

Fernielea Features

Happy Safe Achieving



November 2015

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I start this newsletter with very sad news that Alan Keith, known to many as "Biff" has sadly lost his fight for life. Alan was the football manager here at Fernielea School for many -over 20 - years. He started helping out when his own son, Mark, was part of the football team and continued all the years after, only officially stopping last June. At this time, football in Aberdeen changed significantly with Aberdeen Football Club taking over the organising of almost all the Primary School Football. Alan had been the secretary of the Aberdeen Primary School Football Association, co-ordinating all the matches across the city. He knew that youngsters loved the competitive side of football and you could see Alan at Harlaw playing fields almost every Saturday throughout the season keeping a watchful eye on all the teams - but still he supported our school. Our thoughts at this time go to Gwen his wife (who also worked here at Fernielea as a lunchtime auxiliary and then PSA) and his family.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Miss Arlene Robertson to our staff covering Mrs Cameron's maternity leave. Miss Robertson will be working alongside Mrs Fjellroth and Mrs Duthie in Targeted Support for children throughout the school. On a Wednesday she will be teaching in P7 allowing Miss Hodge to be out of class to work on management tasks. Mrs Smith in the school office has decided to reduce her hours and will now be working Monday - Thursday. Mrs Reid will continue to work during the day and will now cover the office all day on a Friday. Congratulations to Miss Forno who got engaged earlier this month - another wedding being planned!

Winter is Approaching

We come to the time of year when the weather in Aberdeen is very unpredictable! Please can you make sure that your child comes to school with appropriate clothing - warm coats, hats, gloves etc. Children will be going out to play every day unless the rain is really heavy as it is important to get fresh air.

In the morning, if the weather is inclement, please look out for a groupcall text regarding the opening hours for school - we may decide to start a little later to allow staff to get into work safely. Please make sure we have your current contact details. We will also post information on the **City Council Website** http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/xsc_listing.asp

Christmas Arrangements

The rehearsals for both our Christmas shows are well underway and the sounds from the school hall sound fascinating! I know the children have worked very hard and are eager to perform to you, our parents.

Many parents in the past have wanted to video and take pictures during Christmas performances and this has always been permitted. Any pictures, videos are for your own personal use, and if any are posted on social media we would encourage that they are of your own child. If you do not want your child's image being taken, please can you inform the school by Friday 4 December in writing.

Information about tickets for our Christmas shows has been sent out via children's book bags. If you have not seen this letter, please contact Mrs Smith or Mrs Reid in the school office.



I've included the key dates as a number of parents have been phoning:

Wednesday 09 December	Christmas Performances am and pm
Thursday 10 December	pm Local Senior Citizens Christmas Performance of P3-7 show
Thursday 10 December	am / pm Early Learning Class trip to Lemon Tree
Friday 11 December	Christmas Lunch - wear your Christmas jumper to school
Tuesday 15 December	P5-7 Christmas Party
Wednesday 16 December	P2 - 4 Christmas Party
	P5 class singing at Woodend Hospital
Thursday 17 December	Early Learning Classes and P1 Christmas Party
Friday 18 December	Carol Service at 9.30am in Summerhill Parish Church

As part of their Enterprise topics, our P7 class are co-ordinating the class parties. The P1- 7 parties will take place in the afternoon. Children may come to school in their party clothes, or they may wish to bring them to school and get changed at lunchtime.

School Tea Towels

These have been very popular and Miss Forno's P4 class are now in the process of sorting out the orders which have arrived in school. If you missed the chance to get your tea towel then they will be on sale after the Christmas Concert Performances. Well done to Miss Forno and the P4 class - I must say they look great and I look forward to receiving my order!

Parent Council

The parent council held their AGM earlier this month. It was great to hear about all the successes they have had over the last year in raising money and supporting the school. The new committee have now been formed with representatives for every class. This year's Christmas Fair will take place in the School Hall on Thursday 3 December between 6 and 8 p.m. I am aware that there are many very exciting stalls. All our classes will also be selling their products from their Enterprise projects. The school stalls will be in the gym hall this year - so please come up and have a look!

