



Fernielea Features



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September 2018

Tel: 01224 318533

Welcome back to everyone! We have had a very busy start to the new school session, with many new families joining our Fernielea Community. We have been so lucky with the weather this year and the sun has continued to shine throughout the first term.

Staffing

We welcome a number of new staff to Fernielea School this session. Miss Blakemore has joined us and she is teaching P4/5 this year. We have also been joined by Miss Dyker who is teaching in P1/2 with Mrs Imrie. It is always an exciting time when we welcome new staff into our school community. At the end of term, we said farewell to Miss Roberts who will be greatly missed by all. Some families have even popped in to say hello to her back in her hometown - she was delighted!

School Lunches

The current school menu can be found on our school website. It will run until the October break. If you would like your child to have a school lunch and they are P4-P7, then you can load money onto their card by visiting :

<https://online.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/accordpayment/TopUpOnline.aspx>

or you can place CASH into one of the envelopes in the reception area of the school and write your child's name and class on the front then it can be popped into the secure box by the reception.

School Visits

Already the P6 and P7 classes have been on a school trip to Techfest to explore lots of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities. The day was held at Robert Gordon's University in Garthdee and it was a hugely successful experience for our pupils. The P6s especially enjoyed the experiment that required them to dip their hand in freezing water!



Email Fernielea@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Website www.fernielea.aberdeen.sch.uk

School Parking

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that it is **not permitted** for parents to use the school car park for dropping children off. It is very dangerous and it is for the safety of YOUR child. There are various parking options for you to make use of - Summerhill Parish Church car park, Fernielea Gospel Hall car park and the various streets around the school. No one should be parking on the yellow lines and no one should be mounting the pavement. Again, it is for the safety of YOUR child. The school is working closely with the Community wardens and local police to ensure that everyone is parking safely and considerately.

Please do not park on Stronsay Drive as it causes an obstruction.

Our Transport Pupil Voice group are assessing the parking dangers and safe routes to school this term. If you do have to park in the school car park, it is REVERSE parking only.

This applies to After School Club pick-ups and drop-offs also.



School Uniform

School uniform will continue to be available from WCS, 687, George Street, Aberdeen AB25 3XP. An ethical school uniform is also available on the KoolSkool Website. The direct link is:

<https://www.koolskools.co.uk/product-category/fernielea-primary-school/>

There is a page on the school website with all the information needed to order new school uniforms.

Homework Club

The Homework Club was a huge success last year with a number of parents regularly attending every week.

Before the holidays, over 60 children accessed the club every Monday.

We will be starting the Homework Club again on Monday 1st October. It runs from 3.15-4pm with the children getting a healthy snack and a drink before the club starts (3-3.15pm). Parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their child as it is a very valuable experience where parents can be supported to help their child with maths and literacy. **All children wishing to attend Homework Club must complete and return the letter that will be issued later this week - even if they attended last year.**

Pupil Voice Groups and House Groups

This year, every child is part of a pupil voice group. The groups focus on areas of improvement that have been identified for the school. Your child will meet with children and staff to plan for the improvements and put their plans into action. Children in school have a strong voice and should be given the opportunities to share their views and be part of the process of change and improvements in school. The groups are:

ECO	Charities	Learning Review	Rights Respecting
Community	Creativity	Nature	Library
Dig Tech	Transport	Health & Wellbeing	
STEAM (Science Technologies, Engineering, Arts & Maths)			

We are very excited to see how these groups develop. Parents will be asked to participate with the groups at some point throughout the year.

House groups also meet every 3 weeks. New House Captains have been elected. This year the standards were very high. I'm glad that I didn't have to vote!

Have a look on the school website to see who our new House Captains and Vice-House Captains are.

****Safety Message ****

We have been notified by Aberdeen City Council and Police Scotland that some school 'Back to School' sets have included a pair of scissors which are very sharp. Many children will have bought these sets from a popular supplier and will have unwittingly brought sharp items into school which could cause significant harm. Please can you remove these scissors from your child's stationery set if they have one and ensure they are not brought into school. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

School Library

Over the Summer break we had our ICT room turned into our new library. It is going to be a vibrant and engaging environment for our families to engage with books and develop a love of reading together. The Library and Reading Pupil Voice group are busy planning the launch of the new library. The project has been funded by the school and the Parent Council.

