



*Applegrove
is a
"can-do"
School*

Newsletter
Weather Warning/School Closures
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April 2018
CIRCULATION: FAMILY

Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs McIntosh (and Mr!) on the birth of their first baby, a girl.

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs McRitchie and wish a warm Applegrove welcome to Mrs Wilson who is teaching 2C. This means, for the first time since August, we are at full staffing in the classrooms. Unfortunately, due to Mrs McIntosh's maternity post having no applicants, we are currently now two Support for Learning teachers short.

Church

Thank you to the parents who helped walk the children to church today. For those of you who were able to join us, you will know that we had a lovely service and the children were a credit to the school. Mr Prentice remarked on how pleased he always is to have Applegrove visiting church. The collection raised £49.35 for Highland Hospice.

Parents' Evenings

These were yet again well attended (97.8%). Thank you to some of our P7's who ran the Crèche very effectively and to some of our Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors who shared what we have been working on. We greatly appreciate receiving the questionnaires that many of you completed to give us comments on our new Continuous Progress Reports. These will be collated and we will be able to give you feedback in the next newsletter.

Success

This has been another busy term and those of you who follow us on Twitter will know the various activities our children have been involved in. This is a quick summary.

Cross country

Our teams took part in the Forres Schools event at the beginning of the month and the North of Scotland Cross Country Competition the following week. Both events were run in soggy weather but the children showed great resilience. We were delighted that the second event resulted in the girl's team coming third and the boy's team second. At the Moray inter-school cross country event yesterday the team won three top ten medals. Thank you to Mrs Newlands and Paul Rogan (Active Schools) for giving up their lunch times to organise the club.

Library

One of our P7 teams has won through to the Forres finals of the Inter-School Library Quiz. The next round will be at the end of April.

Badminton

At a recent Out of the Hat competition three children won medals. Thank you for giving up your Sunday to compete on behalf of the school.

Sumdog

As you know we actively encourage the use of Sumdog to help the children practice their Numeracy skills and build up speed and confidence. At various points in the year there are competitions across Moray or the whole of Scotland. Recently there was a Moray competition and 3E came top of all the schools who took part. 3E were daily winners on the Wednesday of that week with 7H winning on the Thursday. One of our P6 pupils took second place in the whole contest. Thank you to all parents and carers who supported children taking part at home. In total there were 158,000 numeracy questions answered across Moray.

Choir

Our P6/7 choir sang at the recent Youth Entertains concert in the Town Hall. Applegrove was the only local school to take part. It was also lovely to see our pupils taking part on behalf of Brownies, Tae-Kwon-Do and Forres Pipe Band.

Breakfast Club

Having worked on the school's Fruit Tracker to encourage children to bring fruit for snack, the Pupil Health Committee has now moved on to looking at breakfast. We have so far carried out 'Hands Up' surveys in class and after three sets of figures we know that 84.6% of children do have breakfast before coming to school on a regular basis. From the first to the third survey we noticed a small improvement. The Health Committee has suggested setting up a breakfast club to try to help make sure children have something to eat before starting school. P4-7 have discussed what it would take to be able to set up a breakfast club including menus, times, costs and adult helpers. The Parent Council is fully behind this pupil initiative and will support school next term to set this up.

Batteries

Applegrove pupils seem to have cornered the market in used batteries throughout Forres. The collection container has been filled three times. We will continue to collect these after the holidays. Once the Eco Committee has counted all of the batteries collected we will let you know the total. We are looking for collection "stories" to share with the company who organises this recycling.

TOPS to WOW

This term we have changed the name of our Thursday TOPS groups to WOW. This stands for World of Work and helps support the children to consider different jobs and the skills needed for work. If you are able to support us in providing information for the children about your job please let the class teacher know.

Potted Sports

Although this event will not be held until the 15th May, there is a lot of organisation needed straight after the holidays. For any parents who are not familiar with this event, this is a mixed sports morning for all pupils. The children take part in their house teams with each group being made up of P1 to P7 children. For this to go ahead we need helpers who can count team scores at an event as we have more activities than the number of teachers. Please let the school office know if you can help or if you need more information.

PTA Tombola

Thank you to everyone who attended this event last Friday. There was a lovely atmosphere, lots of prizes and a great attendance.

School Hours

You may have seen in the local press that some schools have been consulting on changing their times. This is an opportunity to confirm that Applegrove's hours will remain 9am to 3.15pm. From August all schools in Moray will see P1-3 have the same length of day as P4-7. This means next term will be the last time our P1-3 children finish school at 2.30pm

Diary Dates

School Closed - 4th & 7th May

Potted Sports 15th May - 9.15 am (if we get enough helpers)

In-service days - 17th & 18th May. **School closed for pupils**

P1 - 3 Sports - 11th June (back up day Thursday 14th)

P4 - 7 Sports - 12th June (back up day Monday 18th)

Last day of term - 29th June at 2.30pm for all.

