



*Applegrove  
is a  
"can-do"  
School*

## **Newsletter**

Weather Warning/School Closures  
0870 0549999 Pin Number 031110  
September 2014  
**CIRCULATION: FAMILY**

### **Staff Absences**

This term has had more staff absences than we have ever known in the past. Thank you to everyone for bearing with us while we have tried to cover every class every day. For some parents this has meant waiting some time for an appointment with Mrs Meehan due to her teaching commitments. Routines are kept in place for classes even if their usual teacher is not present.

The children in the relevant classes have been an excellent example of being resourceful and resilient. After the holidays we hope things will improve.

### **Letter**

For any of our new families, letters are sent home to the oldest child in the family, unless the information is age specific. It is important that you are aware of this as some older children are failing to hand over letters, which has a knock on effect on younger classes. Some of these letters require parents' signatures and so are not placed on the website.

### **PTA/Parent Council**

The AGM for these parent representative groups was held on 22 September. It was noted that parents have supported the PTA committee to raise an amount of money which has allowed a significant number of trips and events to be booked for the children. In the last year a variety of items have been brought for all classes. These include cameras and dictaphones. The PTA is looking for new members to boost their numbers either at committee meetings or (especially) to help with events, for example assembly teas, Christmas Fair, organising disco tickets. Without the support of the PTA, these events would not go ahead, or would only be possible by passing on the costs to all parents.

The Parent Council is also looking for new members. They meet during the school day. With the recent Sustainable Education Review it is important Applegrove is represented.

If you would like more details about either of these committees, please ask at the school office. They each meet approximately six times a year.

Names of members on each of these committees are on our website.

### **Bikeability**

Miss Mackay and Miss Roy are about to run Bikeability 1 training sessions for P3 children to ensure that everyone can

a) ride a bike, b) ride safely and with confidence. We would like to thank the parents who already help P5 children on Fridays for Bikeability 2. We are now on the lookout for any willing helpers to support P3 next week. There is no need to be an expert as we can provide training. The sessions run from 9.00 – 10.30. P3 will go out for the whole week so they get intensive practice.

### **Behaviour Letters**

These have been in place for some years now, however this year we have decided to make better use of them. It is important to us that we recognise that all children can have an "off day". When this has been the case we have not contacted parents. This can cause problems when further instances of poor behaviour occur and parents are then notified. Most parents tell us that they would prefer to know sooner of any issues. As a result we will be sending home letters earlier in an attempt to nip poor behaviour in the bud.

### **Office Hours**

For our new parents of P1 and new enrolments across the school, please be aware that the school office is only staffed between 8.30 am and 3.30 pm. If you wish to report your child absent for the day please phone the message line (number noted above). You can also use this number if you wish to leave any other message. This can then be picked up by office staff from 8.30 and passed to the relevant member of staff.

## **Visitors**

Last week we had unexpected visitors to school. You may have heard about this! A family of swans decided to wander across our playground just before interval. As we like to make sure that the children get out for fresh air, we took the decision to let the children out for interval. It is very pleasing to report how well they all coped with playing in a different area to give the swans space.

## **Building Work**

You may have seen in the Forres Gazette during the holidays that Applegrove is in line to have building work carried out. We are now in a position to confirm that this is the case. Moray schools are audited regularly to check on the condition of the buildings, both inside and out. Applegrove has now reached the top of the list and requires work to be done to improve heating and the toilets. This work is being done completely separate from the Sustainable Education Review which is being carried out across Moray. The work which will be done at Applegrove is purely to ensure the condition of the building is appropriate to building requirements. This work will begin July 2015.

## **Water bottles**

We encourage the children to bring water bottles to school. We do however request that these are clear and named. There is a rising number of children bringing juice to school and we request that this stops.

## **First Aid**

This term we have had a significant number of incidents requiring First Aid checks to be carried out. These have mostly been as a result of rough play. We make it very clear to all children that rough play always leads to someone being hurt. The school playground contract is based on being Safe, Fair and Friendly. Those children spotted playing this way are given Safe, Fair, Friendly cards to swap for house points. You will understand the difference between First Aid training and having a full medical background. We have only one First Aider and the Health Centre is now further away from school. If we have any doubt about your child following a fall in the playground, we will send for you.

### **Dress Up Day**

Primary 4FM will perform a Harvest Assembly for the school next week and will ask all the other classes to help them with a fundraising event they want to take part in. They plan to hold a dressing up day on the last of term, Friday 10 October. Any child who takes part will not wear uniform that day and bring in 50p to go towards Farm Africa. 4FM would like everyone to dress as a farmer!

### **Senior Citizens' Harvest Concert and Teas**

This will be held on 1st October for those guests you asked us to invite. Numbers were rather slow to start but are now coming in. Wednesday 24th is the cut off point for names.

### **Pupil Profiles**

These will be sent home next week with your appointment for Parents' Evening. These profiles have changed from last year and are now more closely linked to the Curriculum for Excellence levels and our school aims. P1 will receive profiles at Early level. P1-4 at First level and P5-7 at Second level. You will see that we have made a focus of our three Rs - Respect, Resourcefulness and Resilience. As these profiles are a form of self evaluation for the children, teachers have encouraged them to write without support. If there are spelling errors, the teachers are aware of this.

### **Dates**

Parents' Evenings - 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October

Last day of term - 10<sup>th</sup> October

Dress Up Day - 10<sup>th</sup> October

Term Starts - 27<sup>th</sup> October

Flu Vaccine P1-7 - 4<sup>th</sup> November

In-Service - School closed to pupils: - 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November

School Photographer - 21st November for individual and family photos.

Child Smile (Dental Hygiene) - 25th, 26th, 27th November for P1-5