

FERRYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher's April Newsletter 2019

Welcome Back !

We hope you all had a great holiday. It was good to welcome everyone back to school this week and I'm very pleased to return to Ferryhill following my secondment to Broughton Primary School. Thank you to Mrs Fraser, Acting Deputy Head, and Mrs Chapman, Acting Head Teacher, for leading and managing our school so well in my absence.

Tell Us What You Think



Look out for a survey asking one thing you'd like to see us do better at Ferryhill and one thing you think we do well. We appreciate positive feedback on what we're getting right and will report back to you as to how we will improve in this coming term. A similar exercise is being carried out with staff and pupils.

New – Weekly Newsletter

Look out for the new, shorter newsletter to be published each week on the school website. There will be news, information and a round-up of what's going on in the school. There will also be a focus around the classes to tell you about learning and teaching. The first weekly newsletter is coming soon.

Staffing Changes

There have been a number of changes to our staff team since January. We waved farewell to our Pupil Support Assistants Mr Hyslop and Mrs Mooney. We also said goodbye to our longest serving member of staff, Mrs Rona Hansen, one of our Early Years Practitioners. Thank you all for your work at Ferryhill.

Welcome to Mr Robertson our new, full time PE specialist and congratulations to Mrs Fareed and Mrs Krol who have been appointed as Early Years Practitioners for our nursery. Welcome also to Miss Khan who has joined us as an Early Years Practitioner. Other new staff will be joining us soon.

New – Improving Communication

We are looking at the use of email to send letters home. This is in response to the complaint that letters sometimes don't reach the family home or are often misplaced. More news on this soon.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council have been spending funds, all for the benefit of children in the school. Thank you to all parents for your support in helping to raise this money. Recently the Parent Council purchased the following:

- Contribution to Playground Painting - £1000
- 2 cellos - £400
- Folding goalposts - £350
- Contribution for nursery bikes - £600

Total Spend - £2350

Balance in Parent Council - £3600

Proposed Expenses

- £1260 for panto 2019 subsidy
- Wet Day Boxes
- Smaller Goalposts for P1-3 age group

Spotlight on Pupils – Your Child



If your child is achieving local or national success and you'd like to share the news, please let us know. We'd love to hear more.

Dancing Success !

Congratulations to Finn in Primary 7 who has been successful at audition and secured a place at the Broughton High School Dance Academy. These places are highly sought after and require a high level of ability and potential. These are qualities we have seen from Finn throughout the years. After competing with Edinburgh Dance Academy at 'Destination Dance' in Musselburgh, he won a week's scholarship at the Pineapple Studios Summer School in London. Congratulations Finn.

Duty Manager

The school operates a Duty Manager system where a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Head, Depute, Principal Teacher) is 'on call' on a rota basis during morning, lunchtime and afternoon sessions. The Head Teacher or Depute Head Teacher will also try to be available between 8.30 and 9.00 am if enquiries need an immediate response. Please help our office staff to determine if your enquiry needs an immediate response.

Oor Wullie Bucket Trail



Let's do something powerful and kind for Scotland's children in hospitals. Oor Wullie's Big Bucket Trail is the first ever nationwide public art trail, and will hit the streets of Scotland's cities in 2019. Find out more online:

<https://www.oorwullie.com/the-trail/>

Ferryhill Primary School is involved in Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail. Alongside the main trail are a set of mini sculptures for schools, nurseries and clubs to decorate. These form part of a wider education programme which focuses on the themes of art, citizenship, communities, and positive mental and physical health.

Over the summer these sculptures will be displayed in community locations such as libraries and community centres, and once the trail is over they will be returned to the school as a permanent memento of our involvement in the trail. Our art specialist Ms Stahl has worked on this in school with children submitting their own designs for Ferryhill's Oor Wullie. This showcases pupils' creativity with a design for a mini Oor Wullie sculpture which will belong to the school at the end of the trail. This will raise the profile of Ferryhill at a national level with inclusion on the Oor Wullie's Big Bucket Trail as well as helping local children by supporting the work of Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity, Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity and The ARCHIE Foundation.

Concerns and Complaints

We prefer to address concerns before they become complaints. However if a complaint arises, we follow the City of Edinburgh Council policy. If you have a concern or a complaint, please contact a member of staff and we will do our best to resolve this for you. You can contact the Head Teacher if you feel your complaint has not, or cannot, be resolved in this way. If we are unable to resolve your concern or complaint at school level we will provide details of the Council's Advice and Complaints Department.

Contacting Us

Parents are encouraged to visit the school to ask questions, to get support or to have the opportunity to talk about their child/home issues with either the child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Parents should phone the school office to make an appointment giving a brief outline of what they wish to discuss. This allows the school time to make staff available. We will make appointments within 5 working days and are willing to meet from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm to fit in with parents. If parents are unable to keep an appointment please let us know. Parents will not be able to meet teachers during the school day unless by prior arrangement. Parents are asked not to approach teachers to discuss their child on the playground or if they meet them outside school as this does not allow for confidential discussion.

If you make a telephone call that requires a response from a member of staff, we aim to reply as quickly as possible.

You can send an enquiry, concern or complaint by email. We will reply as quickly as possible but no later than within 5 working days. However staff will not respond to email out with the normal working day.

