



Fernielea Features



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SCHOOLS



May 2018



Twitter @FernieleaSchool

Tel: 01224 318533

Well summer has definitely arrived at Fernielea. The school is busy and buzzing with summer activities. The P7s are rehearsing for their end of term celebration, the flowers planted by pupils in our fab new planters purchased from a Hazlehead Academy enterprise group, 'Blooming Marvellous', are in full bloom and jackets and jumpers are off at playtime!



Staffing

This term we have said farewell to 2 members of staff who have secured jobs at schools in Aberdeenshire. Miss Leicester left last month to join a school in Banchory and Mrs Cameron has moved to a school in Portlethen. We wish them both well and thank them for all of their hard work at Fernielea.

We will also be saying goodbye and good luck to Mrs Amato who is leaving to begin her maternity leave on Friday 8th June. We will be eagerly waiting to hear of the safe arrival of her baby in July.

Nursery Inspection

We are excited to share that our Nursery/Early Learning classes were recently inspected by the Care Inspectorate and we were awarded 'very good' in the areas inspected. We are very proud of our Early Learning Classes and all of the hard work that the team do, working in partnership with our parents to ensure that the children have the best start to their education possible. You can read the recent inspection report on our school website.

Parent Council Summer Fair

Our annual Summer Fair is to be held on Friday 8th June 5-7pm. The parent council have been working very hard to ensure that it is a huge success. They are still looking for volunteers and they are experimenting with a new online sign-up sheet. You can sign up to help for an hour on the sheet which is on their Facebook Page. Let's hope the weather is good and that the event will be a success. There will be a BBQ, coffee car, ice cream van, a range of inflatables, stalls, games and of course, a raffle with a cash prize! We will be operating the token system again as it has been successful in the past.

Groupcall Communication with Parents - VERY IMPORTANT!

Recently the cost of communicating with parents via text has been passed onto individual schools to pay. So, every time we send out a GroupCall text it costs the school money. We have looked for an alternative for non urgent messages and we will be asking parents to download the free Xpressions app which has no cost attached to it for sending messages to parents.

Parent Session

We have organised for the team responsible for Xpressions communications to come to school on Monday 4th June to assist parents in downloading and familiarising themselves with the app. If you currently have children at Hazlehead Academy then you will already be familiar with it. All the app requires is for you to provide it with your email address and mobile phone number, which must be the same as those shared with us previously. It will then automatically link you to the Fernielea Xpressions system. If your email address or mobile phone number has changed, please contact the office with your new details.

So come along to the school hall on Monday 4th June 9am to find out more.

If you are unable to attend then instructions will be posted on our website.

Attendance

The attendance of pupils is paramount to their progress in school. A minimum attendance of 95% is expected. There are an unacceptable number of unauthorised absences and late arrivals to school. If your child is absent, you MUST call us as soon as possible to let us know the reason for their absence, otherwise the absence is noted as UNAUTHORISED. When a child is off with no explanation we have to send an absence reminder text which costs the school 3.5p per message and this money could be spent more effectively on resources for your child. So please ensure that you call the school as soon as you know your child will not be in school or if they are going to be late.



Sports Day

Sports Day this year for P1-7 pupils will be held on Wednesday 13th June 1.15-3.00pm. It will be a new format this year, created by Miss Bain and the P5 pupils. First we will have 'Potted Sports' where children will compete at individual stations for 2 minutes in their house teams. They will move round all of the stations, earning points for their house.

We will then have the flat races for each year group. All children are encouraged to come to school in their house colours. Fraser - **green**, Crathes - **yellow**, Edinburgh - **blue**, Stirling - **red**

The Parent Council will be selling refreshments of tea, coffee, juice and strawberries. All funds will be given to the school for sports equipment.

P7 Residential Trip - Ardeonaig

We have just returned from Ardeonaig in Perthshire after a week-long adventure. The P7 children were an adventurous group and tried all activities on offer. They really enjoyed their time away in the fresh air and sunshine. If you want to find out more about the trip have a look on our school blog.



Parent Consultation

All through the year we seek feedback and consult with parents and families. At our recent Parents' Evening, we asked parents and carers to complete questionnaires relating to the school's improvement plan and school vision. Feedback was positive and a few points were raised.

It would be good for families to get more notice for class assemblies.

This point was raised by a parent 2 years ago and as a result the assembly dates are published on the calendar of every newsletter (back page) to allow families to plan time off etc.

We could have different/healthier school meals, more variety.

School meals are planned by Aberdeen City Council taking into account the use of fresh, local ingredients; the balance of healthy food groups. More information about school meals can be found on the council website

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/school-meals>

I would like more information about what the children are learning in class so we can continue this at home, for example telling the time, learning French etc

We try to share information about the children's learning in as many ways as possible (newsletters, blog, Twitter etc) but we are going to investigate more ways to involve parents/carers in their child's learning. Coming along to Homework Club with their child has helped a lot of our parents understand methods of working, especially in Maths.

We value the importance of parents/carers as partners in learning.

These are only a selection of comments from parents. We value each comment made and endeavour to address it to ensure the children have the best education at Fernielea.

We also asked parents to come along to a consultation on creating the new Fernielea School Anti-bullying policy. A group of parents worked alongside Mrs Fjellroth and Mrs Walker to share their views on bullying behaviours, approaches to preventing and dealing with bullying behaviours and the parent/carer's role in prevention and handling of bullying situations. Thank you to all of the parents who attended. Your contribution was very much appreciated. The new policy will be shared with you soon.

Big Hopes, Big Dreams

We have teamed up with Homestart to provide support to nursery parents in preparing their child for moving in to P1. The group has been running every week and it has been a very successful support for the parents. Focused coffee and chat sessions have also taken place for parents in the nursery and they have had the opportunity to meet with some agencies who support the school.

Aberdeen Music Festival

Mr Thomson has been working hard with the choir and some classes and they have been entered into a local music competition. The festival runs every year and this is the first time we have entered. P4, P2, P6B and the choir will perform in front of a panel of judges in the Beach Ballroom on Tuesday 5th June. Families and friends are very welcome to attend. Letters have been issued to all participants.



Holiday Dates - please note that some dates may change
Holiday dates are also available on the **Aberdeen City Council Website**.

Date	Event
4 June	Xpressions workshop for parents 9am in school hall
5 June	Aberdeen Music Festival for P2L, P4E, P6B and choir
6 June	New to Nursery Meeting for Parents 10.30am
8 June	P1 Assembly (both classes) 9.45am
13 June	P1-P7 SPORTS DAY 1.15pm
14 June	P6 children to Red Ball Cricket festival (letter to follow)
14 June	PM Additional Transition Day for some P6 pupils (letter to follow)
21 June	Glitter Pick 11.00am at Fernielea School - all welcome to come and volunteer
27 June	11am SHANARRI SHOW - P1-6 pupils (families welcome to attend) **TIME CHANGED**
27 June	Parent Council Disco - Nursery during nursery session, P1-3 6-7pm, P4-7 7.15pm-8.15pm
28 June	Moving Up Day 1-2pm P1-6 meet their new teachers
27-29 June	P7 3 Day Visit to Hazlehead Academy
5 July	P7 Leavers' Assembly (PM)
6 July	Term 4 Ends
20 August	Inservice Day 1
21 August	School term 1 begins - Nursery open day for new pupils only
22 August	Nursery children return P1 pupils start (AM) and (PM)

Holiday Dates for This Session and next session - are displayed on Aberdeen City Council Website

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/view-school-term-and-holiday-dates>