

Trying Hard to
do Our Best



We Aim High!

HAPPY

CONFIDENT

ACHIEVING

CREATIVE

NEWSLETTER 12 - Friday 23rd February 2024



FEBRUARY

- 28 P6/7 visit to Spring Show at Thainstone
- 29 ELC Garden Development 9:30am



MARCH

- 07 World Book Day
- 08 P7 Go Wild Transition Event
- 11 Tempest Photography - individual/family groups
- 15 **Comic Relief Day**
Pre-school ELC & P1 transition activity 9:30-10:30am
- 16 SFSA Soup & Sweet 11-1 St Fergus Village Hall

MARCH CONTINUED

- 19 Pre-school ELC & P1 transition activity 9:30-10:30am
- 20 Launch of French Virtual Class - Family Learning 2:45pm
- 22 P6/7 Sharing Learning 1:30pm
- 25/6 Decorated Easter Egg Competition
- 28 Easter Assembly with school choir performing 1:30pm
- Last day of term 3
- 29 School & ELC closed for Good Friday holiday



APRIL

- 16 First day of term 4

- Welcome

We give a warm welcome to Miss J McDonald, PGDE student from Aberdeen University who is currently on placement in P1/2 supported by Miss Cantlay.



- Analysis of Parental Questionnaires

This year we issued the questionnaires in paper form rather than using the Microsoft digital forms of the past few years. For school, we had a response rate of 47 out of 78 families, so 60% of our parent body. This was a significant increase as we only had 34 responses last year. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete these and to provide parental feedback.

Evaluation

All parents strongly agree/agree that they would recommend the school to other parents, feel their child is making good progress, are satisfied with the quality of teaching and are overall satisfied with the school.

All responses, also indicated they strongly agree/agree that:

- Their child likes being at school.
- Staff treat their child fairly and with respect and encourage their child to treat others with respect.
- Their child is safe.
- Their child is helped to feel confident.
- Staff know their child as an individual.
- Their child receives the help he/she needs to do well.

- Their child is encouraged to be healthy and take regular exercise.

Almost all (over 90%) have never experienced bullying or strongly agree/agree that the school deals well with bullying.

A few (less than 15%) indicated they didn't know or strongly disagreed/disagreed that:

- Their child finds their learning hard enough.
- Understand how their child's progress is assessed.
- That the school takes their views into account when making changes.
- Feels comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and/or a problem.
- Feels encouraged to be involved in the work of the Parent Council (SFSA).
- Kept informed about the work of the Parent Council (SFSA).

Next Steps

- Encourage SFSA to have a table at our Open Evening, Parents Evenings to highlight the work they do.
- Introduce HT presentation session for parents annually in August. This will include information on curriculum, home/school communication & partnership working to support your child, information on how your child is assessed to ensure

they are receiving the right level of challenge or support.

- ELC



Can you spare a few hours on Thursday 29th February to help us develop our nursery garden to provide more experiences for our children and families?

Starting at 9.15am.

Please bring along any tools you have for example spade, garden fork, secateurs, protective clothing (gloves, goggles) etc.

If you have any ideas on what you would like to see in our garden area, and if you would be willing to support us as we develop our garden, please speak with Mrs Morgan or Ms Cantlay.



The ELC children have been talking about night and day and can identify the different things we do for example, sleep at night and eat and play during the day. They added some sleeping bags to the free flow area and made a shelter where they enjoyed pretending to camp outside. We have also been learning the days of the week by using Makaton signs and by singing!

We have also learned that Saturday and Sunday are called the weekend. The children are confident at remembering what our ELC week looks like and can link the correct activities to the days. We have discussed the seasons and know it will soon be spring and can link some events to the seasons.



