



*Applegrove
is a
"can-do"
School*

Newsletter

Weather Warning/School Closures

June 2016

CIRCULATION: FAMILY

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

Staffing

Following recent interviews, Miss Wilson was appointed to our staff permanently. She will join us in August from Balfon Primary School, Stirling. After the holidays we will also welcome Miss Campbell. In August Miss Clegg and Miss Noble will be leaving us for posts in Aberdeen. We wish them all the very best and especially to Miss Clegg who is getting married in August.

Daily Mile

It was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and little brothers and sisters (sometimes in buggies), taking part in the "Moray Mile" in April. The children very much enjoyed having their adult trying to keep up with them. We believe that many of you enjoyed the challenge too and so we would like to extend this. It is not always possible for teachers to know the exact time they will take the class out every day of the week but many will be able to mark on the homework a day when it would be possible to join the class that week. If you are able to join at that time, you would be very welcome. This does not have to be a mile but rather it is a burst of 15 minutes of activity outdoors to build stamina and to clear heads for learning. We will perhaps ask the children to rename this after the holidays so we have a better name than daily mile.

Kwik-cricket

Unfortunately the date chosen for the P6 kwik-cricket competition clashed with our Potted Sports and so Applegrove only entered one team this year. This team performed very well, and won through to the Moray finals in Buckie. They won five games and were unfortunate to lose in the final.

Potted Sports

This was again a very successful and enjoyable morning. It is always noted how well the children support one another across all the age groups. This year the House Trophy for Potted Sports was won by Douglas.

Christian Aid

You may have seen the photo in the Forres Gazette of P5's giant worm made with coins. They raised £201.26

PTA News

Last night's discos were a huge success. The Daily Mile has certainly helped to increase stamina if last night's dancing is anything to go by.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Summer Fair tomorrow. Due to the scaffolding we will have many of the stalls in the middle playground where there is more room. There are still ducks available for the race which will start at 1pm. You can buy them at the Fair.

Juice Magazine

The next edition of our school magazine, produced by children for children, will be on sale at the Summer Fair.

Rag Bag

There will be a Rag Bag collection on Wednesday 15th June next week. If you have any items of clothing or shoes, you want to clear out, please send them to school.

Traditional Sports

We hope this weather will continue and let us hold our sports on the planned days. P1-3 will hold their sports day on Monday from 1.30 – 3pm and P4 – 7 are due to have theirs on Tuesday from 1.30 – 3.15pm. You are very welcome to join these events. The PTA will be selling tea in the middle playground. You may also meet up with some of the P7 enterprise groups who will be selling a variety of cakes in an attempt to raise money for their "End of Primary School Trip". Bruce won the House trophy last year. Who will be successful this year? Please remember there are parents' races on both days so you will either need your trainers or an excuse for the afternoon!

John Muir Award

As part of the John Muir Award, the P6 pupils have been learning about the need to conserve our local environment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank a Mum and a former pupil; Mrs Pointon and Luke Creaney. They have accompanied P6 every week to Sanquhar Woods, regardless of the weather. Having this support has been vital in allowing all the lessons to go ahead and the children have gained a great deal from

their experience. As part of their work, P6 carried out a litter audit and are concerned about the amount of litter that they found. They have decided to run a campaign 'Slam Dunk the Junk' to encourage everyone to do their bit. You will be hearing from them soon.

Rights Respecting School Award

You may be aware that we are working towards gaining a Rights Respecting School status awarded by Unicef. All schools in Moray are participating. In school we will be working on and referring to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. These rights will underpin our current school values and will be used as a point of reference for all decisions made in school. You will hear more about this next session.

Classes

For a variety of reasons we have enrolled a significant number of new children over the last few weeks. Many are at the same stage and this has made a big difference to how it may be possible to organise classes for August. There will be eleven classes instead of the twelve we have this year as there is a small Primary 1 year group. For your information, classes are 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 P3 child in P3/4 class is a good reader while the P4 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 will have some time in their new classroom before the holidays and will receive a flier which states their teacher's name, room number and which entry door they will use in August. This is based on what we know about the building work at the moment and could of course change

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 at the older end of the school at the same rate as the last few weeks.

Building Work

The Council will send out another newsletter soon to give you an update of where the development is now. Please note that due to the building work, we are unable to open during the holidays for uniform to be collected

Dates

29th June - 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.

30th June - 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. Due to scaffolding there is less room for the children make a circle round P7, so we would be grateful if you can stand back at the raised bed until we get the classes outdoors.

14th August School opens for staff. Uniform can be collected today if already ordered.

15th August School opens for children

7 October Last day of term

24 October School opens for children

