



*Applegrove
is a
"can-do"
School*

Newsletter

Weather Warning/School Closures

June 2017

CIRCULATION: FAMILY

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

Staffing

We have quite a few changes taking place in August. At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Maclennan who has been seconded to acting HT at Burghead Primary for 23 months. Miss Mackay and Miss Wilson have both been successful in getting jobs back in their home areas. Miss Campbell is leaving and we wish her well in August when her baby is due. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all well as they move on and thank them for the work they have done at Applegrove. Mrs Maclennan has been here for a total of 17 years and has taught some of our parents too.

We welcome another Miss Mackay in August who will teach 2/3M. Another post has been advertised and will be interviewed before the end of term. The school is of a size where we can have a Principal Teacher too. Following interviews yesterday this post has been filled. We will be able to release the name once we have received the appropriate references.

New 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 again next year. 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 visited their new classroom on Wednesday and you should have received a flier which states their teacher's name, room number and which entry door they will use in August.

Due to the constantly changing numbers there are no guarantees that there will be no changes before the end of term especially if families keep enrolling at the older end of the school at the same rate as the last few weeks.

HMI Report

We have been notified that a letter will be made available for you regarding the inspection visit on 20th June. This will be published on the Education Scotland website at www.education.gov.uk .

Sports

Both sports days went ahead successfully this week. Congratulations to Wallace who won the P4-7 House trophy. All the children particularly enjoyed the mums' and dads' races. Thank you to all parents, big brothers, aunts, uncles and grandparents who took part with the same enthusiasm as the children. By the way, they did notice which dads cheated in the tattie and spoon race on Monday!

Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone who has bought ducks. The Fair will take place next Friday (23rd) at 5pm at the Mosset Burn. The children are encouraged to wear pyjamas or onesies that day and to bring a donation of a bottle for the bottle stall if you can provide one.

End of term arrangements

It is pleasing that there is not quite so much lost property in storage at the moment but there is still a lot of PE kit, sweatshirts and jackets that you are bound to want back. In the last three days of term we will set this out in the Dining Hall from 8.30 for you to check if you think some of the items belong to your child.

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.

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

15th August School opens for children (P4 & P5 will need PE Kit)

6 October Last day of term

23 October School opens for children

