

September 2021

Newsletter 1

2021/22



Fernielea Features

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@FernieleaSchool

Fernielea School

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Head Teacher: Mrs Lisa Walker



Autumn is coming!

We are definitely seeing signs of Autumn approaching and the children have been on autumn walks looking for the changing colours of the trees. With this in mind, can all children please wear a jacket to school. Even if the day starts out well, the weather is very changeable at times.

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

Children have been and will continue to engage in outdoor learning which means they are spending extended periods of time learning outside. P1/2 were conducting a senses walk earlier this week, and P5-7 are also having taster sessions of rugby with the Aberdeen Wanderers. Look out for a free Saturday Session coming up soon!

Restrictions Update

Thank you all for being so supportive in wearing face coverings when picking up and dropping off. Restrictions are still in place for the safety of your children and our staff. We look forward to the easing of restrictions in the future which will only come if we continue to minimise risks for community transmission. Some of the restrictions applied to schools may seem strange or even a bit contradictory at times but please be assured that every mitigation is in place with safety in mind.

Remember to encourage your child to take a water bottle to school every day to ensure they are hydrated – especially if the weather is warmer. As a health promoting school, water bottles for drinking in school should only contain water and never juice or fizzy drinks.

Staffing

We would like to welcome Mrs Ioannou (pronounced Yo-an-oo) who is now teaching P5A. We also welcome Miss Scott, a support worker in the nursery, Miss Walker, an EYP in the nursery and Miss Black who is our new Senior Early Years Practitioner. Miss Laing is acting up as a Senior Early Years Practitioner in the nursery until a permanent appointment can be secured. Mrs Youngson has also joined us in the office as our new School Support Assistant. We had exciting news from Miss McKenzie on the birth of her daughter, Ellie. She is adorable - another Fernielea baby to add to our growing family!

Primary 1 First Class Photographs

We will, again, be participating in the Evening Express and Press and Journal First Class photos. Thank you for ensuring your children in P1 and P1/2 were smartly dressed in their uniforms for the photographs last Friday. We are not photographers but between us we managed to get some lovely pictures which will appear in the local newspapers very soon.

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).





Road Safety

It has come to our attention that some parents are behaving very dangerously and stopping their cars in the area leading into the P6, P6/7 and P2 entrances (Gate 2) on Stronsay Drive. This is very dangerous and could result in a child or a parent being knocked down and seriously hurt. All cars that stop in this area will be reported to the police/community wardens.

P4 Swimming

We are delighted to be one of the first schools to take part in the re-launch of Primary 4 swimming. Our children are delighted to be going to Tullos Pool on Wednesdays.

Uni-Cycle – Uniform Recycling

We have uniform items available for families who need a helping hand. Just let us know and we will happily organise items for collection. If you have any uniform to donate, please hand it in, washed and clean in a bag, to a PSA at the gate.

Reporting Absences

If your child is absent for any reason, you have a responsibility to report it to the school. Please can you do this by calling the school office on 01224 318533 from 8.30am onwards. Ideally, calls should be made before 9.30am.

P1-P7 Parents - DO NOT call the school mobile that staff use to call you, as this is not monitored and your message will not be received. This phone is for outgoing calls only.

All absences are logged as unauthorised unless a legitimate reason is given to the school office. Please do not pass messages to staff at the gates as often, due to how busy the staff are, messages are not passed on to the office. Holidays in term time are always unauthorised. Holidays must always be taken in the ample amount of holidays that children get throughout the year. If you choose to take your child out of school for holidays, or for any other unauthorised reason, no work will be provided.

For your child to achieve their full potential, they must be at school for, at the very least, 95% of the time. Anything less than this and they are going to fall behind. Absences are carefully monitored, as are late arrivals, and if lateness and absence rates get to a certain level then attendance procedures will be commenced in line with Aberdeen City Council Policy.



Childsmile

This year, pupils from Nursery to P4 will be participating in the Childsmile Programme which focuses on the dental health of pupils. Look out for the information letter heading your way if your child is in Nursery to P4.

Annual Updates

You will soon be issued with a paper copy of the information we hold about your child(ren) which includes emergency contacts and medical information. Please ensure that this is returned asap and that the information on it is correct. That includes email addresses as many people don't receive vital information due to their email address being out of date.

A V4 form will also be issued. This is a form that allows us to take your child on school trips and out in the local community – without it your child will not be able to go which would be a shame as they would miss out on vital learning experiences.

HAPPY SAFE ACHIEVING

Children Isolating

As in many Aberdeen schools, there have been cases of Covid in Fernielea School and community. Please be assured that all measures are being taken to keep children and staff safe when at school. We have a very comprehensive risk assessment that covers all aspects of school life and can be found on our school website under the Covid tab.

Learning for children who are isolating can be accessed via Google Classroom – a learning grid will be available. If you require a temporary loan of a laptop to access this, please contact the school.

The Scottish Government have also created learning resources to support children's learning during Covid, which can be accessed via these links:

N→ P1 <https://www.thinglink.com/card/1404012129832402945>

P2→ P7 <https://www.e-sgoil.com/p2-7/>

Jewellery in PE Reminder – ****Yearly Reminder****

We would like to remind all parents of the current rules regarding jewellery in PE. Health and safety is extremely important during every P.E. lesson. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that foreseeable risks with the wearing of jewellery are managed. Aberdeen City Council P.E. Network, Chief Officer and the Association for P.E have agreed a code of practice to ensure consistency across Aberdeen City Schools.

Main Points ·

- All jewellery is to be removed by the individual and if this is not possible, the child should not wear any to school.
- Earrings that cannot be removed must be taped over during the class lesson and this will be done by the individual child.
- Where an item of jewellery cannot be removed, an alternative activity should be considered. If this cannot be done, then the child will not be able to participate in that element of the lesson.
- Hidden body piercings should also be removed. All guidance will be adhered to with immediate effect.
- False nails are not acceptable for school/PE.



We also ask that the only earrings to be worn in school are studs as any dangling or hoop-type earrings can be caught and cause serious injury.

Our School Handbook, which is available on the school website states:

“For children's safety we do not encourage pupils to wear any jewellery at school. If children have their ears pierced, we permit the wearing of studs. However, ALL jewellery MUST be removed before Physical Education for Health and Safety reasons. If it cannot be removed by the child, it must be taped up.”

Dates for your Diary

Friday 24th September	Holiday – School Closed to all P1-P7 pupils and 9-3 Nursery children but open to AM/PM nursery pupils
Monday 27th September	Holiday – School Closed to all P1-P7 pupils and 9-3 Nursery children but open to AM/PM nursery pupils
Wednesday 6th October	P1-P7 Parent Consultations – via video link
Friday 8th October	End of Term 1
Monday 25th October	Term 2 Starts
Friday 19th November	Inservice Day – school closed to all pupils and all nursery children

HAPPY SAFE ACHIEVING