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October 2018

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It is so good to be back after the October break. The weather was kind to us on a few days during the holidays but alas, the Winter weather is certainly blowing in now! It's always a time of adjustment after the clocks have gone back - darker nights and mornings always prompt us to remind the children to cross the road safely and to ensure they are wearing appropriate clothing for the weather. All children should bring a warm jacket with them to school as they will be outside in all weathers. Please ensure gloves and hats are named as many are lost over the winter months.

We keep a wee stock of winter coats donated by families whose children have outgrown them so if your child is in need of a jacket pop into the office at the end of the day and we can see if there is a suitable one for your child.

Reading

This year, we are focusing on improving attainment in Literacy - especially in writing and reading. We are working alongside the other schools in the Hazlehead ASG and Aberdeen Libraries Service to encourage children to read for enjoyment. One of the main focuses this year is the launch of our new library. It will be the hub of events which will be in place to encourage the children and their families to choose and read books that they enjoy. Mrs Leslie, Mrs Duthie and the Reading/Library group are working hard to plan the launch of our library later this month.

We need your help!

We are now looking for a core of parents, grandparents and members of our community who have some spare hours during the week to help us to keep our library in ship shape and to help run the library at lunch times, before and after school. Support will be given by staff and our reading prefects. So if you or someone you know has an hour a week to spare and would like to support the school to get our children reading please contact Mrs Walker or Mrs Duthie. It will be a very exciting time for our school.

We are also collecting the Books for Schools vouchers that appear in the Scottish Sun every day. If you have collected any please give them to your child to pop in the collection box.



School Lunches

There is a new school menu which will run until the Easter break. It can be found on the school website or the Aberdeen City Council Website. <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/Primary%20School%20Menu%20Winter%202018.pdf>

Flu Immunisations

This year, we have been informed that the flu immunisations will take place in December. All families should have received a letter which had to be returned to the school indicating whether or not your child is receiving the immunisation at school or not. If you have not returned this form you will have to speak to your GP to arrange alternative immunisation of your child.

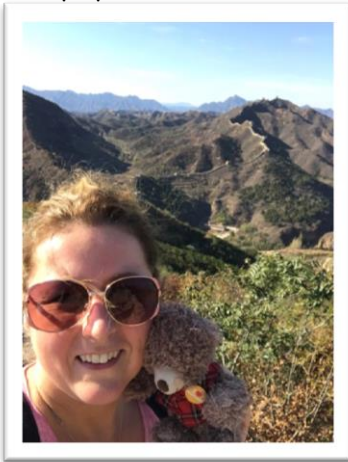
Email Fernielea@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Website www.fernielea.aberdeen.sch.uk

Mrs Walker's Trip to China

I had the chance of a lifetime to visit China during the October break. The purpose of the visit was to learn about the education system in China by visiting schools in Tianjin and Tianjin University. We were given a fantastic welcome at the school - complete with marching band! It was a very special day.

There was also time to learn about Chinese culture through visiting key landmarks. On my travels, I was joined by Fernielea Bear who shared his travels in China on the @FernieleaSchool Twitter account. I will be sharing my journey with the children in assembly. The highlight of the trip was walking the Great Wall of China! It was truly spectacular!



Xpressions App

Last year we launched the use of the Xpressions App in order to improve communication with parents and families and to reduce the cost of communication via texts, which had been passed onto the school for the first time. At present we only have around 100 parents registered to use the app. Please could you take 5 minutes to download the FREE Xpressions App which will significantly reduce the costs for the school so that we can spend the money saved on resources for your children. If you need a refresher, please look on the school website for info under 'Latest News' or pop in to see Mrs Walker or Mrs Reid in the school office and we will happily help.

Attendance

Every year we monitor the attendance of pupils. Research has clearly shown that if a child attends school for **more than 95% of the time then they have the best chance to succeed in their learning**. Unfortunately there are a number of children who have an attendance rate that significantly falls below this. Parents have taken their children out for holidays and this has reduced the overall attendance rate of the school.

We understand that children get ill with the usual childhood ailments - chickenpox, sickness bugs etc., but some children have been absent from school for minor ailments or a 'duvet day' (you'd be surprised at how truthful children can be!). Please be assured that if your child has a minor ailment such as a cold or runny nose, they will be fine in school and will often feel better when they are busy. We will always contact you if they deteriorate or are too unwell for school.

If your child is too ill to attend school please let us know as soon as possible - preferably before 9.30am - so we don't have to send out a text to remind you to call.

I have met with the Home School Liaison Officer, Laura Fraser, regarding the children who have an attendance of less than 90% and letters will be issued to all of their parents to alert them to their child's low attendance.

