

June 2023

Newsletter

2022/23



Fernielea Features

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@FernieleaSchool

Fernielea School

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Head Teacher: Mrs Lisa Walker



End of the Year!

Well that's the year almost finished and what a year! There have been many highlights including Culture Week, Community Week and restarting visits to Summerhill care home to name a few. We have welcomed babies and new staff and lots of new pupils.

We are also saying goodbye to a number of staff at the end of this term.

Firstly, Mrs Boyd will be going on maternity leave and will be welcoming Baby Boyd in the summer. We can't wait to meet the new member of the Fernielea family.

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Duthie who, after 22 years at Fernielea, is going to take a well earned break to spend time with her growing family and continue her valuable work within her church community. We are sad to see her go but wish her a very relaxed and enjoyable retirement.

Miss Dyker is also moving on to pastures new over summer, returning home to work in Highland Council schools. She has been at Fernielea for 5 years. We wish her all the best and look forward to hearing about her new adventures.

Mrs Akter in the ELC, who is an Early Learning Support worker, will also be moving on to a permanent post and we thank her for all of her hard work in our nursery.

Mrs Menezes, who has been the PSA supporting in P1 and P6 this year will also be leaving us at the end of term. A huge thank you for working with us this year and good luck in your next post.

After the holidays we will be welcoming Mr McNallay to Primary 7, Miss Reid to P1/2, Miss Walker to P4/5 and Mrs Qureshi who will be teaching 1 day in both P6 and P4/5.

As with all new staff we extend a warm welcome to the Fernielea Community.



Parking

We had some concerned neighbours raising concerns regarding inconsiderate parking around the school, especially before and after the recent school discos. We work hard to ensure that we have good relationships with our neighbours and issues like this put that in jeopardy. Please be considerate and make sure that you are not parking on verges, in openings for driveways, on yellow lines or blocking school gates.

School Uniform

At Fernielea we take pride in our school uniform but recently there have been children who do not wear uniform to school which is disappointing. We have a new uniform recycling station at the front which is being supported by the parent council. More information to follow. In the meantime, please help yourself to any of the uniform items in the school foyer. We will always support families who don't have access to uniform.

HAPPY SAFE ACHIEVING

Please be reminded that clothing should be an appropriate length, this includes tops and PE kits.

The most important thing you can do is name your child's clothing – far too many jumpers of the same size and brand end up being lost/in lost property due to having no name on the item. NAME EVERYTHING!

If you require help buying uniform you can apply for a clothing grant here: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/school-life/apply-free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grant>

If your child is starting school in August and you think you may be entitled to a uniform grant, you should apply as soon now.

Our School Uniform is available from 2 suppliers.

The main, local supplier is WCS, which is situated at 687 George Street. Our green school sweatshirts and yellow nursery sweatshirts can be ordered by calling Brian at WCS – 01224 641071, by popping into the shop, or visiting www.thedugoutaberdeen.com. Polo shirts with badges are also available.

The other supplier is ethical uniform supplier Koolskools, a company that supplies Fairtrade cotton school uniforms. The Fairtrade uniform is only available online and will be delivered directly to your home. Information about the ethical uniform can be found [here](#).

Free School Meals

All children in Primary 1 – 5 currently receive free school meals under Universal Entitlement. However, if you are on a low income, you may be entitled to receive free school meal vouchers during school holiday periods. To receive this benefit, you must make an application to receive free school meals. All children in Primary 6 and 7 must pay for school lunches unless a successful application is made for free school meals due to low income.

Applications must be made online at: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/school-life/apply-free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grant>

If your child is moving into Primary 1 in August, you should wait until they have started school before applying for free school meals.

