

Fernielea Features

Happy Safe Achieving



September 2015

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"Where has September gone?" A number of parents said that at parents evening last week! Well the nights are drawing in and we only have two more weeks of school before the October holidays. This has been a busy term as always with staff and children working really hard to achieve their targets.

It was great to see so many parents last week. Thanks go to our Parent Council for once again helping us by "manning" the book fair. We have raised £995 to spend on books for school which is phenomenal! The money raised will allow each class to buy new books for their class library.

This year I have allocated £75 per class to purchase books which interest the class and the classes have given Mrs Smith their shopping lists! I hope this will encourage children to read for enjoyment and support our work in improving the levels of reading throughout the school. The questionnaires were also really helpful - and our pupil council are planning on using some of the suggestions to help them in their quest to improve reading across the school!



Our Early Years team held workshops to share the work in school with parents and the evaluations show that these were very useful. The handouts have been posted on the early learning class blogs if you were unable to attend the workshops. We also revised our Settling in Early Learning reports and the responses showed that almost all parents thought they were useful.

We will make some modifications based on some of the feedback to make them better next year.

Some of the comments:

"Format is easy to understand"

"Good and accurate report in a short period of time!"

"I was unclear about what exactly some of the statements meant – most of it clear though!"

Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that following interviews last week, Miss Hodge has been promoted to the post of Principal Teacher, replacing Mr Robertson. We hope that all the paperwork will be completed and Miss Hodge will start her post following the October holidays.

I am also pleased to let you know that Mrs Lamb had a baby boy this week. We all send our congratulations to Mr and Mrs Lamb and welcome baby Ruaridh into our Fernielea family! Over the October holidays Miss Smith, Primary 2 teacher is getting married and we hope that she has a wonderful time and that the sun shines on her special day. She will return as Mrs Muir. Also congratulations to Miss Gardiner on her engagement this week.



Mrs Cameron will be starting her maternity leave after the holidays. Her post is currently being advertised and I will keep you informed as to her replacement.

As you will have seen in the local news, staffing in schools is very challenging in Aberdeen. We will endeavour to ensure stability for your children as our main aim is to ensure all children are receiving the best possible learning experiences every day.

Healthy living

Since the start of term I have been delighted with the number of children using their Fernielea Water Bottles. Drinking water keeps your brain hydrated and helps them to learn.

Please may I remind everyone that these are for water, not juice of any kind. There are a number of reasons for this, the main one being some children get very upset when they see some of their classmates drinking juice during class time. Also, when a bottle tips over, water dries whilst juice stains work! If your child wants to drink juice, they can do this at playtime or lunchtime.



Since the start of term I have noticed that there have been a large number of birthday cakes coming into school. One class had cakes on 3 days in one week! As a health promoting school, we have discussed this with the parent and pupil council and have eventually made the decision that birthday cakes should not be brought to school. I am also aware that there are a number of children in school with a variety of allergies which prevent them eating certain foods. It is very difficult for these children to understand that they cannot have a piece of cake and often causes distress in our younger children.

We all appreciate that you can have a special treat for your birthday, but when this happens so frequently, we are no longer supporting ours or the council's aspiration to promote healthy eating. All children will still be able to celebrate their special day in school as teachers will continue to recognise their birthday.

School Football

You may be aware that over the summer holiday the Aberdeen Primary Football League decided to finish. Many of you may know Alan Keith (Biff) who was the secretary of the Football League for a significant number of years – almost 30. He was also our school football manager and coach for as many years. I would like to thank Alan for his dedication to football at Fernielea and Aberdeen City over the years. He always wanted children to enjoy playing and get the opportunity to compete on Saturdays. We all wish Alan well as he has not been so well recently.

Mr Anderson has kindly agreed to take up the role of football coach. This year we are part of the Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust League. The rules are slightly different and the main focus is for children to develop their skills in line with the Scottish Football Pathway. We have ordered a new football kit for the school in our school colours – so, if you are passing Harlaw Playing fields on a Saturday morning you might well easily recognise the team!

As a benefit of being part of the AFC league, all the team and some parents went to watch Aberdeen play Motherwell for free the other evening. A great night was had by all.

Pupil Council Updates by Milly and Kiera (P7)

So far this school year we have been looking at making the playground a better place for children to play. We have decided to have a "no big ball day" on Wednesdays so we can play with all the new equipment we had ordered from the Sainsburys Vouchers. This is giving everyone more space and stops people from getting hurt by the footballs. We are also thinking about having a referee for football to stop some of the disagreements.

We have also agreed after a long discussion and votes in classes, to stop bringing in cakes after the October holidays to try and be healthier. We have also decided that on the School's birthday in June we will celebrate everyone's birthdays – children will get to choose from either a vanilla or chocolate cake.

Our next challenge is to help people stop losing their golden time. We will be discussing this on Friday. Then, after the holidays we will be thinking about improving reading across the school using some of the ideas the parents came up with at parents' evening.

Eco Update by Hadyn and Ellie (P7)

This term we have been finding out if we have a litter problem at school. Over a week, we asked Mr King to stop picking up the litter around the school. After morning break each day, different classes went out to pick up the litter. They found out that there was a litter problem - which shows what a good job Mr King does! The Eco committee is creating a plan of action which they will share with the school in assembly and on the blog. Please look out for that!

Also, we have been lucky to receive a grant of £500 from Aberdeen Greenspaces Board to make a wildlife garden in the grassy area next to Summerhill Church. We hope that this will be completed by June 2016.

More good news....we found out that last year's Primary 6 class (now P7) came 3rd in Scotland by having one of the highest levels of cycling to school in a week. We hope that our application for another cycle shelter will encourage even more children to cycle to school.

Finally on Friday this week, our Early Learning Classes and P1 children will take part in "The One World Picnic." This is where the children enjoy a snack of locally grown oats - flapjacks.

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

Date	Activity
10 October	Wear something bright for Children's Cancer - pay £1
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