

Cairney School aspires to be a happy, safe and inclusive learning community where everyone is treated fairly and with respect and encouraged to be the best they can be. Through high-quality, enjoyable, learning experiences, we strive to inspire and challenge our learners to achieve their fullest potential. In our school, learning is an active, exciting, positive experience. We work in partnership with parents, carers and the wider community to enable our children to become

- **Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.**



E-mail: cairney.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
 Website: www.cairney.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

Telephone Number: 01466 405915
 Adverse Weather/Emergency info: 08700544999
 Emergency Pin Number: 021410

Cairney School Newsletter No. 3: 7th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are rapidly approaching the end of this term - nine weeks has just flown by!

Parent/carer teacher interviews

This is the time of year that we would normally be having our first parent/carer teacher evening of the year. Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions imposed on us because of Covid19, we are unable to have 'face to face' meetings with parents and carers at the moment. We plan to provide a short, interim pupil report early next term to let you know how the children are getting on and how they have settled back into school.

Pupil Equality Funding

Many thanks for the suggestions for how we might spend the Pupil Equality Fund (which is allocated by the Scottish Government). ***This money is specifically to help close the attainment gap, improve attainment, and support our children to achieve their best.*** There are strict guidelines and restrictions as to how it can be spent as it must be spent to help achieve these aims.



Below are the suggestions that were made by families in the school and what we plan to do:

Suggestions made	What we plan to do
Extra time spent with disadvantaged children to help narrow the gap	We are fortunate to have 2 full time adults in the classroom. Staff are able to identify those who need more support during their recovery, and this leads to a personalised response to individual children.
Outside teacher/instructor to take an outdoor class or teach skills through play	We are not able to have additional adults in school at the moment. However, the school has long standing and established partnerships with various outdoor rangers and have various projects/learning experiences already planned which will happen once we can have additional adults in school again.
Every child to have access to a tablet/laptop particularly if studying at home is necessary and the funding of technology to enable this for the children that need it should be a priority	We have been allocated 3 new iPads through the Government scheme. However, most of our iPads are now 6 years old and are not able to support updates of new versions of some of the Apps we use. For every child to have access to appropriate technology, we plan to buy 2 further iPads with the PEF money.

Further learning in online skills including video calls/ online conferencing/meetings	The GLOW meet facility is now available via the Google classroom. Further developing the digital skills of pupils and staff is part of the school improvement plan this year.
More benches for the shelter shed/outdoor classroom	We will explore different ways of funding resources like this by applying for grants etc. (Wind farm/community fund?)
More outdoor learning	Research has shown that physical activity and Outdoor Learning improves children's physical fitness, their confidence and self-esteem. We plan to look at increasing physical activity and Outdoor Learning in school, building on what we have achieved in the last 3 years. Due to an increase in the school roll we have invested in additional outdoor/wet weather clothing so that every pupil has access to appropriate clothing.
Different sports/use of field more	Outdoor clothing (as above) will help us to facilitate this
More and different types of acting	We are unable to deliver all the aspects of Drama at the moment due to the current situation. We will explore this once we can deliver a full drama curriculum again.
More science experiments	Science is part of our curriculum and regularly forms part of our learning in school. We also have 4 pupils who are STEM champions this year who will also lead learning in STEM (which includes science) in class.
Counting games/resources painted on to the playground or corridors	This 'fits' with our focus on increased outdoor learning and our school improvement plan and as such can be funded by school funds.

From our own self-evaluation activities that help us to identify areas for improvement and development, we have identified a need to continue to focus on further developing the children's Math's skills and continue to provide opportunities for sharing learning at home, to support the development of language/vocabulary in the youngest pupils and further develop our outdoor learning curriculum. The PEF money will therefore be used to purchase an annual subscription to SUMDOG for all pupils and to purchase a variety of resources to help support learning and teaching in Maths and Language. This will be in addition to purchasing 2 new iPads. PEF money has been used to purchase more outdoor clothing so that all the children have access to this in school.

Dates for your diary

Friday 9th October: School closes for the October Holidays

Monday 26th October: School re-opens for Term 2

Friday 20th November: School closed to pupils for In-service day

Friday 18th: December: School closes for Christmas.

Tuesday 5th: January: School opens for Term 3

...and finally

On behalf of everyone at the school, I would like to thank you all for all your support during this term, for observing the new regimes and for helping the children to get used to the new way of doing things. All of us at Cairney School hope that you all have a good 'Tattie Holiday' break and we look forward to welcoming the children back for the start of term 2.



Yours faithfully,

Dr. Kim C Aplin
Head Teacher



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Parent comments and Ideas

Please share your child/children's out of school achievements

Name:

Signed: