



Primary 3, 4, 5 Newsletter: Term 3

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

Hello everyone and welcome back. I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break and celebrating the new year. I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2024.

Our first week back consisted of the usual literacy based collaborative learning, with a focus on Doric poetry. The theme was healthy eating, and the remit to create a winning poem that we can recite before lunch in our dining hall. To begin, we enjoyed a brilliant drama and presentation skills session with Kat Hanlon. Everyone enjoyed the activities, gaining valuable confidence and skills in speaking well to an audience. The week continued with recapping what we know about healthy eating. Focus then shifted to the Doric language when groups created word banks and began to create poetry. In order to perfect their presentation, groups practised and recorded the recital of their poems, then gave themselves feedback before working on improvements.

Everyone worked well together, taking on various roles and responsibilities within their groups. The presentations were excellent. Children and staff have voted for their favourite and the winner will be announced soon!

Collaborative learning weeks are an excellent opportunity to build relationships across the school, and for the children to develop various skills including leadership and team working.

Homework

Spelling:

This term's words and task menu have been added to the homework jotters. Please complete one task each week in addition to writing each of the spelling words 3 times. A short spelling practise each day (just 5 minutes) is the most effective way to learn spellings.

Set reading:

In addition to reading our novel in class, children will be given slightly reduced set reading homework and will be heard in school regularly. Please encourage independence as appropriate at home. Most children should manage the reading themselves, although there is benefit in reading some (or all) to an adult at home to practice fluency and expression.

Research and presentation task:

Children have also been asked to prepare a talk about the author of our class novel, Katherine Rundell, details of which were included in the recent homework letter and also on Google Classroom.

Maths:

To begin with this term, we are focusing on learning tables facts using the 15/15 challenge, a 15 day programme during which children learn 3 multiplication facts each day. Further details included in homework letter.

This term we aim to...

Topic:

Our topic this term is called The Little Lighthouse. In this project learners undertake a series of scientific investigations to explore the properties of light, electricity and other forces as well as completing engineering challenges and learning to programme a micro:bit computer. We're also planning a visit to The Museum of Scottish Lighthouses at Kinnaird Head Castle in Fraserburgh. We'll learn about the history of Scottish Lighthouses and get a flavour of what life was like in the past.

Maths:

When we complete our current learning on addition and subtraction, we'll progress to multiplication and division calculations. Furthermore, we'll be learning and practising multiplication facts through our 15/15 challenge, as well as beginning a new daily mental maths programme called Flashback Four which aims to refresh and revisit common mathematical skills throughout the year.

Practical maths this term, led by Mrs Thomson, will be completing our work on shape before moving on to position and movement.

Spelling:

Spelling programmes will continue – see homework jotters for weekly words and practice activities.

Mrs Johnston and Mrs Robertson

	Handwriting / grammar	Music	Health and wellbeing
Mon	*		
Tues			
Wed		*	
Thurs			*
Fri			

Timetable

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

Writing and Grammar:

Weekly Big Writing started with a persuasive text entitled "The Best Christmas Present". Writing will cover a range of genre during the term and will be inspired by our topic and class novel.

Grammar work will begin with some work on verbs and will progress to look at the use of different punctuation.

Reading:

In-class reading will focus mainly on the class novel, The Explorer, by Katherine Rundell. Paired reading will continue, allowing the children to share a book of their choice with a partner. Group reading will be heard by a member of staff on a weekly basis.

PE

PE will continue indoors for now, with a block of gymnastics, but we hope that perhaps later in the term we can get back outside as the weather improves. Please have your child bring comfortable leggings, shorts or tracksuit bottoms, along with a T-shirt, for PE.

French

This term we are consolidating our pet vocabulary and learning more vocabulary associated with family. We'll then be learning vocabulary for parts of the body and conversational language around this. 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 for 2024.

Mrs McKerrow and Mrs Thomson.