



*Applegrove  
is a  
"can-do"  
School*

## Newsletter

Weather Warning/School Closures

August 2016

**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 30 new P1 pupils and 2 new children in other classes across the school. We welcome back Mrs Norman who returns after the birth of her daughter. We also welcome Miss Campbell to 4/5C and Miss Wilson to 3W.

### **Flower Boxes**

Thank you to the children, families and Mrs Galbraith who watered the flower barrels during the summer holidays. Despite what seemed a poor summer, there were many days the flowers were in need of water. With all the scaffolding around the building we are grateful for gardening clubs efforts to keep some colour round the school. Gardening club will begin again for P5-7 on Wednesday 31st August.

### **Dates**

You will receive a calendar for the year next week, 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. 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.

### **Building Update**

During the holidays considerable work was carried out to continue rewiring and providing new heating across the school. Render has been carried out in half of the building. This is no mean feat considering the rain during the holidays. All of the new windows are not in place. Work in the PE Hall is nearly finished, ahead of time. P4-7 girls' toilets are nearly finished. Curtains have been fitted on the stage. The Wee Room has been completely refitted. You should have received the Council's newsletter which will give you further information.

You may also have seen our fabulous 'new' bike shed. Local company Peter Marshall from Fogwatt has used the original footprint of the bike shed to rebuild a new structure. The Perspex panels are now strengthened by a grid. We still advise that any child using the bike shed should chain up their bike as the shed has to be open at 2.30 and again at 3.15pm.

### **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.

Active Schools are running training on 29 August in Forres House (9-4pm) for any parent who wishes to take part.

The Cycle Trainer Assistants' (CTA) award is nationally recognised and will cover everything a potential deliverer will need to know before delivering sessions to children, including on the road. The course is practical and participants will be expected to take part in cycling activities as part of the training.

Bike and helmets are required

### **Homework**

Homework will begin from Monday 29 August. We appreciate your help in covering the Homework jotters. Each teacher will spend 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.

### **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. To begin with they will learn 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 £16,105
- 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**

At the end of September we will 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. Numbers are limited by space, 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 5th September can't be invited.

### **Flower Show**

Forres Flower Show will take place on **Saturday 10 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 19 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 4pm.

### **PTA/Parent Council AGM**

The AGM for both the PTA and Parent Council will be held jointly on Monday 19th 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 rezoning 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. The PTA has recently helped to pay for the bike shed to match a grant. If you are interested in being involved with either the Parent Council or the PTA please join us at the AGM.

### **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.

### **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](http://www.applegrove.moray.sch.uk). You can also find the website by googling the Applegrove website or through the Moray Council site.

### **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.

### **Outdoor Learning**

We will take the children out as often as we can to allow them to participate in outdoor learning experiences. 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.



### **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 before 9am and inform if their child will be absent. Moray Council have asked us to advise you that calls to this number will be charged at 2p per minute service charge plus your call providers access charge. We still have the office in a temporary site but hope to move back during the first three weeks. Further details will follow.

### **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.

### **Dates**

Senior Citizens Teas - 28 September  
Parents' Evenings – 3rd & 4th October  
End of Term 7th October  
Start of Term - 24th October  
November In-Service days - 14 & 15 November