We have been exploring mark making and have used our marks during play to make shopping lists, weekly tasks etc. We are exploring where food comes from and we can tell if food is grown or comes from animals. We have planted cress and are excited to see it grow and are hoping to taste our cress in some yummy egg sandwiches. (Mrs Morgan)



Online Safety Week

It was great to see so many parents attend the Online Safety Family Learning Event recently. We hope you found the parent session with PC M Roger useful and informative. Here are some learning reflections from our P2/3 class:

Sometimes scary pop-ups can come up on your device when you don't want them. You should tell an adult if this happens. Alexa

If you stay on the internet too long it might hurt your eyes. Ava

Don't share your personal information with strangers. Marcus

If you have an uh-oh feeling, tell an adult you can trust. Aimee

Not everyone is who they say they are online. Luke



The information below has been shared with all parents of children and young people in Aberdeenshire Schools. Please email and request a link to join the meeting, if this is something you would like to hear more about!

Growing up online: Come along to our informative session for parents all about supporting our children in their online lives. We'll cover tech trends, digital wellbeing and what to do when things go wrong!

- Parents of Secondary age young people: 12th March 6pm - 7pm.
- Parents of Nursery & Primary children: 13th March 4pm - 5pm.

Both sessions are open to any Aberdeenshire parent. To join either session please email

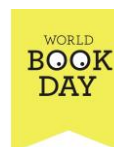
christine.mclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to get the relevant meeting link.

- World Book Day

Our Pupil Council are once again organising some activities for World Book Day. This will include a whole school assembly and some storytelling/active literacy sessions in P1/2 based around their Fairy Tale topic.

Pupil Council would like all children and staff in both school and nursery to dress up for World Book Day. Be as imaginative as you wish. The costume can be a character from a favourite book or linked in any way to your child's favourite book/story.

World Book Day this year is Thursday 7th March.



- P4/5 Chinese New Year

Mrs Leys' class have been learning about festivals and celebrations. They were delighted to invite Nicole & Megan's mum into their class to tell them all about Chinese New Year. They also learned some words and phrases in Mandarin!



During Chinese New Year they eat fortune cookies. Mine said 'The doors are opening.' Kasey

I learned that The Great Wall of China took 2,500 years to make. Rafferty

We learned how to say lots of things in Mandarin. Aurellia

Nicole's mum tries really hard to remember Mandarin. Summer

She has lived here for 20 years. Nathaniel

- Measles & Vaccinations

We have been asked by NHS Grampian to share the following:

Measles is on the increase, with a rapid rise in the number of cases seen in parts of England, and a confirmed case in Scotland. It is a serious illness, but the MMR vaccine is proven to safely offer high levels of protection. It is given in two doses; if you are not sure if your child has had both doses, you can contact your GP practice to confirm.

If your child has never had the MMR - or hasn't had the complete course - you can contact our vaccination teams to arrange.

Aberdeenshire & Moray - telephone: 01224 555333

Childhood vaccinations offer protection against many serious illnesses, and you are encouraged to ensure your child is up to date with all of them.

Further information on vaccinations can be found at: [Vaccines - Immunisations in Scotland | NHS inform](#)

Further information on measles can be found at: [Measles | NHS inform](#) and [MMR vaccine - Immunisations in Scotland | NHS inform](#)

- Water Bottles

Following a number of accidents involving children being injured with water bottles, **we request that only lightweight plastic water bottles be brought to school as opposed to the heavier metal water bottles which are very heavy when filled with water.** We thank you for your co-operation with this going forward.

- Medication

*PLEASE NOTE that non-prescription medication to be administered in school (e.g. antihistamine, paracetamol) should be dispensed at a pharmacy so that there is a dispensary label clearly showing your child's name and the dosage.

- Pupils of the Week

Congratulations to all who have been 'Pupils of the Week' - Leo, Jake, Nathaniel, Jude & Harvey C and our 'Nursery Star' - Halo. Well done!

- Learning Leader Awards

Congratulations to Summer, Thomas, Jude, Jak, Elsa, Daisy, Blake, Amy W, Ellie Willox, Lachlan, Jessie & Sophia Morris who achieved their certificate for 5 Learning Leader Awards.

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/>