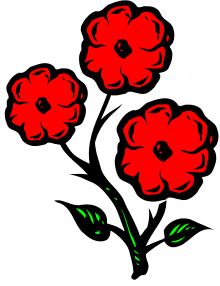


Fernielea Features

November 2014



If you have any comments about any of the information please let us know.

School Telephone
01224 318533

Emergency
Closures

0870 054 1999

Pin Code
011320



Where has November gone? It's hard to believe that Monday is the 1st of December and all the fun of Christmas will be upon us. This month has been very busy in classes. Children and staff working on Enterprise projects in preparation for the Parent Council Winter Wonderland next Wednesday evening. I have been extremely impressed with the discussions which have been taking place - about what product design, investigating what customers would want, quality control etc,etc! Lord Sugar could certainly find his next apprentice at Fernielea! This all links in well with our focus on Maths and financial awareness this term.

Staffing

You may be aware that across the city and Scotland there have been difficulties in schools with regard to staffing. Although we have had staff absent, due to illness the management team have covered classes. Mrs Fjellroth has been teaching in P4 for almost all of the term to ensure continuity for the class. Miss Gardiner is still unwell, however we hope she may be fit enough to return for part of the week before the Christmas holidays. Mrs Smith our school escort has unfortunately had to resign from her post due to family commitments, we thank her for her positive role she played supporting some of our children. Mrs Walker continues to work in our Pupil Support Class and we have been fortunate to secure regular days from Mrs Sinclair in room 10.

Safety

It is of utmost importance to us that the children are safe. However in the last week I have seen parents parking in the school car park and allowing young children to walk through unsupervised. **Parents, carers, relatives, friends should NOT use the front school car park (Stronsay Place) to drop off or collect children at the beginning or end of the school day.**

The car park on Stronsay Drive, which was used for the contractors will **not be re-opening**, as the children have requested that this area be used for new playground equipment. I appreciate that for some parents this has been tricky, but once again may I remind you that Rev Shewan is kindly allowing us to park in his car park at Summerhill Church. We are actively encouraging children to walk to school, or park and stride (drive most of the way to school and walk the last few hundred metres).

Eco News

Our eco committee have been extremely busy this year meeting weekly to progress some of our eco issues.

We have been learning our Eco rap

Think of all the joy we could be bringing,
we are just another school with an eco upbringing.
Let's make recycling fantastic,
paper, metal and even plastic.
Take your scooter or bike to school,
that's what we would like to rule.
5 a day Friday is how we end our week,
let's walk to school, get off your seat.
So we are the Fernielea Eco Team,
recycling is not as hard as it would seem.

Some of our P5 and P6 children went bulb planting over by the Burnie earlier this week with Councillor Jennifer Stewart, the children planted, crocus, daffodil and bluebell bulbs.

Fortunately all the holes had been dug for us, so we just had the fun part of planting the bulbs and replacing the soil plug. We look forward to going back in the spring to admire the flowers and hope that the whole community will appreciate our hard work. The Eco Committee and children from our Pupil Support class will be planting a Rowan Tree in the wild life area adjacent to the church next week to try and start to create areas of shade in our playground.



On Monday 1 December we are going to have a "**Green Santa**" coming to collect electronic devices which you would like to be recycled. There is a top prize for the school with the biggest total weight of items! Last year we were the winners in the city, and we would love to continue this winning streak for another year! So please have a look around at home and bring in those old electrical items (eg old headphones, toasters, kettles - anything that has a plug! Last year we have a big old fridge.) If you have larger items please contact either Mrs Walker or Miss Roberts as we need to make sure we can store the items safely before the collection. We are working to get our Green Flag - and hope to have the flagpole up by the end of this school year!

School Improvement Plan

As part of our last Inservice day in November, the staff worked hard on our Maths challenges. Schools across our ASG (Associated School Group - Airyhall, Hazlehead Primary, Kingsford and Hazlehead Academy) have been working together designing challenges for all the children to complete. This has allowed the staff to agree common standards of work and assessments. The staff have also visited each other in different schools, again to ensure there is a similar standard and shared expectations of children's progress for all our children.

The staff also worked on updating our Health and Wellbeing programme across the school. We hope to have assessors coming in to speak with us in January about the work we have been doing with children, parents and the community over the last few years.

Finally staff were again reviewing the use of ipads across the school to support learning. I must say I am seeing children actively engaged in meaningful learning tasks using ipads from Nursery to P7. We plan to purchase some more next term so that more children can access them more regularly. It was a very busy day.

Care Inspectorate Visit

Last week we received our unannounced visit from the Care Inspectorate to review our nursery provision across the school. This process happens every 2/3 years although we submit information to the care inspectorate on an annual basis. Thank you to those parents who were randomly selected to complete questionnaires and also to the parents who came in to chat with the inspector on Friday morning. We hope the report will be issued in January.

Charities update

Well done and thank you to everyone who supported our efforts for Children in Need. We raised £320.80 which was fabulous. Also we have finally managed to count all the coppers from Jeans for Genes day and we raised £462.54. It is great to see the children participating and being responsible citizens, thinking about others.

School Sponsored Cycle /Scoot

Another great thank you to everyone who has returned their sponsor money. The days were not the best, however it was lovely to see the children outside cycling, scooting and some children were managing balance bikes which we had borrowed from Adventure Aberdeen. This sponsor is used to fund class Christmas Parties and our Senior Citizen's concert. This year we are going to have a Burns Supper in January for our local Senior Citizens - with haggis, neeps and tatties. We will entertain them with some singing, dancing and poetry recitations. If you have not managed to return your sponsor money, please can you send it back to school in a sealed envelope. We have been amazed at some people's generosity. Thank - you

This year we have decided to change the format of our Christmas Concert. As the school numbers have increased over the last few years it has become increasingly difficult to accommodate all the parents in the school hall. We will have two performances again this year.

Our P3 - P7 children will be performing on Wednesday 10 December - both morning and afternoon and Nursery to P2 children will be performing on Wednesday 17 December but only in the morning. Our afternoon nursery children will be singing carols round the tree in the nursery on Wednesday 17 December at 2.45pm. Ticket for the concerts will be issued 2 per family from Monday 1 December. Admission will be by ticket ONLY - Please don't lose them. Please be aware that we allow parents to take photos and videos during the performance so long as they remain in their seats. Unfortunately last year some parents were blocking exit routes during the show to get a good photo of their child which contradicts our theatre licence. The school will take loads of photos which we will post on the school blog following the shows. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter. If anyone requires assisted seating please contact Mrs Smith in the school office in advance so that this can be arranged.

The dates for the Christmas parties are below. On the day of the party - children may come to school in their party clothes. In the morning, the children select a video to watch, then in the afternoon our P7 children co-ordinate the class parties.

For the Christmas Lunch we hope as many children will wear a "Christmas Jumper" to school that day and support Save the Children by paying £1. It should make the day even more special for everyone. We will share information about the lunch next week.

Dates for this term and looking ahead for the rest of this term and next

29 November	Parent Council Bag packing at Tesco Woodend
3 December	Parent Council Christmas Fair
10 December	Christmas Concert P3 - P7 9.30am and 1.45pm
11 December	School Christmas Lunch
11 December	Christmas Jumper Day for Charity - wear a Christmas jumper to school
16 December	P5-7 Christmas Party
17 December	Nursery - P2 Nativity
17 December	P3 - 4 Christmas Party
18 December	Nursery - P2 Christmas Party
19 December	Christmas Service - led by Nursery - P2
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