Culture Week



Culture Week was so successful we have compiled a Google site which highlights the learning that took place over the week. Please take the time to look at the site here. Please do not share this as it is for families only to view. <https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/fernielea-school-culture-week-/home> One aspect that the children focused on was celebrating diversity and welcoming our differences. There has been a noticeable increase in inappropriate language being used in the school community and some of it is in relation to some of the protected characteristics which are:

age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

We would welcome families talking about this to increase awareness of what is acceptable and what is not. If any child is found to have used inappropriate

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language in relation to the protected characteristics, parents will be informed and it will be recorded. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Community

This term we celebrated our community and every class turned a negative aspect in our community into a positive aspect. We tackled dog mess, litter, recycling, sensory issues, support for the elderly, regenerating the playground and loneliness. The children really did well sharing their learning as part of Open Day and it was fabulous to hear so many learning conversations between parents and children. Thank you for supporting the day.

The Big Sing

Our P4 classes joined all of the other P4 classes from across the city and sang a range of songs in the Duthie Park promoting friendship, caring for others and unity. We were so proud of our children. Thank you to the parents who supported this trip and those who came along to the park to support the singers.

Sports Day House Cup

Congratulations to Crathes for winning the Sports Day House cup. Scores were as follows:



CRATHES	2497
Fraser	2439
Edinburgh	2374
Stirling	2118

We have to wait until the final assembly to find out which house has won the overall house shield. It is very close at the moment!

School Attendance and Groupcall Message Costs

Every time your child is absent from school and we have not heard from you we have to send a Groupcall message via SMS to the main parent contact to ask why the child is absent. The cost per text for this is 6p and this comes from the school's budget, which then has an impact on the budget available for spending on resources for children. Please take the time to inform us of your child's absence by phone, email or by Groupcall Xpressions every morning that your child is absent to help reduce costs for the school.

Parent Reminder

We would like to remind parents that under no circumstances should they approach other children in relation to issues arising in or out of school. A letter was sent to all parents on Monday as a reminder.

Car Park

We have had a number of near misses in our car park due to parents walking through the car park with their child. Pedestrians are not permitted into the

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car park. Please use the designated pedestrian pathway. Only those with blue badges and prior permission from the school can use the car park. Please do not use it when dropping off or collecting children at any time of day. Those using the car park will receive a message reminding them not to use the car park.

Thank You to Our Parent Council

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our Parent Council for their support this year. They have supported us in so many ways and volunteered their time tirelessly. It makes such a difference to the school community. We would like to say a huge thank you to the P7 parents who are moving on with their children – some have been on the Parent Council for many years and have organised and overseen so many events over that time. Thank you so much for your dedication.

P7 Chromebooks

All P7s were given a Chromebook to use in school and at home. Can all Chromebooks be returned to school by next week – Wednesday at the latest please. All chargers must be returned with the device otherwise a small charge may be incurred to replace it. Please return the Chromebook cover too as these are to be used by the next P7 cohort.

Parent Survey



We would like to invite you to complete this [survey](#) regarding your family's experience at Fernielea. This helps us to improve the school year on year. Last year we only had 31 responses out of over 200 families. It should only take 4 minutes to complete and would be very helpful to us, as it helps shape our School Improvement Priorities.

Please take the time to share your thoughts and experiences with us. The survey can be accessed here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/E8ZxWsygh3>

Dates for Your Diary	
Tuesday 27 th June	ELC-9-3 sports day, 2.00pm
Wednesday 28 th June	ELC-PM sports day, 3.30pm
Thursday 6 th July	P7 Leavers' Assembly 1.30pm
Friday 7 th July	End of Term 4 - P1 – P7 and ELC-9-3
Wednesday 19 th July – Friday 28 th July	ELC-AM and ELC-PM closed for holidays
Monday 31 st July	Nursery re-opens for ELC-AM and ELC-PM classes only
Thursday 17 th August	Last day of term for ELC-AM and ELC-PM
Monday 21 st August	Inservice Day 1
Tuesday 22 nd August	Term 1 2023/24 starts

Information regarding School Term dates can be found here:

[HOLIDAY DATES](#)

You can select the academic years from the selections on the page.

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