

Fernielea Features

Happy Safe Achieving



January 2015

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Happy New Year!

After a few days in school, the holidays seem like a long and distant memory! I hope you and your family managed to spend some enjoyable times over the holidays. Thank you to parents for all their kind wishes to the staff at Christmas time, it is greatly appreciated. Chatting to children at lunchtimes this week they certainly have enjoyed the holiday - but once again I'm pleased that many are delighted to be back in school.

This is a long and busy term in school and teachers have planned a significant amount of work to be covered by your children. I am confident that they will enjoy their learning and new experiences which lie ahead!



Parking outside school

I returned to school this morning just before 9.00am following an early meeting and once again I am very anxious about the parking on Stronsay Place, outside school. Some parents parking on the corner of the road, others on the pavements. A taxi was dropping off a child who was left to walk unsupervised through the car park. Please park considerately around the school. The car park at the front of the school is for staff and visitors to the school and the other is for the kitchen and for their deliveries. This is a safety matter. If you have a difficulty and require to park in the school car park, please contact us and this can be arranged if appropriate. Once again Rev Shewan has kindly offered the car park in the church - please be respectful and do not park on the grass in the church grounds.

School Meals

This term, once again, there has been a change to the school lunch menu. As children from P1 - P3 are now entitled to a free lunch this is a very busy time in school. Please can you make sure that your child knows what is on the menu (it is posted on the school website - www.fernielea.aberdeen.sch.uk). If your child is refusing to eat what is on offer then staff will contact you. Understandably there has been an increase in the number of children going for school meals and as a result some of the older children are playing for a longer period of time before their lunch, rather than before and then after lunch.

School Blog

As a result of the success of the school blog, the frequency of school newsletters will be reduced and I will share all the information with you via the blog. We hope this will be a successful method of communication and it will also be a positive step towards achieving our Green Flag for being an Eco School. Please check the class blogs regularly for class information or requests.



Topics

This term all the classes will be studying different aspects of Scotland - the history and geography as part of our Social Studies focused work. It links with the focus on our language and traditions. Scottish language has a significant part to play in the language curriculum. All children will once again be asked to learn, by heart, a Scottish poem for our Burns Celebrations which will be held during the week of 26 January when we will be having a Ceilidh for our local senior citizens.

Nursery	Where we Live
Primary 1	Scotland through Fairyland
Primary 2	Katie Morag / Islands and Castles
Primary 3	Aberdeen / Apardion
Primary 4	The Vikings
Primary 5	The Jacobites
Primary 6	The Victorians / Europe
Primary 7	World War II



The children will be asked over the term to study an area in greater depth - a personal research topic. This will be on an aspect of their topic which interests them and may be part of their homework.

This will give our children more choice in aspects of their learning and hopefully lead to greater independence in their work.

Sponsored Cycle / Scoot

Although the weather was not great in November all classes managed to complete the sponsored event with the support of Adventure Aberdeen and Miss Thomson. I would like to thank all the parents who have returned the sponsor money - we raised a phenomenal £1767.70. This helps up provide for the Senior Citizen's Celebration.

Also we were delighted to receive £200 from Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill Community Council towards our Christmas Celebrations. This helped pay for the food, prizes and gifts for the Christmas parties.

Charity Committee News

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising before the holidays - we were amazed and delighted with all the very generous donations. Following the concerts we raised £377.00 for the Archie Foundation from both of our Concerts. Our Wear a Christmas Jumper Day raised an amazing £313.70 which has been forwarded to Save the Children.



School Improvement Plan - Maths

Throughout the primary school we have been following the Big Maths scheme to help improve children's mathematical agility and confidence with numbers. On Thursday 22 January Mrs Walker and Mr Robertson will be leading two sessions for parents who are interested in learning more about how we use this in school and how to support your children at home; one during the school day and the other in the early evening. You should have received the letter earlier this week. If you have not seen it, please have a look in your child's green book bag or ask at the school office.



Dates for your diary

05 January 2015	School Starts
22 January	Big Maths Presentation for parents
12 February	Parent Council Disco
16 February	Half Term Holiday - School Closed
17 February	Inservice Day - School Closed
18 February	Inservice Day - School Closed
16 March	Engineering Week
02 April	School Closes for Easter Holiday (Good Friday 03 April)
20 April	Summer Term Starts
01 May	Inservice Day - School Closed
04 May	May Day Holiday - School Closed
07 May	Election Day - School Closed
02 July	Parent Council Disco
03 July	School Closes for Summer Holidays

Please try to take your holiday during the children's breaks as holidays during term time will usually be classed as unauthorised.