

Fernielea Features

Happy Safe Achieving



October 2014

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Firstly thank you all for your patience this week. Following such a wonderful start to the term the heavy winds and the rain caused havoc in our kitchen. We hope that after the holidays normal service will be resumed! But please bear with us for the rest of this week. Where has the first term gone? It seems hard to believe this is the last week before the October holidays!

I must say children have all been working very hard this term and I have been very pleased to see some excellent work in every class. Teachers are expecting high standards from all our children, please support us with this, as we want all our children achieving their potential. This year we are planning to share the weekly certificates on our website. You may have noticed this on the HT Blog - have a look every Friday. Sadly there have been a few hiccups this term with IT not functioning as well as we had hoped but you should be able to see these every week next term. Our house captains are also updating the house points on the website on a weekly basis - have a look under their tab. Next term - following a suggestion from the pupil council last session, we will be awarding house points in class - for great work and behaviour. It will be interesting to see which house is working hardest - it has been very close so far this year.

Staffing

After the end of this term we say thank-you and good luck to Mrs Smith who has been working in a temporary capacity in our pupil support class. Mrs Smith has secured a permanent post in another school in the city. We had advertised for the post but unfortunately there were no suitable candidates. You may be aware of the difficulty there is in securing teachers in Aberdeen City. However to ensure continuity for the children, Mrs Walker will be returning to teach in the Pupil Support Class in the mornings along with Mrs Fjellroth. This will mean that Mrs Walker will be unavailable to meet with parents in the morning.

It is with regret that I inform you that Peter Barclay the Head Teacher of Fernielea School from April 1980 until January 1996 passed away last week. I know some of you may remember Mr Barclay as class teacher and head teacher of our school. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Parent Questionnaires

Thank you to everyone who took the time to answer the questions on our questionnaire at parents' evening. The results were extremely positive with almost all parents stating that they were very happy with the communication they get from school. Many of you really like our updated website, and feel there is a significant amount of information available there or know that you can phone the school and you will get a prompt and accurate response.

95% of responses agree, or strongly agree that - I get regular communication from school
92% of responses agree or strongly agree that - I know what my child is learning in school

In response to the question - "**What would you like us to change about the way we communicate with you**" - although there were very few comments here are some of them -

- *more guidance about what was expected for homework,*
- *a separate book for parent comments rather than the yellow reading record*
- *messages the night before rather than in the morning*
- *more notice for dressing up days etc*
- *more information by email rather than paper notes in bags*
- *less through email - better when in book bag*
- *let us know if assistance is required from parents*

As you will appreciate - different people like different methods!

The final question - "**What could we, as a school, do to help you support your child in their learning?**" - once again although there were very few comments - here are some of them

- *more out of school clubs*
- *more funds for out of hours groups and weekends*
- *emailed information - as I'm guaranteed to get them*

The Parent Council have already discussed sharing some of the local activities which are ongoing out of school with parents and we will try and share some of these on our school website.

As a result we are now trying, where possible

- to send out Groupcall messages at least the day before an event (where possible)
- to include non uniform days on the dates in our school newsletter (please check the dates on the last page of the newsletter for this).

Next term we will be holding sessions for parents about Maths in school - in particular our new Big Maths approach to numeracy. We will email and send out flyers for this. If you want to support your child in their learning - come along and find out what we are doing.

Thank you to all the parents who completed the information about activities your child is involved in out of school. This has helped us to create a more rounded picture of your child. If you did not manage to attend parents' evening this will be sent out via book bags early next term - please look out for this - we'll send a text message too, so that everyone has the information!

School Uniform

We will be asking all children to look at this term's lost property before the October holidays. If you think your child has misplaced something, please remind them to have an extra good look through all the items!

I have noticed this term that there are a number of children wearing shoes which are not black. Please can I remind you that children should be wearing black, low heeled shoes for school. If your child is wearing wellington boots to school, please may they have shoes to change into as "wellies" are not the most comfortable for the whole day! Thanks

School Meals

After the October holidays, there will be a new menu for school lunches. Your child should bring home a paper copy this week. There will be two healthy hot meal choices available every day - one which will be suitable for vegetarians. Please can you be aware of this as there will **no longer be sandwiches available**. If you know your child is fussy over what they will eat, then please make sure you have read the menu and your child knows what will be available. If your child does not like the food on offer then please send your child to school with a packed lunch. The menu is also available on our website. On the first week back there will be a slight change to the menu - Monday and Wednesday will be swapped.

Harvest Assembly

Our P7 class helped lead our Harvest assembly last week. They shared the message about Harvest thinking about all the different words which can be made from the word - EAT, SAVE, SHARE etc. Almost all the children brought something into our assembly. It was amazing how much food was donated!



Following the assembly, our P7 and nursery children sorted the food into different categories and then they walked along the road to the Somebody Cares Food bank depot to donate the food. We received a very lovely letter thanking us for our support.

Please have a look at the website (Pupil Groups - Charities) for more photos!

Book Fair

Once again our book fair was a huge success. Thanks to members of the parent council who managed the fair on parents' evening and the following Friday in school. The school benefits from every purchase made and we have been fortunate to raise £721.65 commission which will go towards new books for our school library. Thanks for your support.

Eco Committee

Our Eco committee were invited to a Green School Awards event in connection with Total Oil Company. More information will follow after the holidays.

Dates for next term

Date	Activity
10 October	P6 class assembly
10 October	Last day of term
27 October	School Starts
30 October	Parent Council Disco
1 November	Parent Council Bag Packing at Sainsburys Berryden
6 November	P6 & P7 - Bible exhibition at Fernielea Gospel Hall
7 November	P5 Class Assembly
8 November	Parent Council Race Night at Cocket Hat
10 November	Sponsor Week - more information will follow after the holidays
14 November	Children in Need Day - Wear your pyjamas to school! £1
17 November	Inservice Day - School Closed
20 November	Parent Council AGM
29 November	Parent Council Bag Packing at Tesco Woodend 12 - 4pm
3 December	Parent Council Christmas Fair 6 - 8pm
10 December	Christmas Concert
11 December	School Christmas Lunch
12 December	Christmas Jumper Day for Charity - wear a Christmas jumper to school
16 December	P5-7 Christmas Party
17 December	P3-4 Christmas Party
18 December	Nursery - P2 Christmas Party
19 December	Christmas Service - led by Morning Nursery children
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
13 March	Red Nose Day
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
7 May	General Election - School MAY be used as a Polling Station
2 June	School Sports
2 July	Parent Council Disco
3 July	Last day of term