



*Applegrove
is a
"can-do"
School*

Newsletter

Weather Warning/School Closures

September 2018

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 36 new P1 pupils and 3 new children in other classes across the school.

The staffing situation is much more positive than this time last year. Mrs Burgess, who retired in June, will be replaced soon. We thank Miss Taylor-Stanley who is currently running the office on her own.

Mrs Clark, our acting Depute Head Teacher, was successful in gaining a permanent DHT post in Inverness just before the holidays. Congratulations to Mrs Arlene Hunter who has been appointed as acting DHT until December.

Flower Boxes

Thank you to the children and families from Gardening Club who watered the flower barrels and boxes during the summer holidays. With such a beautiful summer, there were many days the flowers were in need of water and the team did well to keep them flowering for so long.

Dates

You should have received a calendar for the year with this 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.

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 in the Dining Hall. 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 write in P6 and P7 in preparation for Forres Academy

Bikeability

Primary 5 have started their cycle safety lessons this term and we are looking for any parents who could support Mrs Newlands 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. P3 Bikeability 1 runs for a week, 9.10 -10.15, beginning 17th September to give children the chance to build confidence riding a bike.

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 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.

Senior Citizen Teas

We have issued letters asking you to nominate any elderly people you know to join us for Afternoon Tea on the 26th September and to be entertained by our pupils. Invitations will be made on a first come first served basis.

Flower Show

Forres Flower Show took place on Saturday 8th and there were 182 entries from Applegrove Primary School, resulting in many first, second and third places in a variety of categories. This is an ideal way for our school to support the local community.

PTA/Parent Council AGM

The AGM for both the PTA and Parent Council will be held jointly on Monday 17th September at 7pm in school. 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. 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 which is already overflowing.

Tuck Shop

School has a tuck shop run by P6 pupils. This sells fruit and fruit juice. We offer a selection of healthy snacks, for example, grapes, bananas, apples, carrot sticks at 30p and juice at 40p.

Communication

We try to update our school website regularly with school news and information. Latest newsletters and calendar dates can also be accessed on the site. The address is www.applegrove.moray.sch.uk. You can also find the website by googling the Applegrove website or through the Moray Council site. We also have a Twitter feed @ApplegrovePS is proving to be very successful.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to everyone who attended this new development. We have received 72 parent questionnaires which have all been very positive about the opportunity to visit the classroom early in the year and hear the teacher's plans.

Letters

When we send letters to families they are given to the oldest child in school, unless the information relates only to one class. If there are tear-off slips it is vital that you reply, even if the answer is 'no' so we know you got the letter. Sometimes children forget to hand these over and it means they miss out on events that the rest of their class has permission to take part in.

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.

Administration of Free School Meals and Clothing Grant Application

This is no longer carried out by school staff. If you feel you may qualify please apply online at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55486.html. All P1-3 children automatically receive free school meals.

Moray School Bank

A Moray clothing bank has been established by a group of volunteers to offer new school uniform and warm winter clothing to children living in financial hardship across Moray.

They are accepting donations of new and 'as new' school uniform, warm winter items, and financial donations.

They accept referrals from schools and agencies working with children for children in need across Morays. Further information can be found at <https://www.morayschoolbank.org/>

School Meals

While 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 named ticket every day so that parents are not double-billed.

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. The school now has an answer machine so you can leave a message about absence or if you wish to ask a question. Please remember that it is parents' responsibility to contact school before 9am and inform if their child will be absent.

Inspection

The parent letter written by HMI following their visit to us in June has now gone live. You will find this on the Education Scotland website at <https://educaton.gov.scot/>

Dates

Senior Citizens' Teas – 26 September

Parents' Evenings – 1 & 2 October

End of Term – 5 October

Start of Term – 22 October

November In-Service days - 12 & 13 November