymes
P1L	Percy the Park Keeper
P1/2	Judith Kerr Stories
P2	The Lighthouse Keeper
P3R	BFG
P3C	George's Marvellous Medicine
P4	The Twits
P4/5	James and the Giant Peach
P5	James and the Giant Peach
P6	Kenzuki's Kingdom
P7	The Garbage King



As part of the curriculum children will be asked to complete some personal study tasks which they will work at both in and out of school.

Homework will start this week. Homework should be an opportunity for your child to practise some of the work they have been doing at school. If your child is finding this particularly difficult, please let your child's teacher know and they can help. Don't allow homework to become a "battleground" at home, give us a call and we can make time to ensure your child is understanding what is expected. Please sign your child's homework jotter and reading record once your child has finished their task. Together we can help your child achieve their potential.

Timekeeping

Our new nursery hours have started, the morning session is 8.30 - 11.40am and afternoon is 12.20 - 3.30pm. Primary school times are 9.00 - 12.15 and 1.00 - 3.00pm. I appreciate that nursery and school times are not the same, but hopefully parents will manage to get children to nursery and school punctually. The nursery children will be doing activities in the cloakroom area after the initial 15 minutes at the start of a session and often may be working in the cloakroom until the last 15 minutes, so I would respectfully ask parents to leave the cloakroom areas once your child is settled and not to arrive too early at the end of the day. It is now ever more important that at the end of sessions parents for both nursery and school are prompt. Staff have meetings after school developing our curriculum and meeting with other staff in other schools. If for unforeseen circumstances you are going to be late **PLEASE** contact the school office. All late arrivals at school and late collections are being recorded.

School Website - Class Blogs

As our new website is fully functioning, staff this year will update you of work going on in each class via the class blogs rather than by class newsletter. Updated information will be posted at the end of this week - please have a look on Friday and find out what your child will be learning this term. If you have difficulty in accessing this please contact Mrs Smith in the school office.

Please remember that the school lunch menu is on the website. If your child is a fussy eater - please check the menu to ensure there is something suitable.

School Uniform

It is great to see almost all our children returning to school looking very smart. Please may I remind Primary School parents that our school colours are green, with a sweatshirt being the main piece of uniform. It makes everything very clear to all the children, we are one team, the Fernielea School team and we all wear the same kit! Please can you make sure that all articles of uniform are named, so that if something gets misplaced we can return it to your child. Packed lunch boxes, water bottles etc should also be named clearly on the outside.

Medical Issues

Mrs Smith will be sending out information updates this week. Please can you check them, make any amendments and return them to school as soon as possible. Please make sure we have any updates on medical conditions for your child. At the end of last term Mrs Angus sent home all medications, inhalers etc, please can you make sure you return them to school along with a new, completed medical form as soon as possible. Thanks

Visits

Throughout the course of the year all classes go out of the school to learn about the local environment. As in the past we require your permission to take your child out of school for these walks etc. You will receive the forms this week - again, please can you return them as soon as possible. If your child's class is going further away from school on a bus you will also receive another letter to share this information with you. We often need parents to help with visits, if you can come along and help please let your class teacher know.

Holiday dates for consultation

Aberdeen City Council currently has a consultation regarding the holiday dates for the next 4 school years. If you would like to share your views on the suggested pattern you can access it at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolestate

Initial Dates for the Year

Date	Activity	
28 August	P7 Ardeonaig Meeting	5.00pm
3 September	P1 Information Session and Lunch	11.00am
8 September	P1 children in full time	
17 September	Jeans for Genes Day - children wear jeans and pay £1	
18 September	Inservice Day - School Closed	
19 September	HOLIDAY - School Closed	
22 September	HOLIDAY - School Closed	
24 September	Book Fair Arrives	
25 September	Primary Parents' Evening / Nursery Information Session	
10 October	Last day of term	
27 October	School Starts	
30 October	Parent Council Disco	
17 November	Inservice Day - School Closed	
20 November	Parent Council AGM	
3 December	Parent Council Christmas Fair	
10 December	Christmas Concert	
19 December	Christmas Service	
5 January 2015	School Starts	
12 February	Parent Council Disco	
16 February	Half Term Holiday - School Closed	
17 February	Inservice Day - School Closed	
18 February	Inservice Day - School Closed	
25 March	School Photographer	
2 April	Last day of term	
20 April	School Starts	
1 May	Inservice Day - School Closed	
4 May	May Day Holiday - School Closed	
2 June	School Sports	
2 July	Parent Council Disco	
3 July	Last day of term	