



*Applegrove
is a
"can-do"
School*

Newsletter

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

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

Welcome

We take great pleasure in welcoming all children back to school and congratulate them on how quickly they have settled into their new classes. We also welcome all new families. We have 45 new P1 pupils and 5 new children in other classes across the school. We also welcome Mrs Hunter to 7H, Miss Noble to 4/5N and Miss Clegg to 3C. You will see in the website we have posted a comment to show how impressed we are with the way all children have made the necessary changes round the building works.

Flower Boxes

A very big thank you to the parents and pupils who helped water the window boxes during the holidays. The flowers look wonderful this year and provide the grey school building with much needed colour.

Dates

You should have received a calendar for the year, showing class assemblies and Christmas parties etc. Sending out this information at the start of the school year runs the risk of dates changing, but where at all possible, these dates will remain. At the moment the church dates are only a guess until a meeting can be arranged with Rev. Prentice.

The calendar also notes the dates on which we plan to hold the achievement assemblies. These are only for children as we would not have room for all parents. We encourage the children to bring in any trophies, certificates, medals or badges they have gained since the last assembly and to share their good news. Photos are taken and a display made at the back of the Dining Hall. Please feel free to come in and see this once our hall is back in use. When the certificates are replaced after the next assembly, the children keep these in their achievements folders in class. This allows them to build up a bank of achievements which helps with the profiles they learn to write in P6 and P7.

Parents' Room

It is lovely to see so many children walking or cycling to school. We realise that some parents have to wait from 2.30pm until 3.15pm to collect an older child so anyone waiting during this time can bring their younger children indoors. The Parents' Room is at the end of the Infant corridor. Access is via the door where P1 go out. This is also your exit at 3.15pm. This room will be available up to the October holidays. We will review the situation then depending on the building work.

Bikeability

Primary 5 will receive cycle safety lessons this term and we are looking for any parents who could support Mrs McRitchie on Friday mornings. You do not have to have any qualifications and your child does not have to be in P5. Please let the school office know if you can help.

Credit Union

This is a way of encouraging children to learn to save money. Volunteers visit Applegrove every Wednesday to collect the children's savings. Our new P5 pupils are learning to help the adults with Credit Union. So far they have been learning the importance of confidentiality. This is another step in helping our children to develop their financial education.

Administration of Free School Meals and Clothing Grant Applications

Clothing grants and Free School Meals are available to the children of parents/carers who are in receipt of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, who **do not** receive a Working Tax Credit and who have an annual income (assessed by the Inland Revenue) of below £16,010
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income below the threshold
- for receipt of maximum Working Tax Credit, currently set by the UK Government at £6,420.
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Forms are available from the office.

Senior Citizen Teas

In October we invite Senior Citizens to join us for Afternoon Tea and to be entertained by our pupils. If you have any relatives, neighbours or friends you wish us to invite, please write the name of the guest and their address in your child's homework jotter next week. Numbers are limited by space as we have to use the PE Hall this year, so invitations are made on a first come first served basis. We make a new list each year so please give us names again, even if your relative came last year. Names provided after 7th September can't be invited.

Flower Show

Forres Flower Show will take place on **Saturday 12 September** and we hope to give as many children as possible the chance to enter. This is an ideal way for our school to support the local community. If anyone can help us to take exhibits to the Town Hall on the afternoon of Friday 11 September, we would be very grateful. Please phone the school office to let us know of your availability. Once the show closes at 4 pm on Saturday we will bring back the items to display in school. Anyone who wants entries back should collect them at the Town Hall after the presentations at 4 pm.

PTA/Parent Council AGM

The AGM for both the PTA and Parent Council will be held jointly on Monday 21st September at 7pm in school. Further details will follow.

The role of the Parent Council is to aid parents to support their children with their learning. This can include arranging information evenings or communicating with Moray Council on behalf of the school, for example, at the time of the sustainable education review. The PTA has always been very successful in raising funds for the school. This has allowed the children to go on trips and see theatre companies which school would be unable to afford. If you are interested in being involved with either the Parent Council or the PTA please join us at the AGM.

French

From August 2015 all Scottish schools will teach a foreign language to P1 pupils. Applegrove piloted this in Moray last year and children's enthusiasm was high. Lessons will continue this year for all children from P1-5. P6 will soon choose whether they want to learn French or German. P7 French or German lessons will continue as last year. Thank you to all the parents who completed the questionnaire before the holidays. It was lovely to see how confident many children are about sharing what they have learned at home.

Earrings

While we discourage children from wearing earrings during PE lessons, we have so far allowed them to tape over the earrings if they are unable to remove them. Please provide tape from home. This stops the possibility of having an earring ripped from someone's ear but does not protect a child from having the post of the earring pushed into their neck. We ask that you remind your child to leave earrings at home on PE days or that they are able to at least remove the earrings for a PE lesson themselves. It is very pleasing to see most children have returned to school with appropriate PE kit. Please can you check that this is all named so it does not end up in lost property.

Tuck Shop

School has a tuck shop run by P6 pupils. This sells fruit and fruit juice. We offer very reasonable prices for a healthy snack with fruit at 20p and juice at 30p.

Website

We continue to update our school website regularly with school news and information. Each class will also have their own page on the site as another way of sharing pupils learning with parents. Latest newsletters and calendar dates can also be accessed on the site. We now have a new, more user friendly domain address which is www.applegrove.moray.sch.uk. You can also find the website by googling the Applegrove blog or through the Moray Council site.

Homework

Homework will begin from Monday 31 August. We appreciate your help in covering the Homework jotters. Each teacher has spent time helping the children to practise how the homework should be set out so that stress levels for you at home should be kept to a minimum! Each class will be given a homework sheet in which the teacher will note the various activities to be completed during the week. Each class will send home a learning log. The log will detail what the class has been learning during the previous week. Please read the logs and sign them.

Feedback from parents showed that using learning logs gave them a much greater understanding of weekly learning, and how the children were progressing, rather than waiting for an end of year report. Teachers greatly appreciate comments made by parents in these logs, as a way to further support the children.

Outdoor Learning

We will take the children out as often as we can to involve them in outdoor education. We can provide waterproof jackets and trousers, however the jackets are only thin and so won't keep the children warm. It would be helpful if you can ensure that your child brings a jacket to school every day. You may have seen that we have provided a variety of natural materials for the children to play with to expand their imagination. In previous years the PTA provided a lot of money to buy balls and frisbees which the children promptly threw on the roof! You will receive a letter soon with more information.

School Office

Office hours are 8.30am to 3.30pm. Phone calls outwith this time are not likely to be answered as no teaching staff are in the office area at the end of the school day. Please use the pin line (number noted above) to leave messages about absence or if you wish to ask a question. Mrs Meehan will then be able to hear your message and get back to you. Please remember that it is Parents' responsibility to contact school and inform if their child will be absent.

Moray Council have asked us to advise you that calls to this number will be charged a 2p per minute service charge plus your call providers access charge.

School Meals

Just a reminder that all children in P1-3 are entitled to a free school meal and do not need tickets. It is vital that all P4-7 children have a ticket every day so that parents are not double-billed. This term while it is only cold meals which are available, the sandwiches choices every day are egg, tuna, cheese or ham.

Special Day

On Wednesday 9th September Queen Elizabeth II will become the longest reigning British Monarch. This is clearly a special day and there will be lots in the News. We would like to celebrate this day by the children wearing red, white and blue instead of school uniform. More details will follow.

Dates

Senior Citizens Teas - 30 September

Parents' Evening - 5th & 6th October

End of Term 9th October

Start of Term - 26th October

November In-Service days - 16 & 17 November