



*Applegrove
is a
"can-do"
School*

Newsletter

Weather Warning/School Closures
0870 0549999 Pin Number 031110
June 2015

CIRCULATION: FAMILY

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

Staffing

Following recent interviews, Miss Mackay was appointed to our staff permanently. She will take P1. After the holidays we will welcome Miss Clegg to P3 and Miss Noble to P4/5. We wish Mrs McGregor, Mrs Matheson and Mrs Tulloch all the best for the future.

Sports

We were fortunate with the weather this year and both sets of sports were held on the planned days. P4-7 just managed to squeeze in their sports before the rain came on. Many thanks to the PTA for organising teas and for providing crisps and juice for everyone. Congratulations to Bruce who won the P4-7 House trophy this year.

Sports Results

Hockey

In miserable weather the P6/7 Hockey Team fought hard to win the Kinloss Quasar Hockey Festival last week. Congratulations to them for their Resilience.

Kwik-cricket

Both P6 teams performed very well in Grant Park recently and Team A won through to the Moray finals in Fochabers. Although they won two games, they were unfortunate in losing another, by only 7 runs. They played very well to win the play-off match in their group.

Tennis

Applegrove entered teams each from P4 and P5 into the Moray Primary Schools' tennis competition last week.

Congratulations to both teams, their positive behaviour and sportsmanship was commented on by staff from the other schools. We are very proud.

Grateful thanks go to the parents who accompanied the children to these events. Without them, Applegrove would not have been able to take part.

Playground

Last week we were visited by Stephen Mozier, Development Officer for 'Grounds for Learning'. He met with the School Council and was very impressed by the children's ideas and their understanding of what is and is not possible in the school grounds. He also met with all staff, parents and two classes, along with making observations in the playgrounds over lunch. His next step is to collate all his observations and the children's responses. He will get back to us in time for the new term starting with suggestions for the way forward.

New Themes

After the holiday we will all make links to the building work taking place. As the next stage of our development through Curriculum for Excellence we will look at "Contexts for Learning" rather than themes. This means some studies may take a whole term as before, while others may only last a week or two. You may be able to refer your child to their new theme during the holiday and perhaps bring something in to link with this in August.

1K 1M - Julia Donaldson Books
2E 2F - Family/Relationships
3H 3C - Marvellous Me
4F/L 4/5N 5N - Still to be decided
6W 6/7M 7H - Food
Wee Room - Farming

Summer Fair

This was a great success on Saturday, thanks to everyone who donated baking and bottles and who came and spent money on the day. Thank you to so many of you who sold and bought ducks again this year. We sold 1281 ducks raising a huge amount for PTA funds. The ducks made their way (slowly) down the river and we managed to catch them all before they disappeared under the bridge and headed to Findhorn Bay!

The first duck home, winning £150 was bought by Amanda Fraser (sold by Sean Fraser 2F). Second place, winning £100 was bought by Marlena Wrobel (sold by Victor Stockzowski 2E) and 3rd place winning £50 was bought by Cenedra Robb 6W. The very last duck home won £25 and was bought by Ellie McLeod. Ben Ross won the PINZ voucher by selling an amazing 216 ducks.

The total amount raised on the day is estimated at £1800. This makes a great difference to the resources, theatre groups and trips we can offer the children.

Classes

Due to many changes in housing across Moray, we have enrolled a significant number of new children over the last two weeks. We are only now in a position to notify you of classes for August. These have been organised following Moray Council's policy on the structure of primary classes. Classes take into account the number of reading groups and which children have been in a composite (two different age groups) this year. If a class is made up of two age groups, only 25 children can be placed in that class. Otherwise P4-7 classes can rise to 33. When using reading groups, we have to add up the number of children to keep within these numbers. It is not the case for example, that a P2 child in P2/3 class is a good reader while the P3 is poorer. This is simply a case of making sure that children have the best possible support by making fewer groups in a class. In this way, the teacher can spend more time with each group. As reading is a skill on which so many other areas of the curriculum rely, it is important to take the opportunity to provide all the support we can.

Classes cannot be arranged around friendship groups. Every child has had some time in their new classroom today and has a flier which states their teacher's name, room number and which entry door they will use in August.

The classes are now on their fourth or fifth version due to all the recent enrolments. Mrs Meehan does not tell anyone, including teachers, until she feels there will be no more changes to keep anxiety levels down for all. This year however, there are no guarantees that there will be no changes before the end of term if families keep enrolling in the middle of the school at the same rate as the last few weeks.

Rag Bag

There will be a Rag Bag collection on 26th June next week. If you have any items of clothing, shoes, curtains or material you want to clear out, please send them to school.

Building Work

Since receiving your newsletter from the Council, the order of rooms to be worked on has changed. This has been taken into account when telling children which doors they will use to enter the building next term.

The P1-3 playground which originally was going to be available in parts, will now be sectioned off. P2 and P3 will be able to access their doors from the gate on Sanquhar Road at the huts end of the playground. The Council will send out another newsletter soon.

School Meals

In August the building work will focus on the kitchen and dining hall. This means that there will be no hot meals available until the kitchen is back in use. This could take the whole of the first term. Free cold meals will be available for all P1-3 children. For all those P4-7 children who do not want to bring their own packed lunch, only a cold option will be available. We will let you know when hot meals begin again.

Getting it Right for Every Child

This is referred to as GIRFEC in all Council information. You should have received a leaflet in school bag mail on Monday explaining what the wellbeing indicators are. These are coloured sections of a circle under the headings Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible and Included. These are shortened to SHANARRI. After the holidays we will begin working on these with the children starting with Healthy and Active.

Dates

1st July - Church

We are planning to leave school at 9.40 am to be at church for 10.00 am. If you are able to help walk the children to the church please contact the school office.

2nd July - Last day of term (closing at 2.30 pm for all pupils) You are welcome to join us in the middle playground to see off P7 from 2.15pm.

14 August Due to building work we are unable to open during the holidays for uniform to be collected

17 August School opens for staff

18 August School opens for children

9 October Last day of term

26 October School opens for children

It only leaves it for me to thank you all for your continued support throughout the year and wish pupils, staff and parents a very happy and enjoyable holiday.