

September 2023

Newsletter

2023/24



# Ferneielea Features

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@FerneieleaSchool

Ferneielea School

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Head Teacher: Mrs Lisa Walker



## Welcome Back!

Welcome back everyone and a huge Fernielea welcome to our new pupils, their families and new staff. Our new P1 pupils have settled in well and they have been enjoying their full days in school developing their independence and exploring their new environment inside and outside the school. We have been busy developing new routines and setting expectations of classes and it is always a pleasure to see how proud of the school and how welcoming our pupils are.

## Reminder to all Parents

If your child forgets something – do not bring it in as your child will manage without it. It will allow your child to develop their problem solving skills and we would never see a child go without. We have lots of coats, waterproofs, and equipment which can be borrowed. Cups will be provided if they forget their water bottle and a healthy snack can be provided if they forget their snack. Lunch will always be provided if they forget their packed lunch.

Don't worry – whatever your child has forgotten they will be fine.

The **only** exception to this is vital medication (phone school first).

## Staffing update

We have said a Fernielea Farewell to Miss Steel who is on secondment at Mile End ASN provision to learn more about supporting children, and we look forward to welcoming her back next August. We have also said farewell to Mrs Bruce, our wonderful PSA, who is returning to her nursing career. She will be sorely missed as she has been part of our community for many years, having been a parent here and a key member of our Parent Council for years before starting as a PSA with us. Mrs Trybus, our School Support Assistant (office) also moved on over the summer holidays and we wish her well. We have welcomed new staff to Fernielea this session; Mr McNally who is teaching P7M this year; Miss Reid who is teaching P2/1 and Miss Walker who is teaching P5/4. We have also welcomed Mrs Chitturi and Mrs Spinelli who are supporting pupils as PSAs.

We would also like to celebrate the arrival of Baby Blair Boyd - we congratulate Mrs Boyd and her husband on his safe arrival. He was in for a visit us this week and was warmly welcomed into the Fernielea family.

## Lost Property

We have a mountain of lost property. We will give parents the opportunity to view it on the morning of Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September in the front foyer 9-9.30am. You will be astounded by the number of items in the lost property already! Please, please, please NAME EVERYTHING. It makes it so much easier to return items when we have classes of 30 with the same size green jumper on – it is almost impossible to know who owns each item. Anything unclaimed will be washed and added to the uniform recycling in the front reception area or recycled in the clothing bank.

## Jewellery in PE Reminder – \*\*Yearly Reminder\*\*

We would like to remind all parents of the current rules regarding jewellery in P.E.

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

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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/P.E.

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."

#### Seesaw App

Seesaw is a great platform to support parents and children and celebrate their learning. If you are not yet connected or are having difficulties please let us know and we will do our best to support.

#### Adventure Aberdeen – P4

This year, the Hazlehead ASG partnership have funded all P4 pupils to have 3 sessions with Adventure Aberdeen over the course of the year, with a focus on developing specific skills i.e., communication, teamwork, problem solving, creativity, etc. The children who have already attended have sandboarded, lit fires, built shelters, found creatures in rock pools and loved every minute of it!



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### Parents' Evening

This term, Parent's Evening will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. However, appointments will only be available over two nights for certain classes, most classes will only offer appointments on one evening – details below. Further information will be sent out soon.

P1	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
P2/1	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
P2	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October
P3	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
P3/2	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
P4	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October & Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
P5	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
P5/4	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
P6	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October & Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
P7H	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
P7M	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October

### Place2Be

Our school counsellor, Alex, has become a well known face in our school since starting with us in June. He has supported a number of children through drop in sessions and he is working directly with some children. If you see Alex in and around the school be sure to introduce yourself to him. If you would like more information about the service please let us know.

A Parenting Smart website is available for all parents to access to find out about ways to support your child at home.

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

### Parent Survey

In June, we asked parents to support us in our Improvement journey by completing a survey about our school. Thank you to the 76 families who responded. This is around a third of our families who have given their views on the school.

The survey highlighted that the majority of families felt that the staff were professional and approachable, that they felt that their child was progressing well and that Seesaw supports them in celebrating their child's learning.

There was concern over some behaviour of pupils in the playground and in school but pupils were generally seen as well behaved and polite. Parents felt that they are given opportunities to be part of the school community with some parents requesting to volunteer. Almost all parents felt that the school has a good reputation in the community. More extra-curricular activities and out of school opportunities would improve children's opportunities – with a request for more opportunities for younger pupils.

The average rating for the school was 4.22 out of 5.

This information is used to inform our improvement priorities and these will be shared with you in the next few weeks.

Thank you again for supporting us by responding to the questionnaire.

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## School Term Dates 2023/2024

### 21 August 2023 to 13 October 2023

- In-service day - Monday 21 August 2023
- Term starts - Tuesday 22 August 2023
- September holiday - Friday 22 September to Monday 25 September 2023
- Term ends - Friday 13 October 2023
- October holiday - Monday 16 October to Friday 27 October 2023

### Term 2

### 30 October 2023 to 21 December 2023

- Term starts - Monday 30 October 2023
- In-service day - Friday 17 November 2023
- Term ends - Thursday 21 December 2023
- Christmas holiday - Friday 22 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024

### Term 3

### 8 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

- Term starts - Monday 8 January 2024
- Mid term holiday - Monday 12 February 2024
- In-service day - Tuesday 13 February 2024
- In-service day - Wednesday 14 February 2024
- Term ends - Friday 29 March 2024
- Spring holiday - Monday 1 April to Friday 12 April 2024

### Term 4

### 15 April 2024 to 5 July 2024

- Term starts - Monday 15 April 2024
- May Day holiday - Monday 6 May 2024
- In-service day - Tuesday 7 May 2024
- Term ends - Friday 5 July 2024

Dates for Your Diary	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	P1 First Class Photograph
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	September holiday, school closed to ELC9-3 and P1-P7
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	September holiday, school closed to ELC9-3 and P1-P7
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	P2, P4 and P6 Parents' Evening
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	P1-P7 (except P2) Parents' Evening
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Council School Disco
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	End of Term 1 (ELC9-3 and P1-P7)
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Start of Term 2 (ELC9-3 and P1-P7)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Inservice Day 2 – school and ELC closed to pupils
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	End of Term 2 (ELC9-3 and P1-P7)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	End of Term 2 (ELC-AM and ELC-PM)
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Start of Term 3 – All ELC and P1-P7

Information regarding School Term dates can be found here:

[HOLIDAY DATES](#)

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

ELC holiday dates for the 46 week model can be found here:

[ELC 46 week model Calendar 2023-24 | Aberdeen City Council](#)

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