



Foveran School News

Hand in hand towards excellence!

Term 1 2022/23

August 2022

It was wonderful to welcome all the children back after the summer break. We hope you have all had a good time over the summer, as a staff we are rested and raring to go and we have a lot of exciting things in the works for the coming year.

It is normal and expected that many children will feel anxious or worried about starting school. Typically, there are always a few who feel a little overwhelmed and there may be a few tears or even a refusal to leave their parents' side. I was delighted to see that this morning, for the first time in my experience, all the children walked straight in with no fuss! As the week goes on and tiredness creeps in, there may yet be some strong emotions in the morning.

If you find yourself in the position of being the parent of the crying child, or even the child who refuses to come into school with everyone else, please understand that this is nothing remotely unusual, we will support you and fully appreciate that this is usually much worse for the parent than it is for your child. I have been that parent myself and I remember how it feels to leave an emotional child at school. The reality is, almost without exception, as soon as the children are in class with their peers and a host of distractions, they settle in and end up having a good day.

As I walk round the classes this morning, I see lots of smiling and eager faces and every child is well prepared and excited to get going. Thank you for ensuring your children are all so ready to start!

Mr Ferguson



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Community Café

Our last Café proved to be very popular, we welcomed far more people than we had expected, and it was wonderful for the children to see so many people from the community come along and support their efforts.

We are aiming to hold another one this term, with a harvest theme. We hope to run this in Foveran Hall on **Wednesday the 12th of October** in the afternoon. We hope you can make it.

Judging by the last café, we may have to consider capacity. While we would rather not restrict entry, we were very close to filling the hall and many people had to sit outside or had very long waits to be served. While everyone was very good natured and understanding on the day, we will be looking at ways to avoid that next time. This is a wonderful problem-solving activity to set for the children, with real world implications. We will ensure that whatever they come up with, it is fair and equitable.

Staffing and P.E.

As you know, Mrs du Plessis, who worked with both classes on a Wednesday, is expecting a child. She has now begun maternity leave and we wish her all the very best. This means we have had to make a few tweaks to our staffing and timetables. For the duration of the maternity leave, we will be welcoming Mrs Robyn Davidson to the team. Mrs Davidson is an experienced teacher who has worked with many of the children in school before on a supply basis. Mrs Davidson will be in school on a Friday, and we will be taking the following approach for the upper stages class.

Monday – Mrs Leask (as before)

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Thursday – Mrs Leask and Mr Ferguson on alternating weeks (as before)

Friday – Mrs Davidson (previously Mr Ferguson)

This means that Mr Ferguson will be working with the upper stages class a little less than before, but he will now take on Mrs du Plessis role and be working with both classes throughout the week, primarily for P.E but for some other activities as well.

The early stages class will be largely unaffected, though they will have Mr Ferguson rather than Mrs du Plessis and will be doing most of their P.E with him.

P.E kits and P.E days

This year, both classes will be doing a longer P.E session with Mr Ferguson, and some shorter P.E activities through the week with their class teacher. P.E kits will not be required for the shorter activities but will be required for the longer sessions with Mr Ferguson.

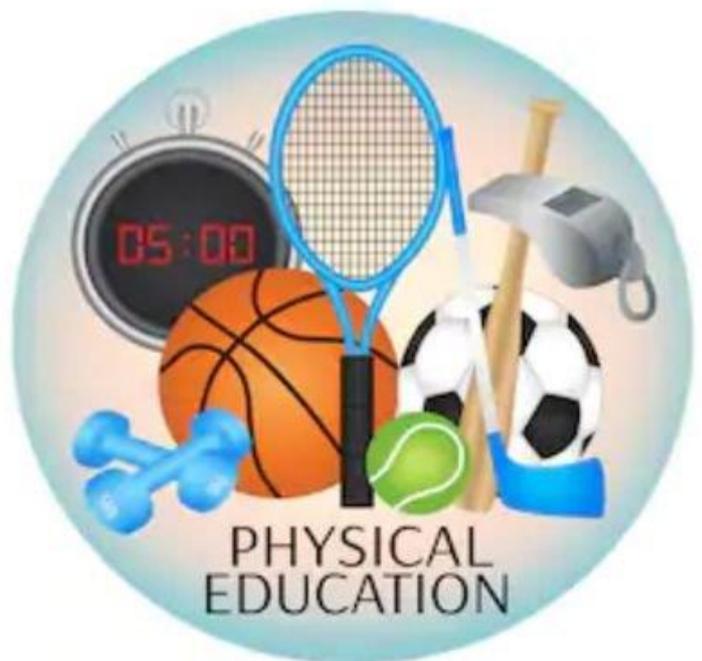
P1-3 – P.E will be on Tuesday afternoon.
(Beginning next week – 30th August)

P4-7 – P.E will be on Wednesday afternoon.
(Beginning this week – 24th August)

This means the children will only need to bring P.E kit on one day a week – though they will still get as much P.E as before (possibly more)

Now that the pandemic is behind us, we are asking that children come to school in their uniform, even on P.E days. We will give them the opportunity to get changed after lunch.

While arriving at school in P.E. kit over the last couple of years had been convenient, it led to several issues in school, especially when it came to the cold winter months where we had to alter plans because children just would not have been warm enough outdoors.



Outdoor Learning

Starting this term, Mrs Leask will be leading some outdoor learning sessions out with the school. We will give you plenty of information once we have dates confirmed but this year, we are looking to run a 'Forest School' in the grounds of Haddo in term 1 and a 'Beach School' in term 4. The outdoor learning sessions bring a wealth of opportunities to learn new skills, increase confidence and resilience, and just to experience some of what the local environment has to offer. These sessions were very popular last year, and we cannot wait to get them going again.



Upper stages swimming lessons

We have the opportunity to take the upper stages children for a block of swimming lessons later in the session, probably before Easter.

Knowing how difficult it can be to get swimming lessons just now and how little opportunity there would have been over the last two years to swim, we think this would be a very good opportunity for the class. It is still a good way off, but I wanted to give you as much notice as I could because I know this could potentially cause some anxiety for children, even for able swimmers who may not have had much opportunity lately.

The lessons will be designed to cater for all levels from non-swimmers onwards and would be at Ellon Academy pool with qualified instructors.



Upcoming Dates term 1 and 2

We are in the process of confirming some school trip dates and finalising the dates for our outdoor learning in term 1, we will let you know as soon as we can.

- Monday 5th September – P1s begin full days
- Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th October – Parents evenings
- Wednesday 12th October – Community Café (Theme will be 'Harvest')
- Friday 14th October – Last day of term 1
- Monday 31st October – First day of term 2
- Thursday 17th and Friday 18th November – School closed for in-service days
- Wednesday December 10th – Panto visit (Peter Pan at HMT)
- Thursday 15th December – Foveran Christmas show (in Foveran Hall)
- Wednesday 21st December – School Christmas lunch and party
- Thursday 22nd December – Last day of term 2 (the 23rd is a local Ellon Holiday this year)