



Primary 3, 4 Newsletter: Term 3

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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	Homework	This term we aim to...
<p>Hello everyone and welcome back. I hope you have all enjoyed a peaceful and happy Christmas break with your families. Lovely to have some time off, but good to be back in a routine and our days are beginning to stretch a little!</p> <p>In our first (half) week back we had a collaborative learning challenge planned with a literacy focus; this time based on Fairy Tales. With the situation as it is, we undertook this within our own class beginning with a paired reading session sharing favourite traditional Fairy Tales. Paired reading is a research proven strategy for encouraging and improving reading skills and all the children engaged well with it. When we'd considered the various features of traditional tales, the children came up with their own fairy tale characters, setting and plot in their groups. They mapped the story and drew pictures. We then learned how to use the Book Creator App on the iPads. I was so impressed with how quickly and easily the children mastered this! They then had fun creating a digital version of their fairy tales which they shared with the P1/2 class via Apple TV. Isn't technology marvellous!</p>	<p>This term's spelling words have been added to the homework jotters which have been re-issued. They are all dated week beginning at the top. Literacy tasks are on a sheet at the front of the homework jotter and this term include 3 reading activities. Please complete one each week.</p> <p>Because we are reading a class novel, I won't routinely be issuing reading homework to all groups until nearer the end of the term. Please encourage reading for pleasure at home; all children are given a weekly opportunity to choose a book from the school library which they can take home. We will be hearing the children read in class as part of our paired reading time, too. Children have also been asked to prepare a talk about the author of our class novel, Michael Morpurgo (details on the homework task sheet inside front cover of jotter).</p> <p>I'll issue maths homework regularly too. It will be a mixture of web-based and paper worksheets this term. Please continue to use Sumdog for fun too – this will benefit the development of fact fluency which is so important for children's mathematical progress. Topmarks is also excellent for drill practise, especially hit the button and number fact families.</p>	<p>Our topic this term is Scottish History with a detailed look at the Jacobites in particular as this links with the class novel we are reading; <i>The Last Wolf</i>, by Michael Morpurgo. The novel is set in 18th Century Highland Perthshire and follows the story of a boy and an orphaned wolf cub. We'll be learning about the Clans of Scotland, some of their traditions and mottos and of course, tartans. This also ties in well with our Scottish Poetry focus as we approach our annual Burn's celebration.</p> <p>We are continuing with calculations this term; we'll soon move on to multiplication and division, along with mastering some multiplication tables. The primary 4s learned all the tables facts last year – I hope they remember them!</p> <p>Practical maths this term, led by Mrs Thomson, will continue our measures topic by looking at area. We will then move on to time.</p> <p>Spelling programmed continue – see homework jotters for weekly words and practice activities.</p> <p>Weekly Big Writing started this week with a Target setting task. Pieces will cover a range of genre and be inspired by our topic learning and class novel.</p> <p>In-class reading will consist of following the novel as well as a paired reading timeslot during which the children will</p>

Mrs Johnston

	RMPS	Handwriting/ Grammar
Mon	*	
Tues		
Wed		*
Thurs		
Fri		

Timetable

	P.E	Spelling H / W	Mrs Thomson	Rugby/ Gardening
Mon		*		
Tues				
Wed	*			
Thurs			*	*
Fri			*	

share a book of their choice with a partner. The children were introduced to this concept last week and responded well. They've been allowed to choose a second book from the library which will stay in class for this purpose.

PE / Gardening

PE will continue indoors for now, but we hope that perhaps later in the term we can get back outside (without getting filthy!). Please have your child dress in comfortable leggings or tracksuit bottoms, along with school polo shirt and sweatshirt on Wednesdays. Rugby sessions will continue on Thursdays for the next two weeks and will be outdoors where possible so please dress suitably for this. We will have a break from gardening while we have the rugby sessions but aim to resume gardening, weather permitting, from 3 February on Thursdays again. On gardening days children should come warmly dressed in suitable footwear for muddy conditions (preferably wellies!).

French

This term we are continuing to practise French vocabulary for weather and seasons. We are also going to learn some vocabulary for hobbies and sports. The children are now able to say whether they are having packed lunch or school dinner "en français" so we'll continue to develop this to include some food items on the school menu. Don't forget the [Northern Alliance Family Learning](#) site is available for family language learning.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries. Finally, wishing you all the best in 2022.

Mrs McKerrow and Mrs Thomson.