

## **Ferryhill Primary School Head Teacher's Weekly Newsletter**

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

We hope you enjoyed your visits to classrooms this week. We were pleased to welcome so many parents and look forward to seeing you again soon. Check the calendar for this being repeated in January and June.

We have a new Parent Council and they're raring to go with the annual School Fayre. This will be the evening of Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November. Our Parent Council can't do this alone, they'll need lots of help and we hope everyone will lend a hand for another successful fayre. A great, positive meeting this week. Thanks to all who came along, we look forward to the year ahead. Email [ferryhillparentcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ferryhillparentcouncil@yahoo.co.uk) if you'd like to find out more.

Primary 1 have started learning their sounds this week. They've enjoyed singing phonics songs to help them learn the sounds. P1 have also started a new topic called People Who Help Us. They're enjoying acting out various jobs people do. Primary 7 participated in an Author's Live session online with Konnie Huq and were able to answer some very tricky Science questions in class. During the open afternoon they were also keen to show visitors their technology skills by working out how to build the tallest towers with only spaghetti and blue-tac. A very messy but fun activity ! P7B have been following the Engineering Design Process in order to build Land Yachts. It's been a perfect opportunity to get to know each other and work as a team. They've designed, built, tested and modified their yachts for the final race (depending on weather conditions). Keep an eye out for updates on the results of the race on twitter.

We've recently reviewed the school's homework policy with staff. Most parents prefer their children to be given homework but some don't. Mrs Chapman is sending out a letter (paper copy) with an explanation that parents can opt out of homework for the year. Please return the opt out form if you'd prefer your child isn't given homework this year.

We now have a football team who've started playing games on Saturdays. A huge thank you to Mr Durie, one of our Pupil Support Assistants, for giving up his Saturday mornings to take the team to their matches. Good luck to the players with all their games. On the 30<sup>th</sup> September some Primary 5 pupils will be representing Ferryhill in a Touch Rugby competition at Murrayfield Stadium with Mr Robertson. Pupils have been working hard in PE and at the lunch time rugby club on a Monday to be one of the pupils selected to represent the school on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

We need to remind you of a few things to help us. Please remember that dogs are not permitted in the school playground. Sorry, not even puppies or dogs being carried. Whilst you can use first thing in the morning to pass on important messages to teachers we ask you to make an appointment for longer conversations. Teachers can't get their children into school if they're being held back in the lines.

From the logbooks: Return to school in January 1979 was delayed for 4 days because of severe weather conditions. The school closed again the next day for a further 3

days due to the boilers breaking down. In February that year an indefinite strike was called by janitors and this closed the school from the 14<sup>th</sup> until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Heavy snow was reported again in March. Further bad weather in June meant the school's picnic to Gullane had to be cancelled. A Parent Association coffee morning and school art exhibition was held but was not well supported. This makes us appreciate the many, many parents who support our school events. Thank you !

Hope you all enjoy your holiday on Monday.

*Stewart Crabb - Head Teacher*

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