



Primary 3, 4, 5 Newsletter: Term 1

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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

Hello and welcome back to Auchnagatt school. A very warm welcome whether you are new to the middle stages class or returning; we are excited to be working with you over the coming year. I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break.

Week one was focused on “learning to learn”, settling in, and getting to know one another. We had a successful and industrious week setting up our classroom, putting in place the necessary routines to help things run smoothly. Of course we also made time to catch up on our holiday news – it was great to hear all the children’s stories.

We also worked to develop a Class Charter together. After discussing the UNCRC Rights of the Child, we considered the importance of making an agreement to follow certain conventions in our class that will ensure the best possible learning environment for all. The children came up with some brilliant ideas and we’ve all promised to use the charter to guide us throughout the year ahead. They’ve come up with some very elaborate ideas for a charter display which we’ll be working on over the coming weeks!

Homework

Homework jotters have now been sent home and include all the spelling words for the term. Words should be written twice in neat handwriting and an activity chosen from the grid each week to practise writing the words a third time. Please encourage your child to check for accuracy – spotting their own mistakes is an important skill and building familiarity with how the words should look will help progress spelling. Children should require spending no more than 5 – 10 minutes daily on this at home.

Reading books will be issued later in the term but I would encourage reading for pleasure at home in the meantime as per my previous communication. Your child has borrowed 2 books from the school library, at least one of which they should be able to read independently.

A reminder that Sumdog is available for your child to use at any time to practise their skills in numeracy and maths. I will provide further suggestions for practising mental maths skills later in the term. Set tasks will be issued via Google Classroom. Please let me know if you have any issues accessing either application.

This term we aim to...

Our topic this term is Animals. We’ll be learning about different habitats (and human impact on habitats), animal and plant lifecycles and food chains as well as animal communication and classification.

In **maths** this term we will be learning about place value, the number system, counting on and back in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s and partitioning numbers into their thousands, hundreds, tens and ones. Using a range of concrete materials, the children will construct, order and compare numbers to develop their understanding of number place and value. This understanding is an important foundation for all numerical reasoning and calculation. Mrs Thomson will be teaching practical maths during the year, beginning with Shape, Position and Movement in Term one.

The children will be working on a range of spelling programmes, all of which encourage the development of various strategies for decoding (reading) and encoding (spelling/ writing). We’ll practise spellings daily in class through a range of activities, all of which encourage the use of phonics to understand the sounds that letters and letter combinations make.

In addition to paired reading time during which the children will read to a partner from a book of their choice, we will be sharing a class novel together. Reading in this way supports literacy development through modelling, strategy development, and completing tasks collaboratively to analyse

Mrs Johnston / Mrs Robertson

	Music	Handwriting	HWB
Mon		*	
Tues			
Wed	*		
Thurs			*
Fri			

Timetable

	P.E	Spelling H / W	Mrs Thomson
Mon		*	
Tues			
Wed			
Thurs	*		* (alternate weeks)
Fri			*

and understand the text. We will be reading Catherine Rundell's The Explorer.

Weekly Big Writing will cover a mixture of functional and imaginative writing. We'll begin with a personal piece "All about Me" which gives the children an opportunity to write about themselves, their hobbies, families and aspirations.

PE

Timetabled PE will be on a Thursday each week. Children will be doing a mixture of ball skills and orienteering in term one. Please ensure that suitable **outdoor** PE kit is sent to school, preferably to remain until the end of term. This should include outdoor trainers if your child wears other shoes or boots to school. Children won't use their indoor shoes outside so as to avoid getting them dirty.

French –

During French sessions this term, we'll be revising some of last year's learning and developing this to include ordering lunch in French (our primary 5s will be taking a lead on this!), following various classroom directions and discussing the days of the week and weather. The [Northern Alliance Family Learning](#) site is full of fun family activities that you can do at home. Remember, learning a language has many benefits for learners of all ages and there are several languages to choose from.

I'm looking forward to meeting you soon, but if you have any questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office or directly at gw17mckerrowsarah@glow.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

Mrs McKerrow and Mrs Thomson.