Punctual attendance is also expected as it can be a nerve-wracking experience for a child to walk into a class when they are late, having missed the initial teaching input. Parents of children with regular late arrivals will also be informed via letter.

If you are having issues affecting your child's attendance that we are unaware of, please contact Mrs Walker or Mrs Fjellroth to discuss how we could support you and your child.



Christmas Arrangements

This year we are ringing the changes and we will be having a lower-key Christmas performance on Wednesday 12th December (AM & PM) with the children sharing their learning and singing about Christmas Around The World. I hope this information will allow working parents enough notice to get time off work to support their child. Due to fire regulations tickets will be restricted to 2 per family for the Christmas performances.

9.30 - 10.30 Whole School Morning Concert
1.50 - 2.50 Whole School Afternoon Concert

We will not be having a Christmas tea party for our senior citizens in December this year. Instead, we will be inviting them to join us for a Scottish ceilidh celebration in January. If you live in the school zone and have an elderly neighbour, who you think may want to come and enjoy an afternoon of our hospitality, please can you give Mrs Smith or Mrs Reid in the school office their name and address as soon as possible.

On Thursday 13 December, the Charities group aims to raise money for Save the Children by inviting everyone to wear a Christmas jumper to school in return for a small donation. This is also the day of our Christmas Lunch. The kitchen will serve a traditional Christmas lunch and an alternative of a baked potato on that day.

All class Christmas parties will take place on the following dates.

Friday 14 December P6 & P7
Monday 17 December All P2s & All P3s
Tuesday 18 December Nursery & All P1s
Wednesday 19 December All P4s & All P5s



Children can either wear their party outfit to school or take party clothes to change into at lunchtime. The parties will be organised by the P7 classes as part of their Events Management project this term.

On the morning of Thursday 20 December the whole school will be entertained by a theatre company who will be performing 'Cinderella'.

On Friday 21 December we will, as usual, go to church for our Carol Service at 9.30am. The P4 class are organising the carol service along with their buddy class, P1/2. Parents and families are welcome to attend the church service.

More information will follow nearer the time - please look out for this in your child's book bag.

Class Topics

This year we have restructured our projects (Interdisciplinary Learning- IDL) in order to ensure that the learning is relevant to our learners and that the correct knowledge and skills are being taught ensuring progression. We aim to ensure that all of our learners are valuable members of their community and that they have the right skills to make progress in their future learning and lives. This term we are developing finance and business skills through enterprise activities and projects. Some classes will be creating businesses and producing items to be sold, for a profit, at the School Christmas Fair on Thursday 6 December. Some children will be organising events, maintaining a budget and ensuring that all needs are catered for. It will certainly be an exciting and busy term! For more information please look at your child's class blog on the website.

SHMU Radio - Speak Out

P6 have been working with staff from SHMU Radio to design a radio programme that will be aired on their radio station - SHMU FM. The focus is on developing Listening & Talking Skills, team work and confidence. We will let you know when the programme will be aired - it is all very exciting!

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

Date	Event
6 November	P1 and P1/2 First Class Photographs for Evening Express
8 November	AM P4 class to Hazlehead to plant bulbs
9 November	P5 Assembly - Remembrance Day
15 November	Spotty Day for Children in Need - dress in spots for a suggested donation of £1
16 November	Inservice Day 2 SCHOOL CLOSED
22 November	Primary Schools Rotary Quiz 3pm at Hazlehead Primary School - all welcome to come along support our team.
30 November	P2/3 Assembly
6 December	School Christmas Fair 6-8pm
9 December	Senior Choir performing at CLIC Sergeant Concert & EE Christmas Carol Concert
12 December	Christmas Concerts - AM and PM
13 December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch
14 December	P6 & P7 Christmas Party
17 December	P2s & P3s Christmas Party
18 December	Nursery & P1s Christmas Party
19 December	P4s & P5s Christmas Party
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
8 February	P4/5 Assembly
11 February	HOLIDAY School Closed
12 February	Inservice Day 3 SCHOOL CLOSED
13 February	Inservice Day 4 SCHOOL CLOSED
7 March	WORLD BOOK DAY - more information to follow
8 March	P4 Assembly
29 March	P3 Easter Assembly
29 March	Term 3 Ends
15 April	School Term 4 Begins
19 April	Good Friday - School Closed
03 May	P6 Assembly
17 May	P2 Assembly
20 May	P7 Residential Trip to Ardeonaig (20 -24 May)
31 May	P1/2 Assembly
5 June	Nursery Sports Day
6 June	Sports Day P1-7
14 June	P1 Assembly
4 July	P7 Leavers' Assembly
5 July	Term 4 Ends