



Foveran School News

Hand in hand towards excellence!

Term 4 2021/22

April 2022

I hope you all had the chance to have a nice break over Easter.

While COVID cases remain high and we're still being cautious at school, it really feels like we're beginning to turn a corner. We're in the final term of a year without a lockdown and it seems to have flown by.

As a team, we are so pleased to see the resilience and positivity shown every day by your children. Despite the many disruptions to a normal school year, and despite many children having to take some time out to isolate, your children have turned up each day keen to learn and ready to get fully engaged with all we have planned. It has made teaching at Foveran an absolute joy. As I am sure you can imagine, it has been a challenging time for our staff (as it has been for everyone) as we find our way through a long list of unprecedented circumstances, but at the same time, it has been hugely rewarding. I'd like to take yet another opportunity to thank the families and wider community for the support you have all shown to the school over the last couple of years.

We are looking forward to beginning to open our doors again over the coming year and, especially once positive cases have receded a little more, hopefully being able to once again, invite you all into the school for community cafés and a variety of open afternoons and events.



Big walk and Wheel

We were delighted with the uptake of our walk and bike to school fortnight in the lead up to the Easter break. We had a tremendous turnout and a lot of fun, especially when we were accompanied by a dinosaur on the last day of term!

Thank you to all the parents who have recently tried to park further from the school and therefore, reduce the risk around the school. It is very much appreciated.

I'd like to encourage parents once again gently, where possible, to park in the areas of Blairathan Terrace and Westfield Drive. Both have good walking connections to the school and are much safer than having to cross the main road directly outside the school. As we know, there are several motorists who pay no attention to the road signs – and that's assuming that the road signs are even working properly.

End of term awards

As we have in previous years, we will be looking to give out awards to children who have gone above and beyond this academic year.

As a reminder, there are sports awards for upper and lower stages, a friendship trophy, and four shields which exemplify the values we most want to pass on to the children. Those are for children who are – or have made notable improvements in becoming

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Effective contributors
- Responsible citizens



Finally, we have an overall award, the Foveran Quaich, for the child that has been most successful in the above areas.

As we have done before, this term the staff will be paying particular attention to the children's achievements with an eye on the best candidates for the awards. If you as parents would like to nominate any children, please feel free to do so and we will gather all the nominations and suggestions towards the end of the year.

If your child received an award last year, if they could take them back to school now that would be appreciated. It will give us time to organise the engraving for the award day.



Vision, Values and Aims

It has been a long time since Foveran last looked at our school vision, values and aims. It's time to have a close look at them and ensure they are aligned with the families and community in Foveran as it is today.

Our school motto, '*Hand in hand towards excellence*', is well known in the school. As is our ambition to instil in the children the four capacities: *Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens, and Effective Contributors*. Most children in the school can name these and tell you what they mean.

The next step for us is to put together a statement, a vision that represents what is most important to our school community. It is important that we get as many people involved in this as we can.

To that end, the upper stages class have been investigating values and what they mean. They have made a series of short videos which we will look at in our assemblies and choose our favourites. When we have a good selection and the children know what they represent, we hope to take them to the wider community, most likely at a community café, and the children can let you know why they think a particular value is important. Collectively we will vote to find the values that are most important in our community, and this will form the basis of our vision for the school for the coming years.

Healthy Snack options

We try to promote healthy snacking in school wherever we can. There's nothing wrong with the odd treat and we enjoy spoiling our children on special occasions. That said, if we can get into good daily habits, this will help the children to be healthier, more able to concentrate and reduce the effect of the sugar high and the sugar crash that can have such a detrimental effect on their day.

Many parents are already ensuring that children have healthy snacks. When a few bring less healthy options though, it can lead to other children feeling like they are missing out.

Sometimes, it just seems easier and more convenient to provide children with less healthy options – and sometimes it's hard to know what alternatives are out there. With that in mind, I've attached a flyer from the NHS with suggestions and ideas for healthy play pieces.



School houses

We all know the school house system from Harry Potter. Are you a Gryffindor? A Hufflepuff? Our school has grown so much in recent years that it seems a great time to introduce a similar system for Foveran.

I've used a house system to great effect in previous schools and it's always been very popular. It can develop friendly and good-natured competition between students, as well as giving us many opportunities for the children to get involved in representation and enhancing their leadership skills.

I'll soon be inviting the children to design and name some houses for the school. If you have any suggestions, I'd be delighted to hear about them directly or, pass them on to your children.

Reporting to parents

We hope to issue our written reports on the 13th of May, and we will once again have some parents' evenings on the 24th and 25th May.

These reports are only a part of our annual reporting calendar. We are once again able to make use of SeeSaw and we will be developing this into a pupil profile that will be built up over the year. We still use the ever-popular Facebook for whole school updates.

Community cafés, open afternoons and events will soon give you more opportunities to come into school and see the children's progress in person. Alongside all of this however, we hope you know that our door has always been open (virtually before but now literally), and we are very happy to chat with you at any point about anything at all. Please feel free to catch us at drop off or pick up times or get in touch at any time to make an appointment if you have any concerns. On a related note, if we have any concerns, we will try to bring it up with you directly without waiting for more formal opportunities like reports and parents' evenings, so nothing should come as a big surprise when the reports are sent home in May.

Self-evaluation and questionnaires

With the beginning of a new term and the optimistic feeling of turning a corner on the pandemic, it seems a good time to draw our focus once again on the improvement of the school. To do that, we need to have an accurate picture of where we currently stand so I'll be asking you all a favour, and that favour is to fill in some questionnaires for us.

We will be using the document, 'How good is OUR school' as the framework to base our self-evaluations. If you're interested in it, the details can be found at the link below.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/self-evaluation/hgios4/>

It divides the life of the school onto five themes. Relationships, learning and teaching, school and community, health and wellbeing and successes and achievements. We aim to look at each of these in turn beginning with the first theme, relationships.

If you would be able to take some time to fill this in when it gets to you it would be a big help to us. There will also be one odd wee question about footwear in school. At a recent parent council meeting the topic came up and I'm interested to see what you think of some of the suggestions we had.



How good is OUR school?
A resource to support learner participation in self-evaluation and school improvement.

Part Two



Upcoming Dates

- Parent Council Meeting – 26th April @20:00 online
- Visitor – 'Love my bus' - 26th April (Scot Gov initiative to highlight the benefits of bus use)
- Visitor – 'Mistakes are cool' – 2nd May (Musical presentation to promote wellbeing)
- Written Reports out – 13th May
- P7 Academy visit – 20th May (Values day)
- Parent Evenings 24th and 25th May
- Community Café – 1st June
- Queen's Jubilee – School closed on 2nd and 3rd June
- School sports day – 7th June
- P7 Transition days – 14th – 16th June
- End of year awards 1st July
- Last day of School 1st July