



THE FINTRY THISTLE



Dear Parents/Carers

We are fast approaching the end of what has been a complete whirlwind of a term. Along with our usual experiences organised for pupils the highlight was Her Majesty's Inspectors visiting School and Nursery the second week into our new term. It was a very successful visit as the report reflects and inspectors were very complimentary about the willingness of pupils to engage in conversation with them and to talk about their learning. HMIE highlighted and praised the inclusive nature of our school and the nurturing approaches developed from Nursery to P7 which ensures children are in school and ready to learn. They were very impressed with the level of teaching and learning going on across the school and I know you would join me in thanking our dedicated staff for all their efforts in teaching our young people.



Due to the level of calm across school children are engaging in their learning and as a result are making good progress with attainment across most curricular areas. The conversations we had with HMIE reinforced our already identified School Improvement Plan priorities are those we should now develop further.



May we take this opportunity to thank all Parents and Carers as you work with school to promote good learning habits with your children. We are very proud of what our children and staff have achieved over the past years which has been recognised by HMIE but we are not solely responsible as without your continued support and encouragement none of this would be possible. A huge thank you for all you do to support your child and our school. We look forward to continuing to work with you to support children's learning in Fintry Primary School and Early Years Centre.



As a thank you to the children we arranged a special treat, all children enjoyed a performance of Ye Canna Shove Your Granny Aff the Bus. A celebration of the Scots language in song and verse. It was a fantastic performance perfect for a fantastic school of pupils.



B Smith

COVID -19

We are ending the term in rather strange circumstances due to the unprecedented rapid spread worldwide of the Coronavirus. At the time of writing this note we have no confirmed cases of pupils suffering from the virus although one or two are particularly unwell with some of the symptoms.

Being a large staff we do have colleagues and pupils who have an underlying medical condition so have removed themselves from the situation in line with advice from medical experts.

We have been taking advice from Senior Managers and NHS who have been guiding us and making decisions based on Government advice.



would urge you to continue to check DCC Website, Fintry Primary Website, our Twitter Feed and School App for updates and information.

Twitter:- @fintryprimary



Trips

Unfortunately our trips had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus but Amazon did visit us and let the children see robots working in their distribution points which were really interesting for the children.

Now that school has been closed to all pupils apart from those of Key Workers, we urge you to make use of the learning packs Teachers have made up for children. There is a mixture of digital learning, fitness and STEM work. Please keep everyone safe and follow the Government guidance. We shall try to keep our website, twitter and app updated for you. Let's hope its not too long before we are all back together again in school.

Website:- <http://fintry.ea.dundee.sch.uk/>

Change to Absence Policy

Dundee City Council have made changes and updated the Absence Policy. The main differences are that Parents/Carers will be invited to an Absence meeting if their child hits a trigger of 15 absences. 1 day = 1 absence

In addition only Armed Forces Families or Uniformed Services will have holidays authorised outwith term time. Authorisations will be given for Religious Observance



Congratulations

We are delighted to announce the arrival of Oscar James Gordon. Mr & Mrs Gordon and delighted with his safe arrival and I am sure we shall see him in school soon.



Digital Learning Week

24th February – 28th February

As part of Digital Learning Week P4-7 received a Drama production regarding Cyber Bullying.



Staffing

Mr Daniel Terry has commenced work with us in P2 and we are delighted to have him. He will be with us until the summer and we wish him a very warm welcome to Fintry.

Digital Learning Week 24th February – 28th February

It has been a busy term for our Digital Leaders at Fintry. In February we had our 3rd Digital Learning Week where over 20 visitors from local companies came in to talk to and work with our children across the school. We had various game design companies, some hackers, different types of engineers and also the Evening Telegraph hosted a workshop for our Digital Leaders. The children had an amazing time and all our visitors were complementing the children on their behaviour, and asking very good questions.



In March, we hosted the first ever Digital Ting Teach Meet alongside 2 schools in Angus and Perth & Kinross. The event had 11 schools from

across Dundee carry out a 10 minute presentation about how they are doing Digital Learning in their school or a Digital Tool that they love to use. This was really an informative morning and all of the schools got lots of great ideas! Four of our Digital Leaders attended the event in Arbroath at Inverbrothock Primary School and have since fed back what they learned to the other Digital Leaders.

Health & Safety

Dundee City Council are looking at ways of ensuring more pupils take up school lunches and remain in school over lunchtimes. Recently Parents were asked to comment through a questionnaire which was on our App and we hope you had your say.

We have been receiving more complaints from neighbours regarding litter being thrown into gardens or dropped outside houses. Clearly this is giving our school a bad name. We are talking with children in school about ways to make sure we look after our Community and are responsible when out alone. In addition, staff are reporting more children coming back from shops with large bottles of fizzy cherry aid, cola etc., we frequently have children with cans of pringles and family bags of sweets. All this makes for a much louder and unsettled school in the afternoon than it is in the morning and is not good for concentration when working.

Our biggest concern is that some pupils are going to the shops (with friends) when they don't have any money. They tell the teacher they are home lunch and go out of school and are not having any lunch. If they remained in school they would be provided with a lunch which they are entitled to. There are no Lollipop People on duty over lunchtime anymore, Once again we would ask that all pupils stay in school over lunchtime as it is the safest place for them.