

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.**



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## Cairney School Newsletter No. 3: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Pupil Equity Fund

We have been allocated money from the Scottish Government called the Pupil Equity Fund. This money is to help close the attainment gap and help our children achieve their best. We recently asked for your ideas on how to use this and about what supports you think would help our children to achieve and improve attainment in the school

There were lots of ideas - thank you. These are summarised below with comments about what we plan to do about the things that were suggested. The Pupil Equity Fund is just one part of the school budget; some of the suggestions made are/can be funded by other parts of the school budget.

Suggestions made	What we plan to do
Swimming lessons	Swimming lessons have not been unavailable in the last 18 months due to COVID restrictions. The school has organised swimming lessons in the past and will look at doing so again. We have to fund the cost of the transport for the 6 week block of lessons as well as the cost of the lessons. We will explore different ways of funding resources like this by applying for grants etc. (Wind farm/community fund?) and not use PEF for this.
Bikeability	This is something that the school usually offers (P5 -7 pupils) but hasn't been able to due to COVID restrictions as we haven't been able to have adults in to help in school. We hope to offer this again this year (usually term 4).
Music – different styles	This is part of the curriculum and we are lucky to have Mr Main (visiting specialist music teacher) working with the children again this session.
Pipe band tutor	This would fit in really well with our Scottish Culture focus in term 3. We will explore this as a possibility and look at ways of funding this by applying for grants etc. (Wind farm/community fund?) At the moment, playing of wind-blown instruments has to be risk assessed due to COVID but hopefully this will change soon.
Learning about other cultures	This is part of the curriculum.
Outdoor Learning /Forest school /Resources for outdoor learning/gardening/ sustainability/	Research has shown that physical activity and Outdoor Learning improves children's physical fitness, their confidence and self-esteem. We plan to continue building on the outdoor learning that we have delivered in the last 4 years and a member of staff is currently undertaking Forest School training. Due to an increase in the school

	<p>roll we will invest in additional out door/wet weather clothing so that every pupil has access to appropriate clothing. The playground benches are important in our delivery of outdoor learning as well as promoting Health and Wellbeing (as a place to enjoy playtime snacks with each other. and time outside during the day etc.) These need to be replaced so we plan to purchase and install new ones using PEF money.</p> <p>Our school improvement plan includes an outdoor learning project which hopefully will involve the school, families and the local community looking at and improving the biodiversity of our area. Through this, the children will be learning skills for learning, life and work, exploring ways in which we can all care for our planet, sustainability and will also have the opportunity to work with a Greenspace officer and a ranger from Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>We also plan to purchase more gardening equipment with some of the PEF money.</p>
Laptops	We purchased a number of new laptops recently, have been allocated some new iPads through the Government scheme and used PEF money last session to purchase new iPads. We have the opportunity to regularly 'refresh' our IT hardware through funding that is not PEF.
Books	In recent years we have invested in new reading books and novels for the children, new textbooks for Maths and new French resources. We keep our books under constant review and identify where we need to replace or upgrade. This is facilitated from school funds rather than from PEF money.
Outdoor Play equipment	We have outdoor play equipment that we haven't been able to use due to COVID restrictions around sharing resources. Hopefully we can start to use this again soon!
Instruments	We are very lucky to have a good selection of percussion instruments in school as well as electric keyboards and recorders. We keep all our resources under constant review and identify where we need to replace or upgrade. This is facilitated from school funds rather than from PEF money.
Theatre/dancing – watching and participating	We have been unable to deliver all of the aspects of Drama until recently due to COVID but have been able to restart to deliver a full drama/dance curriculum again. We purchased tickets for an 'online pantomime' last December for the children and have funded trips to the theatre in Aberdeen using a grant from the wind farm/community fund. We will look at this as a possibility again (usually term 4).
Science exploration/activities	Science is part of our curriculum and regularly forms part of our learning in school. We also have 4 P6/7 pupils who are STEM champions this year who will also lead learning in STEM (which includes science) in class.
Mental maths	We have this on our school improvement plan this year and will be purchasing resources from PEF money to support this.
Individual and family support from trained professionals	We are fortunate to have 2 adults in each classroom. We are able to identify those who are in need of support and this leads to a personalised response to individual children. Staff were trained in the principles of Nurture and Emotion Coaching last session; this supports the assessment and understanding of children's social and emotional difficulties. The Educational Psychology Service and the School Nurse provide support and advice to the school and for individual families if necessary.

After school activities	Before the restrictions that we have had to adhere due to COVID, parents have run after school clubs in Art and gardening. WE hope after school activities might be possible again this session. We used PEF money in previous years to purchase resources for these.
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**Absence from school**

If your child/ren are unwell and need to stay at home, please can you let the school know by telephoning; **there are times when the office is not manned during the week so if you send an email it may not be picked up.** Thank you.

**Dates for your diary**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October: School closes for the October Holidays

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November: School re-opens for Term

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November: School closed for In-service days

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>: December: School closes for Christmas.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>: January: School opens for Term 3

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: .....