



*Applegrove  
is a  
"can-do"  
School*

**Newsletter**  
**Weather Warning/School Closures**  
**4<sup>th</sup> February 2016**  
**CIRCULATION: FAMILY**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/Applegrove/>

### **Money Raised**

Since the last newsletter, there have been various fund raising events within school. The Christmas Church Service raised £94.87 and was sent to the Archie Foundation.

The P3 Nativity supported by P6/7 choir raised £128.59 for Diabetes Scotland.

P1 Enterprise activities raised £72.15 on their open afternoon. They plan to use this money to sponsor a polar bear at Highland Wildlife Park.

### **PTA News**

We now have a final figure for the Christmas Fair. This event raised £1005.63. Although this is less than last year this is a wonderful amount as we had to have fewer stalls due to the space available at the church hall.

Thank you to everyone who donated chocolate, raffle prizes, and bottles and to those who supported us on the day by buying it all back!

There is a plan to hold a disco in February if we can get enough helpers. Later in the year there will be a quiz night. More details to follow.

### **Building Developments**

You may have seen that new windows are being fitted round school. This has started at the stage and will progress round school. Unfortunately our hall is still not back in use. The Parent Council has been informed that the new date would allow us to use the hall after Easter.

During this time we continue to hold assemblies and have lunches in the PE Hall.

We have had a visit from “Ivor Goodsite” (our site manager in disguise) who helps us to focus on safety around building sites.

Ivor also has a display board and has been posting messages to wish children (and staff!) a happy birthday.



This has been very useful as children tend to check this notice board daily. In this way, any safety message the site manager needs to share, can be delivered via Ivor.

### **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

We are nearly halfway through the school year, (P7 only has 19 weeks left in Primary School!) and so we want to update you on our SIP. This is well on track. Our teaching of Other World Religions as part of our RME programme is showing significant pupil interest and understanding of other people’s beliefs. Buddhism is the last religion children will study as part of a 3 year cycle.

By learning about these religions across all classes, our discussions with children show they have a greater confidence in seeing where other religions match or differ from Christianity. We are in the beginning stages of registering with Unicef as a Rights Respecting School.

French from P1 continues to be extremely popular. It is lovely to have so many children greet you on rainy morning with a cheery Bonjour in lovely French accents.

Children have taken part in Global Citizenship workshops with a range of ages to consider actions we can take to improve our environment for the future.

### **Rag Bag**

Our latest Rag Bag bin uplift of 275kg raised £110. We will have a full collection and bin uplift on Wednesday 24th February. If you have any clothes, shoes or belts you want to clear out, please put these in a plastic bag and either put in the clothing bin near the front door or send in for us to store. Unfortunately the company who collects from us will no longer pick up curtains or material.

## **Daily Mile**

This development has been extremely popular and Applegrove is being seen as a leader within Moray, A video of our children running and expressing their views has been passed on to Active Schools to use on their website to promote the initiative. You can also view this video on our school website. An important part of the Daily Mile has been to teach children how to be risk aware in their environment. On icy days teachers, who also take part, identify where it is safe to go. This is important so that we can let the children out to play at break and lunch and they can identify safe areas for themselves. Mrs Sircus, our PE teacher has been able to measure a remarkable improvement in fitness levels across the school.

## **Ski Trip**

Some of our P6 & 7 stayed at Abernethy Outdoor Centre last month as part of their skiing experience. We were lucky to get a week with plenty of snow and no wind. Instructors informed us that this group stood out as the most well-mannered they have seen. Lots of schools visit Abernethy so this is great news.



## **Non-skiers**

Our Non skiers had a busy week too, developing new skills and teaching younger children. This showed their leadership abilities and has been a starting point for working on skills for life and work.

## **Apple Awards**

Last Friday we held our second Apple Award Assembly of the year. So far we have awarded for the values of kindness and motivation. Our next award will focus on honesty. A new development of children nominating as well as adults has been introduced.

## **Parents' Evenings**

Teachers are currently working on writing the annual reports. These will be a collation of the information you have been receiving all year in the learning logs. At the end of this month you will be sent a letter about Parents Evenings on 21st and 22nd March.

## **Bikeshed**

Unfortunately due to vandalism and the recent storms our bike shed is in a very poor state! We have been delighted to hear that school has been successful in attaining a grant. Along with money Moray Council will provide as landlord, we will manage to get a new bikeshed. The plan is to change the style. Replacing panels would be never ending considering it seems to be a magnet for older children in the evenings.

## **Assemblies**

Due to our hall being out of action some class assemblies for this term have been postponed. Although two older classes performed assemblies at the Town Hall last term, you will understand this is very difficult for younger classes without plenty of opportunities to rehearse. This would require many of you to be available to walk the children to the Town Hall daily and we experience that there are simply not enough of you available to do this.

As we are a “Can-do” school, we want these assemblies to go ahead so the children can share their learning with you. All assemblies due to take place this term will now be presented on Tuesdays after Easter. Classes will receive individual letters to keep you up to date.

All those classes due to present assemblies next term will go ahead on the dates on the annual calendar you received.

Thank you for bearing with us during this time.

## **Moray Music Festival**

This takes place in the week beginning 14 March. Children from P4-7 have volunteered to take part in a variety of speech events. Practices will start soon with teachers giving up lunch breaks to help those who entered. We will provide information for parents who wish to watch the competitions, all of which will take place in Elgin.

## **Dates**

12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February - Long weekend. School closed.

21/22 March - Parents' Evenings

23<sup>rd</sup> March - Church Service

24<sup>th</sup> March - Last day of term.

11<sup>th</sup> April – Term starts