



*Applegrove  
is a  
"can-do"  
School*

## Newsletter

Weather Warning/School Closures

June 2018

CIRCULATION: FAMILY

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

Info Line: 08700549999 PIN 031110

### **Staffing**

After an unsettled year with many staffing difficulties, August is looking to be more positive. We have only a few changes taking place. At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Burgess who has been working in the school office at Applegrove for over 28 years! Mrs Lyall will be moving to a teaching post at Gordonstoun Junior School. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them both well as they move on and thank them for all the work they have done at Applegrove.

We welcome Mrs Millar in August as a Support for Learning teacher. Mrs McIntosh's Maternity post for Support for Learning will be re-advertised in August.

### **New Classes**

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 yesterday and you should have received a flier which states their teacher's name, room number and which entry door they will use in August.

### **HMI Report**

As you know we had inspectors in school last week. At this time we do not know when they plan to publish their report. We hope that this might be available before the end of term.

### **Summer Fair**

Thank you to everyone who has bought ducks or donated a bottle. The Fair will take place tomorrow (Friday 15<sup>th</sup>) at 5pm at the Mosset Burn. Let's hope for a return to good weather.

## **Sports**

Both sports days went ahead successfully this week. Congratulations to Stuart 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, P1-3 were impressed by how many dads managed to balance a bean bag on their head!

## **Open Afternoons**

These proved popular this year and we saw a very positive turnout. Thank you for your support if you were able to attend. Many of you completed a survey for us, in fact we received 103 feedback forms. This highlighted to us that 35 of you found these sessions to be helpful and 60 of you thought they were very helpful. Some of you said you would like chairs to be provided in the classrooms. Unfortunately we would not be able to do this unless we limited the number of parents who were allowed to attend due to the available space in the classrooms. Answers have shown us that some of you would particularly like to see a maths lesson, art based activities, computer lessons or how teachers organise outdoor learning. We will look to arranging this next school year.

## **Continuous Progress Reports**

Children are still working on the self-evaluation parts of these in some classes. These will all be sent home to you before the end of term, as each class is ready.

## **End of term arrangements**

Unfortunately we are gathering a large amount of Lost Property again. Much of this is due to the change in weather and lots of jackets being left in the playground. As there are no names on them, we have no way of giving them back. In the last two weeks of term we will set this out at the front door for you to check if you think some of the items belong to your child.

## **Dates**

**28<sup>th</sup> June** – Church. We are planning to leave school at 9.40am 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.

**29<sup>th</sup> 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.

**13<sup>th</sup> August** School opens for staff. Uniform can be collected today if already ordered.

**14<sup>th</sup> August** School opens for children (Remember PE Kit).

**5 October** Last day of term.

**22 October** School opens for children.