

## Exhibition of Children's Work

We will present an exhibition of children's work on the morning of **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**. Please come along and have a look around at a time that suits you between 9 am and 1 pm. Save the date !

## Golden Mile

Heard of the Daily Mile, now welcome the Golden Mile ! On Friday mornings at 10.00 am, starting on 12<sup>th</sup> October, P1-P7 will be doing two laps of the school grounds for their Daily Mile. To make this a Golden Mile we invite parents to join us at 10.00 am to accompany classes and then come into school for a hot or cold drink. If you'd like to participate, just come along at 10.00 am on the dates given below. Weather permitting, we'll try a Golden Mile on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October and the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November.

## Art – Protective Clothing

We are enjoying the expertise brought to school by our new art specialist teacher Ms A. Stahl. Some of Ms Stahl's art work will be fabulously messy. To protect children's school clothing we'd like to build up a store of protective clothing. Male adult shirts are perfect for this. If you have any old shirts you could donate, please send these into the school.

## Plea for Your Help

We are working hard to reinforce our Golden Rules and School Vision with all our children. We appreciate support from families with this.

## Golden Rules

- We are gentle
- We are kind and helpful
- We listen
- We are honest
- We work hard
- We look after property

## School Values

- Honesty
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Cooperation
- Pride

## Staffing

We started the year fully staffed. Our school has grown considerably and we now have 58 members of staff working with 460 children. There will be a small number of staff changes in the coming months.

## Sickness and Diarrhoea

After a stomach bug, health guidelines state that a child should not return to school until **48 hours after** the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. This is to prevent the spread of infection.

## Pupil Equity Funding

Last year's plans for Pupil Equity Funding have continued into this year. Outdoor education is now fully established and all classes should be undertaking at least one session of outdoor education a week.

This year we continue to use PEF to staff and resource our nurture room which supports small numbers of children. Our Pupil Support Officers continue the excellent work they've started in supporting children and families. We've also appointed an additional teacher and additional Pupil Support Assistants to help us in our drive to increase attainment in literacy, numeracy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

## Parking Around the School

We continue to receive complaints from neighbours about inconsiderate parking. Dangerous and illegal parking is also taking place. Police and traffic wardens are monitoring this. Dangerous parking puts our children at risk of harm. Don't do it !

## Road Safety

We all teach children to stop, look (both ways) and listen before crossing. Children say it but remember to check they're doing it when you're out and about.

## Reminders !

Please help us to enhance safety for children by remembering these important points:

- Children should not be in the forest area unsupervised
- Parents should not use the school car park
- Do not park on zig zag lines – it's illegal !
- Do not park in the area in front of the school gates – it blocks emergency services
- Please report to school office when entering our building – do not go directly to classrooms
- No dogs in the school playground

## Holidays in Term Time

Should you be planning a holiday in term time, please write to us to inform us of the date. You will receive a letter of acknowledgement stating that the holiday will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. However if you are able to provide evidence from an employer we will write to you to confirm an authorised absence.

## Forest Area

We've opened up our forest area to children over break and lunchtime. Children are thoroughly enjoying den-making and all the extra space that's available to them. We're doing some work though to emphasise that sticks aren't to be used as weapons.

## Primary 7 Leaving Events

Each year the staff work hard to give our Primary 7 children a great send off as they leave us for high school. We organise a P7 Leaver's Quali which is a celebratory evening held in school. There is no charge to the pupils for attending this event. However in recent years we've seen lots of money spent on limos, party dresses, kilts and dinner afterwards. The after party events, such as party buses, limos and restaurant meals have occasionally caused disagreements between parents and children.

Parents make their own decisions however, please consider whether costs have spiralled out of control. Please do not feel under pressure to spend lots of money preparing for this event. For the school event, children only need to dress smartly, as they would for any other party.

## Learning Through Play

In the early years we are putting an increased focus on learning through play. Play is central to how children learn, both in terms of cognitive skills and softer skills around relating to other people. Play and learning are linked together. When playing, children try out ideas and come to a better understanding of thoughts and concepts as they play; children cope with reality through using their imagination; and play is a means to practise new skills.

## Anti Bullying Policy

Our new Equalities and Anti-Bullying Policy is available on the school website together with a quick guide leaflet for parents. We also have new Behaviour Policy and Procedures documents available there too.

If you have any concerns about your child being unhappy in school, please contact the class teacher in the first instance. If this does not resolve the issue or concern, or if the matter is serious, please arrange an appointment with a member of the senior leadership team.

Bullying is defined as behaviour that is repeated and intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally. It is not children falling out or one-off incidents that staff deal with in school.

## Recent Highlights

P6 visited the Filmhouse and P7 visited the Scottish Parliament. Mrs Bannerman has been making apple crumble with P2 and P3. P4 and P5 have enjoyed their ukulele sessions. P5 are taking swimming lessons at Craigroyston High School. P1 are enjoying all the new resources we've purchased for learning through play. As well as school website and Facebook page, we now have a Twitter account: Ferryhill\_PS