



Primary P5,6 & 7 Newsletter: Term 1 2020-2021

Confident Individuals ❖ Successful Learners ❖ Effective Contributors ❖ Responsible Citizens

Welcome to our termly "Class Newsletter" which aims to give you a little more information about what your child will be doing this term.

Welcome to Term 1

A very warm welcome back to the whole upper school community after what has been a very challenging few months for all concerned. It has been inspiring to see so many enthusiastic faces, enjoying mixing with their peers once more and ready to learn. I have enjoyed the last couple of weeks at Auchnagatt, working with some familiar faces and meeting new ones along the way and very much looking forward to building on this as the term progresses.

The first week back has been spent embedding the required new routines, with the regular handwashing, the way we move around the building and the zoned play area being new features to consider. I have been impressed as to how the class has adapted to these changes and hope that this will continue throughout the term.

We have developed a new class charter based on our current space topic, with our beliefs being "Out of this World." The opinions of the class coincide with the UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Programme, with a particular emphasis on "treating others how you want to be treated" and "being safe," both of which correlates with the current situation we find ourselves in. The class charter is displayed within the classroom.

During the first couple of weeks back we are focussing on our health and wellbeing, while considering the features of the "Learning to Learn" programme. The pupils enjoy working in class cooperative groups to find out more about what helps them to learn.

We have also looked at each pupil's learning styles, which has produced some surprising results. On completion of the VAK (visual, auditory or kinaesthetic) questionnaire, we are able to identify the varying styles, which will allow us to adapt our planning and teaching accordingly.

Spelling: Once more we will be using active spelling strategies to learn spelling this term. The homework book will be sent home next week with words to be practiced throughout the term. There will be tasks to complete each week, which will support the learning of these. The pupils are not required to bring this book back in, due to the current situation. If pupils wish to challenge themselves further, they can identify some "difficult" words within books they are reading, previous words they have struggled with, or even utilising social media. This will allow them to extend their vocabulary, which will benefit in all areas of the curriculum.

Reading: The children are enjoying the new class novel "*George's Secret Key to the Universe*" by Lucy and Steven Hawking. This is linked in with the current space topic. They will be encouraged to read short passages to the class if they feel confident to do so, while completing tasks related to the story. The children may also choose a book from the library to support further reading at home, which will increase their confidence in the class setting.

Geography: During the term the pupils are encouraged to identify a country of which they have a particular interest. Once chosen they will be allowed the opportunity to research this country and present their findings to the class in a format they desire. This may involve a powerpoint presentation, flipchart or any other visual format.

Writing: Throughout the term we will be exploring writing using different methods, commencing with Newspaper Reports, linking in once more with our Space topic. We will be exploring the features of a newspaper and considering ways as to how we could improve on this.

There will be a particular emphasis on using our "Wow" vocabulary to set the scene, before detailing the report of the pupil's space event that they have witnessed.

Topic: As mentioned above the topic this term will be 'Space'. We started to look at what the pupils already know and what they would like to learn, before looking at the order of the planets. We have also created our own balloon rockets, which provided a great deal of fun.

Maths/Numeracy: We are currently recapping on previous knowledge, considering the time that has passed between formal maths teaching. This will start with a recap on place value, allowing the pupils to utilise this knowledge to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems. We will continue to use the Daily 10 to improve our timestables recall and allow the pupils to gain confidence in this.

There will also be an emphasis on outdoor Maths investigations to create a further interest and put Maths in a practical setting.

French: I will be teaching French on a Friday afternoon, with an initial recap and continuing with the previous work that has been achieved.

Please have a look at the following suggestions for language websites:

BBC Bitesize – a selection of clips on a variety of topics Second Level P5 – 7:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z2mxsbk>

Light Bulb Languages – a mass of teacher resources:
<http://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-primary.htm>