

Fernielea Features

Happy Safe Achieving



August 2015

Tel 01224 318533

Welcome Back!

It is lovely to see all the children back in school after the summer holidays. Sadly the weather was not to kind to us this year! You may be aware that in the second week of the holidays the torrential rain once again because some flooding in the school. I would once again like to thank the facilities team, Davie King our janitor and our own school cleaning staff who have once again worked wonders and got everything back to the usual high standards for the Out of school club and children returning this week. I have arranged for a meeting to discuss the impact of the flooding with a variety of staff from the centre to try and reduce the impact on the school in the future.

As always the first week back is very busy, and we have welcomed a number of new families into our school and hope that the children will settle into Fernielea quickly and confidently. On my daily visit round the classes earlier this week everyone was working really hard and all the children seem very settled. This has continued and I am delighted to say that we have had a very positive start to this academic year.

This year we have started the session with 11 classes which has meant that our Pupil Support Class will be based in the library and ICT suite in the morning - Room 16 and 17. We have timetabled these rooms in the afternoons so that groups of children can still be supported and everyone can still make use of the library and ICT suite. Music will be taught on the stage with Mrs Brown.

Staffing

This year we welcome Miss Jackson in P2 and also Mr Galbraith who will be teaching PE on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays. This will mean that some classes will now have 2 sessions with a PE specialist and all classes will continue to have 2 hours of PE. As you may be aware Miss Coull was married in the summer and is now Mrs Stephen teaching our P5/6 class. We also welcome Mrs Ashton and Mrs Beedie to our Early Learning Classes (Nursery). This year we are part of a pilot where Mrs Walker will be supporting the work in the nursery along with the nursery nurses (Early Years Practitioners). I am very confident that the high quality of staff in both the red and green classes will allow the children to continue to learn at the appropriate pace.

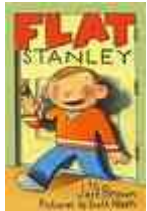
School Improvement Plan

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 Reading programme in school. We will continue to develop our mental maths strategies and with "Big Maths" from P1 - 7 to improve recall of number facts and process. We will also be continuing to look at our Technology programme which Miss Thomson started last year. The other area we will be starting to look at is the introduction of additional foreign languages. Our P5 - 7 classes will be taught German by Ms Goebell (who also works at Hazlehead Academy teaching German). We will also be considering how we can introduce French to our younger classes.

As always 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.



Early Learning

P1L and P1R

P2S and P2J

P3

P3/4

P4

P5

P5/6

P6

P7

Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales

Elmer Stories

Julia Donaldson Stories

The Magic Finger

Flat Stanley

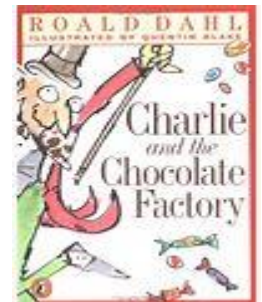
The Butterfly Lion

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Kenzuki's Kingdom

The Garbage King



As part of the curriculum children will be asked to complete some personal study tasks which they will work on, 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.

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 the month week - please have a look on Fridays 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.

Just a few reminders for everyone at the start of the school session for new parents and to those parents who may have forgotten some of the routines and policies.

School Security

Across school all the doors are monitored to ensure that the children are safe. As such if you come to the main school office you have to "buzz" to access the school. If you are leaving the building please may I ask that **you do not allow other adults to enter the school without school staff being aware.** This is so that only known adults are in the building. This is for your child's safety. May I also remind parents of children in the Early Learning Classes (nursery) that you should only come through to the school office with the knowledge of the staff. Please note that this is for all areas of the school including the Out of School Club.

School Times

Early Learning Classes (Nursery) 8.30 - 11.40 and 12.20 - 3.30

Primary 1 - 7 9.00 - 3.00 with lunch at 12.15 - 1.00

Please ensure that your child is on time for school, but I would advise that you are not too early in the playground especially on rainy/snowy days. There is a warning bell at 8.59 and this is when the children should make their way to their lining up dot! May I remind all parents / grandparents etc that there is no smoking within the school grounds and that no dogs should be brought into the school grounds this includes the car park. Please may I ask that you do not tie your dog to the school fence as some of our children are very apprehensive going past a dog, especially if is barking. Thank you in advance.

Medical Issues

Mrs Smith will be sending out information updates next 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. I would like to remind parents that support staff will administer only medication which has been prescribed by a doctor, however you must complete the necessary documentation prior to this. Children should not be bringing medication into school in their school bags - it should be handed into the school office so that it can be stored safely. For children who have asthma our policy is that children in P1 and P2 the inhalers will be kept in the medical room and for P3 - 7's children should keep their own inhaler, but we ask that a spare is kept in school in case of emergencies. 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 next 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 child's class teacher know.

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. Children will be going outside to play unless the rain is very heavy. As such please can you make sure that your child has an appropriate waterproof jacket with them at all times as we all know that the weather changes very quickly in Aberdeen!

Wheels on Wednesday



Once again we are encouraging children to cycle or scoot to school and our new Junior Road Safety Officers will be collecting data every Wednesday. We hope to have some additional shelters installed in the near future.

Parking around School

Please may I remind parents to be considerate to our school neighbours when parking. Rev Shewan has kindly allowed parents to park in the church car park, but please be thoughtful of the grass areas. Also a number of parents have been parking on the corner between Stronsay Place and Summerhill Drive. This makes it very difficult for families to cross and other cars to manoeuvre. Community Police Officers regularly patrol the area to support us with safe parking, but we do recommend parking a little distance away and stride the rest of the way - it's the healthy option!

Parents should not be parking in the car parks at the front of the school. Once again this is for the safety of our children as staff arrive and leave school at different times in the day. NO child should ever be walking through the car park. To try to make the whole car park a safe place staff now reverse park.

Initial Dates for the Year (please note some may change over the session)

Date	Activity
26 August	Introductory P7 Ardeonaig Meeting 5.00pm
27 August	P1 Information Session and Lunch 11.00am
7 September	P1 children in full time
23 September	Book Fair Arrives
24 September	Primary Parents' Evening / Nursery Information Session
9 October	Parent Council Disco
10 October	Last day of term
26 October	School Starts for Winter term
16 November	Inservice Day - School Closed
19 November	Parent Council AGM
3 December	Parent Council Christmas Fair
9 December	Christmas Concert
18 December	Christmas Service
6 January 2016	School Starts for Spring Term
15 February	Half Term Holiday - School Closed
16 February	Inservice Day - School Closed
17 February	Inservice Day - School Closed
18 February	Parent Council Disco
25 March	School Closed - Good Friday
1 April	Last day of term
18 April	School Starts for Summer Term
28 April	School Photographer
2 May	May Day Holiday - School Closed
3 May	Inservice Day - School Closed
2 June	School Sports
3 June	School Sports
30 June	Parent Council Disco
1 July	Last day of term

Please note there is no long weekend in September this session