Calendar Dates 2019



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

Mon 6th May – May Day Holiday
Tues 7th May – School closed to pupils In Service Day 5
Mon 13th May – Broughton Cluster health and well being day
Mon 20th May – Victoria Day Holiday
Wed 22nd May – P1-P7 Sports Days
Mon 27th May – Broughton Cluster P7 transition event
Tues 4th June – P7s to Risk Factory
Tues 25th June – P7 Quali Dance
Thurs 27th June – P7 Valedictory Drylaw Church
Fri 28th June – School closes for summer holiday at 12 pm

Calendar Dates 2019 – 2020

Please find 2019- 2020 dates attached to this newsletter with a summary below.

Wed 14th August – Children return to school
Mon 16th Sept – Autumn Holiday
Fri 11th Oct – school closes for October holiday
Mon 21st Oct – School closed to pupils In Service Day 3
Tues 22nd Oct – Children return to school
Fri 20th Dec – School closes for Christmas holiday at 12 pm

Tues 23rd June 2020 – P7 Quali
Thurs 25th June 2020 – P7 Valedictory
Fri 26th June 2020 – School closes for summer holiday at 12 pm

Support for All Children



All Scotland's children and young people are entitled to support to enable them to gain as much as possible from the opportunities that Curriculum for Excellence provides. Some children may need additional support. Find out more on Scottish Government policy at:

<https://education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/Support%20for%20all>

Inclusion Statement from City of Edinburgh Council

In Edinburgh children and young people are at the heart of our vision for the future.

As an inclusive community we work with parents, carers and, where appropriate, partner agencies to support all children and young people. By working together, we help children and young people to develop understanding about relationships, respect, teamwork, honesty, fairness, patience, and compassion. We do this by offering interesting and relevant learning experiences, by providing our staff with the training and resources they need, and by working with the whole community to accept and care for one another. This isn't always easy, but we believe it is essential so that our children and young people understand the people they meet and learn how to work together to handle setbacks and difficult situations throughout their lives.

When children and young people experience adverse events or as a response to their additional support need, they let us know by reacting in different ways. This presents difficulties for those around them. By working together, by understanding the cause and working out solutions, we can find a way to solve or deal with a problem. If it takes time to get over a problem we will work with a child, young person, and their family to work out the best way forward. This may involve making adaptations and providing additional support or in exceptional circumstances identifying a change of environment.

We recognise that we all experience difficult times, and that everyone deserves the best possible care and support. In Edinburgh we support children and young people to learn in different ways according to their needs. As children and young people learn to read, write, and count some require more support than others do. This need for support arises for a variety of reasons learning difficulties, challenges with emotional regulation and social communication issues. We must meet the needs of all our students in a fair, compassionate, and proportionate way.

In considering how to support all children and young people reach their full potential it may not always be possible to arrive at a resolution all parties agree. However, we will listen to any parent, young person, child or member of staff and work together to resolve difficulties.

We are committed to do all we can to make Edinburgh an inclusive place to live and learn.

*Mr Alistair Gaw, Executive Director for
Communities and Families in Edinburgh*

From the Archives

More from our historical log book. If you've found these entries interesting then we'll publish more in future. The log book was started with the opening of Groathill School on the 3rd of March 1958. In this newsletter we feature some of the entries from this summer term of that first year.



3/3/58 School opened officially this morning with the following staff: Headmaster John D Crawford, Deputy Headmaster Mr Hugh Mackay, Infant Mistress Miss Jessie Mckenzie. Roll 560 from P1B to P6B – 15 classes: 5 infant, 10 primary. Thanks to the willing co-operation and hard work of the staff, classes functioned right away.

14/4/58 School reopened today.

18/4/58 Deputy Director of Education paid a brief visit this morning

23/4/58 Miss Kennedy, Headmistress of St George's School paid a visit this afternoon to have a look at furnishings, etc.

2/5/58 Fire drill was carried out today. Time taken 2 ½ minutes.

26/5/58 A choir took part in a competition at the Edinburgh Musical Festival on Saturday. Though the children had very little time to practise they did exceedingly well and just missed gaining a certificate. Their appearance was favourably commented on.

4/6/58 In the afternoon classes were opened to allow parents and others to see what work was being done. Teachers were on hand to answer questions both in the afternoon and for a period in the evening. The staff went to a great deal of trouble to have their work and material displayed to the best advantage. This was appreciated by the large turnout. Among invitees was the Deputy Director of Education.

5/6/58 School closed early today to give the staff an opportunity of visiting Ainslie Park Secondary School to see the work and activities being carried out there. This is important as all our pupils of whatever ability will attend that school for at least five years.

10/6/58 The Head Master and Infant Mistress met the art supervisor at the art dealers to select pictures to be hung in the school. A number were selected to be sent to the school where a final choice will be made.

23/6/58 A deputation from East Lothian County visited the school this morning to have a look around the building. The visitors included the Director of Education and the County Architect.

27/6/58 School concert and prize giving was held in the hall this afternoon. Close on 300 parents attended.

3/7/58 Art Supervisor visited the school to help with pictures which are to be hung in the school.

4/7/58 School closed today for the summer vacation. The roll on this last day was 549.

