

FERRYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Newsletter 2016

Christmas Holiday

The Christmas Holiday starts tomorrow with the school closing at 12 pm. We hope everyone has a great holiday and we look forward to welcoming children back on Tuesday, 10th January 2017.

Staffing Changes

Welcome to Mrs Lisa Thomas who has joined us as a Pupil Support Assistant and Mrs Susan Thomson who is covering our P6/7 class while Miss Scott is absent. Congratulations to Miss Jane Turnbull who has been appointed as a permanent Early Years Practitioner. It's great to have you on our team.

Nativity

We are very proud of P1-P3 who gave magnificent performances of their nativity this year. A special 'well done' goes to the children in Primary 3 who led this year's performances. Thanks to all staff who worked so hard in helping the children to do their very best. Well done everyone !



Primary 1

We continue to hold a waiting list for our current Primary 1 class. Next August, P1 places at Ferryhill are strongly in demand from catchment pupils and we urge you to register your child for Primary 1 if you have not already done so.

Pantomime Visit

We enjoyed a very successful visit to the pantomime last week taking 330 children to Mother Goose at the Alhambra Theatre in Dunfermline. A huge thanks to all staff for their flexibility, commitment and care on the day to ensure the children would have a great time. Thanks again to the Parent Council for their hard work over recent months to raise money to subsidise the trip and make it accessible for all our children.

Nursery Building

We are delighted that a start date has now been scheduled for our new nursery building. Pre building works will start no later than 9th January. Pre-building preparation will include creating a new access to the site from Wester Drylaw Avenue across the playing field, most likely between the new orchard and the older woodland. Access to the playing field for curriculum activities and lunchtimes will be retained.

The contractors are responsible for engaging with local residents and an information sheet has been sent to all parents. Regular and emergency contact agreements are in place for school management to liaise with site management. An interesting range of activities with pupils has been agreed. The new nursery should be complete by the end of June next year.

Sickness Bugs

Children should not return to school until 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. Whilst a child may present as being well, we need to prevent the spread of further infection.

Nursery Nature Kindergarten

The City of Edinburgh Council is running a pilot project to offer some children from Ferryhill and Craigentenny Nursery Schools the opportunity of additional hours from January to June 2017. This will take place 5 days per week meaning that children will be in nursery from 8.30 am until 3.00 pm. This project will offer a nature kindergarten provision.

Some of our nursery children will attend Ferryhill nursery class in the morning. Accompanied by Mrs Corey, Early Years Officer, the children will be collected by minibus at the end of their morning session and travel to Lauriston Castle. They will have lunch and after getting into waterproof clothing, the children will be able to enjoy afternoons of structured play using the outdoor environment. Mrs Corey has recently taken part in training which enables her to lead outdoor learning. She will work alongside other council staff to provide high quality learning experiences for the children.

Wet weather

In very wet or windy weather, we open our door around 8.40 in the morning so children can come into the hall. This is the time when we have enough staff around to do this. In light rain we may send children outside at break times to get fresh air – please remember to send your child to school with suitable outdoor clothing for the winter ahead.

Choir and Samba Band

We have a fantastic school choir and a brilliant samba band. These groups take place at the end of the school day. Both groups have enjoyed huge success in the past and this year we are bringing them together in a fabulous performance at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh. More information coming soon !

Calendar Dates 2017

Please note the following dates for your calendar. We will do our very best to keep to these dates but circumstances beyond our control may require changes.

January

10th – school reopens after holiday
19th – P7 Young Scot photographs
24th – Parent Council Ceilidh

February

10th - school closes usual times for holiday
20th – school reopens after holiday

March

23rd and 24th – Parent Consultation Meetings
31st – school closes usual times for holiday

April

18th – school reopens after holiday
24th – Health Focus Week

May

1st – school closed - holiday
4th – school closed – In-Service
18th – Sports Day
22nd – school closed – holiday
31st – P4-P6 show

June

1st – P4-P6 show
16th – annual reports to parents
27th – P7 Quali Dance
28th – P7 Valedictory Service
30th – school closes 12 noon for holiday

The Scottish Cup Visit

Class photos from the day the Scottish Cup came to visit are available to view online:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/143397735.../albums/72157676961698126>