

November 2020

Newsletter 3

2020/21



Fernielea Features

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@FernieleaSchool

Fernielea School

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Update Regarding Measures to Stay Safe

Thank you so much to our parents and carers who have supported us over the last few months to get the children back to school safely. You have adhered to many of the rules asked of you and made it much easier to implement the guidelines as they change regularly.

Many of you are wearing face coverings at drop off and pick up – I would urge those who are not wearing (except for those who are exempt) to wear a face covering as requested by the Scottish Government.

There has been significant crowding around the gates – especially gate 3 which the children of P2/3 and P3 enter. Parents have been asked repeatedly to distance themselves – the children learn from the adults – we need them to see the adults distancing so they too will distance when required.

P7 have created signs to remind parents to distance at all times. These will be attached to the fence as reminders.

We will be continuing with outdoor learning all through the winter, as it is the most wonderful way for children to engage with learning – everyone always feels better after a brisk walk or spell outside. Please ensure that your child is coming to school warmly dressed and with a change of clothes in their bag – having them in a carrier bag inside their bag helps as the dirty clothes can be placed in the carrier bag so as to keep the inside of their school bags clean.

We do have waterproofs here and wellies but not enough for every child – if you don't have clothing suitable for your child let us know and we will see if we have some in your child's size that they can borrow. A number of older children are turning up to school without a jacket. Please ensure your child has a jacket with them as weather can change quickly. We saw that with the flurries of snow this week then the sun was out!

PE will be outdoors unless there is inclement weather – this is still the recommendation of the Scottish Government in keeping your child safe.

Staffing

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss Jones who joined us full time after the October holiday.

We also have some exciting news regarding more Fernielea babies. Mrs Amato, Mrs Stephen and Miss Blakemore are all expecting babies early next year and we are in the process of recruiting teachers to replace them in their roles when they go on maternity leave. More information will be shared when the recruitment process is complete.

Road Safety

There was a near miss outside the school on Stronsay Place beside Gate 4 (P4, P4/5, P6 and P6) recently where a child ran across the road in front of a car. All children have been reminded in assembly of the dangers of running across the road.

HAPPY SAFE ACHIEVING

Reminder to all Parents

Parents are not permitted on school grounds except for Nursery & P1 parents at drop off and pick up times only or by prior arrangement by the school.

If your child forgets something – do not bring it in as you will not be allowed access to the school. Whatever your child has forgotten they will be fine. We always feed children and there's plenty water and clothing in school. The only exception to this is vital medication (phone school first).



Please keep the gate area clear and do not crowd around it as this adds to the lack of visibility. Children are reminded to stop at the kerb and wait until it is clear. Children should dismount their bike or scooter and push it across the road.

A number of parents are parking in the Gate 2 entrance (old car park) to pick up nursery children. DO NOT PARK here as this is unsafe and it is clearly marked with yellow lines to keep the children safe.

Finally – the yellow zig zag lines in front of the school are not to be parked on or even stopped on to drop off children. There are designated drop off points in the local church car parks – please park here or park a small distance from school and walk.

Christmas

Our main aim this year is to ensure that the magic of Christmas is not lost. We will still be doing most of the things that we usually do except of course the Christmas performance for parents and local senior citizens. This year each class will be launching Christmas podcasts in the days leading up to the holidays. They are all busy creating and researching and we hope to entertain you all the way up to Christmas.

A few dates for your diary (with more to come):

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 10th December

Christmas Lunch – Thursday 10th December

End of Term – Friday 18th December

Christmas Podcast Launch dates:

P7	Thursday 3 rd Dec
P6/7	Friday 4 th Dec
P6	Monday 7 th Dec
P5	Tuesday 8 th Dec
P4/5	Wednesday 9 th Dec
P4	Thursday 10 th Dec
P3	Friday 11 th Dec
P2/3	Monday 14 th Dec
P2	Tuesday 15 th Dec
P1W	Wednesday 16 th Dec
P1D	Thursday 17 th Dec



Reminder to all Parents

All adults must wear a face covering or mask at pick up and drop off times.

All adults must adhere to

2m distancing at all times

at the gates – especially at the end of the day.



Christmas Panto

Every year we have M & M productions into school for a panto but this year, as this is not possible, we have been gifted access to the Aberdeen Arts Centre Panto – Aladdin – for free! Every class will have a Christmassy session watching the Panto with their classmates with some treats which will be kindly provided by the Parent Council. Children can wear party clothes to school that day.

Class dates are as follows:

Friday 11 th December	Nursery classes
Monday 14 th December	P1D, P1W and P5
Tuesday 15 th December	P2, P2/3 & P3
Wednesday 16 th December	P6, P6/7, P7
Thursday 17 th December	P4 & P4/5

Santa

Every year we are very lucky to have a visit from Santa for our nursery and P1 classes. Covid has not stopped this much-loved tradition – Santa will definitely be seen around the school but in a slightly different and Covid-safe way! Keep your eyes peeled for signs of Santa!



HAPPY SAFE ACHIEVING

Gifts

Every year, families are very generous towards staff and pop in gifts for the staff which is very thoughtful. This year we would like to suggest that instead of this, families donate to a local food bank instead. We are aware that lots of our families are finding this period of time very challenging financially and we'd prefer that the money was spent on yourselves or put towards a worthy cause. Aberdeen food drops can be found in Tesco Woodend, CFINE at 2-4 Poynerook Road, Aberdeen or at Kings Community Church.



Christmas Cards

As we are a green flag ECO School, this seems to be the perfect opportunity to review the exchanging of Christmas cards. This year we are asking that children do not take Christmas cards into school except perhaps a card for the whole class. This will cut down on paper waste and also ensure that we are keeping ourselves as safe as possible. As such, there will be no postbox in school this year.

Parents' Evening

This year we tried something new to ensure that each family got the opportunity to speak to their child's teacher. We used an online booking system and online meetings with a varying degree of success. We have sent out a survey for you to complete to help us evaluate the system and to feedback to the company that supplies the system to ensure that improvements are made for next Parents' Evening.

Please complete the survey by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.gle/2i1Gfor8eNQF2e9W8>

Only 16 responses have been recorded so far. Please take a few minutes to complete it. Thank you.



Intergenerational Project

We have always maintained a fantastic relationship with Summerhill Care Home and it was disappointing when we thought we couldn't continue with the project. As with everything at the moment, there's always talk of what you can't do, so we had to think of a different way to maintain the special relationship. So, we asked the residents to create short videos introducing themselves to the children and we had 10 responses which delighted the children. Each class got a new Summerhill Friend to communicate with and send stories, poems, videos and gifts. Classes have delighted their Summerhill friends with lots of lovely pictures, stories and poems which have brightened their days in these difficult times. P3 made some beautiful flowers for their Summerhill Friend who is blind so she can feel them and hear them as she touches them.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 20 th November	Inservice Day – School closed to pupils
Thursday 10 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – no money donations
Thursday 10 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 th December	End of Term 2
Tuesday 5 th January	Term 3 starts
Monday 15 th February	Mid Term Holiday – school closed to all
Tuesday 16 th February	Inservice Day 3 – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 17 th February	Inservice Day 4 – school closed to pupils
Friday 26 th March	End of Term 3

HAPPY SAFE ACHIEVING