Pupil Participation

As part of our school interventions for pupil equity (PEF) we teamed up with Active School to provide free clubs for our children. This intervention saw the participation rate for our school rise by 82% last year which is phenomenal. It saw 53% of our pupils participating in at least one activity. Thank you to our parent volunteers who supported the activities and a huge thank you to Wendy Carrick for organising all of the clubs. We are continuing this intervention this year, so please encourage your child to attend at least one of the opportunities provided.

Parent Council

The Parent Council held a very successful family Bingo night last Thursday. It was attended by families old and new. We are looking forward to the next event, the school disco, which will be held on Wednesday 10th October.

The Parent Council are holding their AGM on Thursday 4th October in Fernielea School. Please come along and join the fantastic group of parents who go above and beyond to provide exciting events and support for our families. Without them there would be no discos, fairs etc. You are all very welcome to attend. Join their Facebook page (Fernielea Parent Council) to find out more information about their role in Fernielea School.

Absences

Can I please remind all families that all children should be aiming to have 100% attendance in school. We appreciate that children pick up bugs and are off ill but children should only be kept off school if they are ill. Holidays outwith the official school holidays will always be classed as **unauthorised**. Please check the school website for holiday dates.

It is very important that we are informed of your child's absence on the morning of their first day of absence. Sending text messages to parents to confirm their child's absence is very costly and uses money from our budget that could be better spent elsewhere.

Parents' Evening/Book Fair

Our first opportunity for families to speak with staff about their child's progress is to be held on Thursday 27th September. Letters have gone out to allow you to request an appointment. Requests must be returned by Thursday 20th September to allow appointments to be arranged.

The Book Fair will also be in school and the Parent Council are supporting the sale of books.

School Improvement

This year, we are focusing on

- improving attainment in literacy (Reading and Writing);
- improving the Health & Wellbeing of our young people by developing our understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and its effects on their learning and life;
- improving employability skills for all of our young people

More information will be shared with you over the course of the year and we look forward to working with you to ensure that our school continues to improve.

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

Date	Event
21 September	Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
24 September	Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
25 September	P1-4 Road Safety Show (PM)
27 September	Parents' Evening
4 October	Parent Council AGM (Evening)
5 October	P7B Assembly
10 October	School Disco
12 October	Term 1 Ends
29 October	School Term 2 begins
30 October	P7 Trip to Absafe
9 November	P5 Assembly
16 November	Inservice Day 2 SCHOOL CLOSED
30 November	P2/3 Assembly
20 December	Pantomime (Cinderella) for all pupils (AM)
21 December	Term 2 Ends - Church Service at 9.30am, Summerhill Church all welcome
7 January 2019	School Term 3 begins

2018-19

Term 1

21 August 2018 to 12 October 2018

In-Service Day - Monday 20 August 2018

Term Starts - Tuesday 21 August 2018

September Holiday - Friday 21 September to Monday 24 September 2018

Term Ends - Friday 12 October 2018

October Holiday - Monday 15 October to Friday 26 October 2018

Term 2

29 October 2018 to 21 December 2018

Term Starts - Monday 29 October 2018

In-Service Day - Friday 16 November 2018

Term Ends - Friday 21 December 2018

Christmas Holiday - Monday 24 December 2018 to Friday 4 January 2019

Term 3

7 January 2019 to 29 March 2019

Term Starts - Monday 7 January 2019

Mid Term Holiday - Monday 11 February 2019

In-Service Day - Tuesday 12 February 2019

In-Service Day - Wednesday 13 February 2019

Term Ends - Friday 29 March 2019

Spring Holiday - Monday 1 April to Friday 12 April 2019

Term 4

15 April 2019 to 5 July 2019

Term Starts - Monday 15 April 2019

Good Friday Holiday - Friday 19 April 2019

May Day Holiday - Monday 6 May 2019

In-Service Day - Tuesday 7 May 2019

Term Ends - Friday 5 July 2019