Eco News

Our P6 and 7 eco reps went to an Eco Summit held at Hazlehead Academy earlier this month. All the schools shared information about their initiatives. We shared how we had looked at litter around the school.

This year we have decided that everyone buying and sending Christmas cards is not very eco-friendly. Therefore we are suggesting that each child send one card to their class which will be displayed for everyone to enjoy. The teachers will decorate their classes as usual so they look festive. This will hopefully mean that everyone can appreciate the joy of Christmas, yet think about our planet.



Following our great successes in the recycling over previous years, Aberdeen City decided to launch their Green Santa scheme here at Fernielea School last Friday. We welcomed children from Woodside School along with Councillor Morrison. **By Hadyn P7**

School Netball

Our school held the local netball festival earlier this month. We played 6 matches and it was great because we won all of them. This was amazing as last year we did not win any - so there is a huge improvement in the team. Mrs Angus and Mrs Andrew are running the club after school on Tuesdays and this is better because we can enjoy our netball without worrying that we are missing our learning! **By Taylor and Eszter P7**

School Football

The football team have their new strips and over the last few weeks we have had great success in our games. We are playing better as we know each other's skill and know when and where to pass. The training with Mr Anderson on Monday evenings is making a difference. So far, we have only had one cancelled game so we hope to keep winning all the way until Christmas! **By Lewis P7**

School Basketball

Mr Galbraith, along with active schools co-ordinator, held a basketball club for a few weeks to get us ready for a basketball festival which took place last week at Kingsford School. We won and lost some games and played King of the Hoop. We learned that we need to pass more accurately so we can keep the ball and also we need to be better at dribbling at the side of our body rather than in front! We had a great time. **By Max and Oliwier P6**

Charities Update

There was lots of fun on Friday 13 November when we all dressed up as Superheros. It was lovely to see some children dressed up as their mum, grandma, famous sports stars and even an author. The P6 children made masks for all the staff in school - which were very colourful. They presented them to the adults in assembly. You can see some of them on the school blog. Thanks to everyone's hard work we raised £290.04. Thank - you and well done! **By Laura C P7**

School Improvement Plan

On our last in-service day, all the teaching staff spent the day working on reading approaches with our colleagues at Hazlehead Primary School. This is part of our plan to refresh our reading approaches in school. As a result, there will be some changes to reading, particularly from P5-7. We are currently trialling ERIC (Everyone Reading In Class) for 10 minutes after either break or lunchtime. This is a time for all children to read a book of their choice for a short spell in school everyday. We hope that this will encourage children to read for enjoyment. Following suggestions made in our most recent questionnaires, children will also be completing book reviews to share their opinions about books, allowing them to be critics and also have the opportunity to form views about different types (genres) of books.

Early Learning Class - Play Area

Please may I ask parents not to cut through the Early Learning Class (Nursery) play area before and after school, but to use the path around the outside. Staff really want to set out equipment for children, but are frequently hampered as older children are going into the area and disturbing the equipment. If you are taking a child into the early learning classes, please close the gate behind you to keep your child and others safe.

Dates for 2016

Please note the dates for the whole year - some in-service days are to be added for session 2016 - 17, but I am aware that some parents like to book their holidays early. **Please observe these dates as holidays outwith term times are almost always classed as unauthorised.**

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
5 May	Elections - School Closed
2 June	School Sports
3 June	School Sports
30 June	Parent Council Disco
1 July	Last day of term
15 August	Inservice Day - School Closed
16 August	School Starts for pupils
23 September	September Holiday weekend - School Closed
26 September	September Holiday weekend - School Closed
7 October	Last day of Autumn Term
24 October	School Starts for pupils
23 December	Last day of Winter Term