

Fernielea Features

Happy Safe Achieving



August 2016

Tel 01224 318533

Welcome Back!

It is so lovely to see everybody back in school and ready to learn. We have had a very busy start to the term with our Early Learning Class Open Day, our Primary 1 Lunch and Curriculum Talk, Book Festival visit for P4 and we are still in the midst of building works!

However after all the excitement of the first few days all of our children are now getting back to completing tasks with a positive attitude, which I hope will last through until July 2016!

It has been a very busy summer holidays with major work taking place renovating our West wing of the school into 2 fantastic classrooms for our P1s and P1/2s. Unfortunately the work has over run but they hope to be finished soon. The Out of School Club and Breakfast Club have now moved to a great new area at the back of the stage and they have a wonderful new kitchen area.

Staffing

This year we welcome Miss Philip as our P5/6 teacher. We also welcome Miss Bain into P5. She is joining us from Hazlehead Primary School. Miss Laing is our new Early Years Practitioner in the Early Learning Class. She joins us from Dyce School. We welcome back Mrs Lamb who will be working in a range of classes to allow time for our Principal Teachers to carry out their additional duties. Mr Thomson is also joining us on a Tuesday morning as a Vocal Animateur. He teaches singing and will be working with our P5-7 choir.

The Primary 7s, as part of transition to secondary school, will be working with a secondary Science teacher on a Thursday morning.

Over the summer holidays Miss Hodge was married and is now Mrs Torrens. Miss Cooper, one of our Pupil Support Assistants was married last Saturday and she will be returning as Mrs Morrison. We extend congratulations to both couples.

Medical Issues

The school office have already issued family update forms this week. Please can you check them, make any amendments and return them to school as soon as possible - this also includes medical information. 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.

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 work in school. We have started the process of implementing Accelerated Reader and Reflective Reading within P3-P7 to improve pupils' engagement within Reading which would in turn improve attainment in Reading. This will continue this school year. We will also be looking at improving the progression of skills in Digital Technology and Internet Safety with our colleagues in the other schools in our ASG (Hazlehead Academy, Hazlehead, Airyhall and Kingsford Primary Schools.)

At Fernielea we will also be developing our links within the community with parents, organisations and industry. Miss Thomson is busy making contact with various organisations. It promises to be an interesting and exciting year for all involved.

One of the aspects of our Community focus is Developing the Young Workforce (DYW). This focuses on providing the children with the opportunity to develop skills for their future self. 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.

Nursery Nursery Rhymes	P1L Julia Donaldson	P1/2 Julia Donaldson	P2 Julia Donaldson
P3 The Great Kapok Tree - Rainforests	P3/4 The Penguin Who Wanted To Find Out - Antarctica		P4 There is a Pharaoh in my Bath/Egypt
P5 Charlie & the Chocolate Factory	P5/6 Greek Mythology	P6 Kenzuki's Kingdom - Japan	P7 The Garbage King-Ethiopia

As part of the curriculum children will be asked to complete some personal study tasks which they will work at 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 understands what is expected. Please sign your child's homework jotter and reading record once they have finished their task. Together we can help your child achieve their potential.

Internet Safety

An Internet Safety session for parents is being held on Monday 5th September from 6.30-7.30 at Hazlehead Academy. Information was sent home via a letter and a group call. A link for registering for the workshop was included in the communications home. If you have misplaced it please enter the following in the address bar to access registration:

<http://goo.gl/forms/vRgks7PZ1S3RseEW2> .

It is a very worthwhile session as it gives hard-hitting messages on how to keep your child safe. Please note sessions are not suitable for children to attend. Staff from across the Hazlehead ASG will be attending a session earlier in the day to ensure consistency across the ASG.

Timekeeping

It is very important that at the end of sessions adults collecting pupils from school and the Early Learning Classes are prompt. Staff have meetings after school developing our curriculum and meeting with other staff in other schools. If, for unforeseen circumstances, you are going to be late **PLEASE** contact the school office. One day last term we had 12 children arriving late into school. This can cause disruption to the learning in the class and can be upsetting to the child. It is also important that the children are not arriving into the school playground too early. Please note that all late arrivals at school and late collections are being recorded.

Cashless Card School Lunch System

On Monday 12th September our Cashless Card System for school lunches will go live. You should have received a letter giving you details of your child's card number and how to add money to their card via the internet. The **number** on the letter is required every time you add money onto the card; therefore **please do not lose it!** There will also be the option to put cash in an envelope and the kitchen staff will add the money on to your child's card. P1-3 pupils will still receive free school meals so no money will need to be added onto their cards. P4-7 pupils entitled to Free School Meals will not require money to be added to their card. Please note - milkshakes and juice will no longer be sold.

Every morning the children will choose their main meal option and this is what they will be served at lunchtime. Please ensure you discuss food options with your child if they are fussy. Food allergies are taken into account and so your child will only be given the option of food that does not contain the allergen. It is **ESSENTIAL** that if your child has an allergy we are informed of this as soon as possible.

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.

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 received these V4 forms last 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.

Parking

I am ever hopeful that the safe parking message reaches you all but unfortunately we still have some very inconsiderate and unsafe parking taking place around the school. Car parks are for staff and visitors only. If you are dropping off or picking up your child please park on the street and use the clearly marked paths to walk down into the school. **CHILDREN SHOULD NOT ENTER THE CAR PARK.**

Breakfast Club and Out of School Club parents are urged to park on the street as the space is plentiful at the times they are arriving and picking up. There have been a few near misses with staff cars and children wandering across the staff car park.

P4 Meet a Poet

The Primary 4 class were given the opportunity to meet poet Joshua Seigal as part of the Booked Festival. He writes poems that encourage children to develop confidence and creativity in their communication skills.

The poet's name was Josh Seigal. Once when he was younger a famous author came to his house and encouraged him to be one. He recited some really funny poems - 'I Don't Like Poetry', 'The most Embarrassing Moment Ever' and 'Addicted to Chicken' (we all had to join in by making chicken noises!) He was really, really funny and we would recommend him to everyone. Look on his website: www.joshuaseigal.co.uk

By Travis & Kasey P4

Leadership

Our P7 prefects have been awarded their badges and they are now confidently carrying out their various prefect responsibilities.

The House Captains and Vice Captains have also been elected by their houses. They are:

<u>House</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Vice Captain</u>
Crathes	Megan Robb	Greg Wilson
Stirling	Corey Stevenson	Raven Robison
Fraser	Archie Mitchell	Emily Imlach
Edinburgh	Abbie Bain	Oliwier Jasak

Initial Dates for your diary

Date	Activity
5 September	P1 children in full time
5 September	Internet Safety Talk for Parents Hazlehead Academy 6.30-7.30pm
7 September	Parent Council Shopping Event
8 September	P7 Ardeonaig Meeting 5pm
12 September	Cashless Card Lunch System going live
14 September	P1 First Class Photos
15 September	Coffee in the Library - Parent Workshop - Reading
23 September	HOLIDAY - School Closed
26 September	HOLIDAY - School Closed
27 September	Book Fair Arrives
29 September	Primary Parents' Evening / Nursery Information Session
7 October	Last day of term
24 October	School Starts
27 October	Parent Council AGM
14 November	Inservice Day - School Closed
1 December	Parent Council Christmas Fair