

Trying Hard to
do Our Best



We Aim High!

HAPPY

CONFIDENT

ACHIEVING

CREATIVE

NEWSLETTER 9 - Friday 12th January 2024



JANUARY

- 15 P1 Admissions Week
- Online Safety Parent Group meet with HT 2:30pm
- 17 P5 commence weekly Play Leader training with Active Schools
- 22 ELC Application Fortnight
- 24 SFSA meeting 6:30pm
- 29 Play n Stay Week - ELC



FEBRUARY

- 02 P4/5 Sharing Learning 1:30pm
- 05 Online Safety Week
- 06 Safer Internet Day
- 08 Online Safety Family Learning Event 1:30pm

FEBRUARY CONTINUED

09/12 Mid-term holiday - school & ELC closed

13/14 In-service Days

16 Celebrating Success pm



MARCH

- 07 World Book Day
- 15 Comic Relief Day
- 22 P6/7 Sharing Learning 1:30pm
- 25/6 Decorated Easter Egg Competition
- 28 Last Day of term 3
- 29 School & ELC closed for Good Friday holiday



APRIL

15 First day of term 4

- Happy New Year

Wishing our entire school and ELC family all the best for 2024. Staff would like to thank you for the lovely gifts received at Christmas and all the delicious 'goodies' sent to the staffroom!

We are now a week back into the new term and settling into our daily routines. Class reconfigurations meant changes of physical environment for some pupils or change of teacher for others. Staff have put a lot of time and effort into ensuring these changes have gone as smoothly as possible for all pupils. Our children have returned for the new term with enthusiasm and ready to continue their learning journey. It has been a joy to see their confidence and commitment.



- CHAS

As a school we regularly participate in the 'Daily Mile'. This was initially established to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children. Each Christmas there is the offer to replace the 'Daily Mile' with a week of the 'Reindeer Run' and in so doing raise money for Children's Hospices Across Scotland.

Staff contributions raised £115.00 and the offering taken at our Nativity Service in St Fergus Church came to £220.56, giving us the grand total of £335.56 to donate to CHAS. We will invite a representative of CHAS to visit school and share at one of our assemblies.

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't favourable to us during 'Reindeer Run' week resulting in some classes having to opt for the gym hall rather than

outdoors. However, this didn't diminish the fun factor!



Reindeer antlers made and all ready to go!



*It was really tiring! Jessie
I thought it was a cool idea making our antlers and running to make money for CHAS. Blake
It was great fun. Liam*

- P1 Registration Week

Aberdeenshire's Registration Week for Primary 1 admission is Monday 15th January to Friday 19th January 2024."

All children who reach their fifth birthday by 28th February 2025 are

invited to register for Primary 1 for admission in August 2024.

Parents/Carers of those children due to commence attendance at school in August 2024 should now register their children for the appropriate local primary school.

To register for a primary school place, for a school within your catchment area, please complete the online application which can be found at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/applyForSchoolPlace>.

It is usual practice for children to attend their local catchment primary school, however, you have the right to apply to place your child in a school other than your local school. Please complete an out of zone placing request. (You should still register your child in a school in the area you live in until you know the outcome of your application) Out of Zone Request form can be found at:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/out-of-zone-school/>

Please bring the below with you when your child starts school:

- the child's birth certificate as this is required as evidence of their date of birth and;
- evidence of the parent/carer's home address (for example a recent utility bill or recent bank statement).

All schools in Aberdeenshire have the same start date, in the middle of August each year. You will be informed

of this year's start date at the time of registration at school.

Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services makes no provision to admit any children who are five after the end of February, unless that child has previously been registered and has commenced full-time attendance (excluding induction) in a state supported or Forces school and is transferring into Aberdeenshire. In this case, the local authority can exercise discretion. Registration for a nursery or playgroup does not count for the purposes of this exception.

- ELC Admissions

The admissions fortnight for Early Learning and Childcare applications will open on Monday 22nd January until Friday 2nd February.

Eligible children

Applicants with a birth date between 20th August 2019 & 13th April 2022.

All applicants with a birth date between **20th August 2019 & 13th April 2022** should complete an online Early Learning and Childcare Application form. These can be obtained directly from the website at: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/applyForNurseryPlace

or

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/elcc

Any child returning to the same Early Learning and Childcare setting in August 2024 must complete an online application form. A place should be retained for them at the existing setting.

- Online Safety

We plan to have our annual focus on online safety from 5th - 8th February this year. Ahead of this, Mrs Robertson would like to invite any parents willing to be part of the preparation and implementation of this, to join her on Monday afternoon (15th January) at 2:30pm in the dining hall for a cuppa and a chat. There is no expectation for IT knowledge, this is just an informal forum to share ideas so all that's required is your time and your enthusiasm to get involved.

- Pupils of the Week

Congratulations to all who were 'Pupils of the Week' at the end of 2023 - Shelley, Alexa Allen, Luke, Jamie C, Layton, Amy W, Emma, Vanessa Lynn, Zackery N & Daisy and our 'Nursery Stars' - Amelia and Andrew. Well done!

- Learning Leader Awards

Congratulations to Vanessa Lynn, Craig, Daniel and Jessie who achieved their certificate for 5 Learning Leader Awards at the end of term 2!

What are Learning Leaders?



Happy Heroes are self-motivated, co-operative and take ownership of their learning.



Our Confident Commanders persevere, show resilience and independence.



Achieving Advisors reflect on their learning and challenge themselves.



Creative Captains are curious, ask questions and use their imagination creatively.

- Twitter

Remember we post photos and comments of what's happening in school live onto Twitter. Can we take this opportunity to encourage as many parents/families as possible to start following school on Twitter @StFergusSch

Also, our school website gives you current information on all that's been happening in school as well as access to various resources/documents.

<https://st-fergus.aberdeenshire.sch.uk>

- **ADVERSE WEATHER INFORMATION**

Aberdeenshire Council Website

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>

You also have the option to sign up to receive email alerts when your school updates their closure status:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/myAberdeenshire/>