



Foveran School News

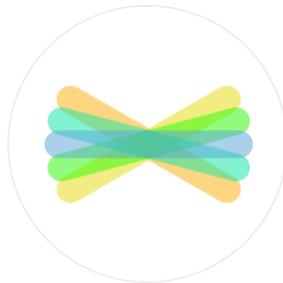
Hand in hand towards excellence!

Term 1 2021/22

September 2021

As you will have heard in the news and in a recent letter from the National Clinical Director, Jason Leitch, the current COVID mitigations we have in place will run until at least the October Holidays. This has an impact on our current plans for keeping you up to date with your children's progress. This newsletter will let you know how we plan to deal with that in the lead up to Christmas.

We continue to work hard to ensure that children feel things are as normal as we can make them while keeping everyone safe. Many families have been taking children to have PCR tests when they have been unwell, and we sincerely thank you for going through that process. We appreciate how difficult it can be for the children, especially when you are sure they just have a typical bug, but it is a big help and goes some way to ensuring everyone feels safe.



Seesaw

SeeSaw

We are delighted to announce that SeeSaw is now compliant with Aberdeenshire's data protection policies. As such, we will be adopting the SeeSaw app once again.

Previously we have used the free version, this time we will be using the paid version which has more to offer. Many of you will remember it from before when it received very positive feedback – but not as a home learning tool, more as a communication and reporting tool. For example, there will be a 'learning journey' which we will use to share your children's work with you, and you will be able to keep it in the form of a blog showing your children's progress over time.

As soon as we are fully signed up, we will let you know how to access SeeSaw on a range of devices.



Parents Evening

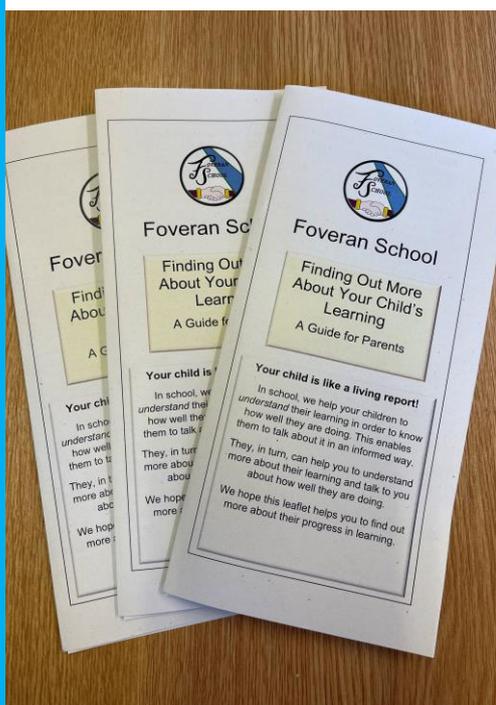
Parent/teacher interviews

Feedback on the format of our last 'virtual' parents evening was mixed. While many parents were very happy with the online format, there were a significant number who miss the face-to-face aspect, as well as a chance to have a look through some of the children's work. With this in mind, I intend to postpone our planned parents evening for a few weeks until after the October break in the hope that the guidance may change by then and we would have the opportunity to invite those parents in who wish to do so. If you prefer the online approach, we will make that an option too. If, after the October break the guidance remains the same as now, we will go with the online (or phone call if you prefer) format. The dates we are going for will be Tuesday-Wednesday the 9th and 10th November.

Finding out about your children's learning – Leaflet

I have attached a leaflet I've put together to offer some guidance for parents on how to discuss learning with their children at home. I appreciate many of you already do this but, we know from many studies that when children are encouraged to talk about their learning at home and share their progress with their families, it can make a significant impact on their attainment and progress at school.

I know from doing this with my own children that it takes a little time. When I initially asked my children what they did at school today they would typically shrug and say, 'nothing much'. When asking what their favourite part of the day was, they would tell me it was lunchtime. They were tired and didn't see the value in reflecting on the school day. It's worth sticking with it however, after a while the daily 'catch up' has become a fun and rewarding part of our evening and giving my children a chance to reflect on their learning helps to embed the lessons they have picked up.



Working Groups

One aspect of the school which has had to take a back seat over the pandemic period is our pupil groups.

In order to ensure that children have a strong 'Voice' in the school and it's direction, we will shortly be inviting pupils to join one of several working groups. The Groups will be...

- Pupil Council
- Community Group
- Eco Group

All these groups will be empowered to make changes within the school, and it is hoped that this will not only lead to school improvements but give the children an enhanced appreciation of the things they can achieve when they work together.



Christmas show plans

At this point we do not know if a live Christmas show performance will be an option but, unlike last year, singing is permitted again. We are going to prepare a full Christmas show and perform it in the hall in the hope that we can have an audience. If not, we'll just film it and send it out to parents as we usually do. We are at the early planning phase just now but we will be asking for help with costumes and props soon after the October Break.

Upcoming Dates

As I'm sure you realise, if the guidance changes, we will be keen to get back to our regular calendar of community cafes and open afternoons. We intend to have some school trips as well but in the current climate it's too early to confirm.

- Friday 15th October – Last day of term
- Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th November – Parent's evenings
- Tuesday 12th October – Parent Council meeting (AGM)
- Monday 18th October – October (Tattie) Holidays
- Monday 1st November – First day of term 2
- Thursday 18th November – School closed (staff in-service day)
- Friday 19th November – School closed (staff in-service day)
- Tuesday 14th December – Christmas Panto (HMT in Aberdeen)
- Wednesday 15th December – School Christmas lunch
- Thursday 16th December – School Christmas show
- Tuesday 21st December – School Christmas party and last day of term
- Wednesday 22nd December – First day of school Holidays
- Thursday 6th January – First day of term 3 (School closed on 5th due to local Ellon Holiday)