**Primary 1/2**

**Session 2023/2024 – Terms One and Two**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

May I please extend a warm welcome to all our new families and hope that those of you who have a child already in school continue to feel valued.

Our new session in Primary 1/2 has got off to a flying start. Our transition has been smooth and our new Primary One pupils have settled into our school very well. They are now beginning to become familiar with the rules and routines of the class and school.

Our new Primary Two pupils have arrived back to class ready to learn. They have been keen to be role-models for our new pupils and have welcomed everyone.

What follows is a brief description of what present life in P1/2 looks like and what you can perhaps discuss with your child.

**Health and Well-being**

The health and well-being of our pupils is central to all that we plan and do, both within class and out-with the classroom. The children’s social and emotional development will be a priority as we return to routine and welcome our new pupils.

We will talk about safety, friendship, feelings, looking after ourselves and others, and examine how we can keep ourselves healthy and well.

**Learning Across the Curriculum**

Topics and learning activities are often led by the interests of the class and link to Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and experiences. P1/2 is a very busy environment and a wealth of activities occur daily. These learning activities and playful learning opportunities lead to investigation and centres of interest.

Pupils are encouraged to have a say as to the topics that we study, and this cohort are keen to investigate and explore. We aim to include aspects of Science that link to interests and our curriculum outcomes and experiences.

**Outdoor Learning** - will be a feature again this session. We plan to use the outdoors wherever appropriate. “Welly Wednesdays” will be our regular day for taking the learning outdoors whatever the weather.

Some families prefer to hand in a bag with wellies and a waterproof suit or change of clothes suitable for outdoor that can be left in school.

These outdoor sessions are more enjoyable if we are dressed appropriately for the changing weather patterns. We will continue to explore our outdoor environment, make use of our community garden, and investigate and experiment with natural resources. We also regularly use loose parts to enhance our learning and encourage imagination, creativity, and innovation. Welly Wednesdays have been up and running for our P2 children and our new P1 children will have their first Welly Wednesday afternoon as this is their first full week in school. A letter with further details has been sent from our school office.

**Physical Education**

This session we will have P.E on Mondays and Fridays. I will be teaching gymnastics skills on a Monday and Mrs MacArthur will teach outdoor P.E on a Friday. Primary two pupils have already engaged in these regular sessions with great enthusiasm.

Your child needs a P.E kit and appropriate gym shoes for Physical Education. It is helpful if the children can come dressed in gym kit on Mondays and Fridays. Please tie long hair back.

**Water Bottles**

Please continue to ensure that your child has a distinctive water bottle and refresh this daily with fresh water. It is very helpful if the bottle is named.

**Mathematics focus**

**Number** – Our pupils will be examining number concepts appropriate to their age and stage of development. Adding two amounts together to find a total will be a focus.

**Information Handling –** We will be collecting data and organising this information in tally charts and simple pictorial graphs.

**Literacy and English**

**Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking**

Daily opportunities for reading, writing, listening, and talking activities are planned by staff and the children themselves. These opportunities naturally occur in a play-based environment and during teacher-directed tasks.

Personal writing will be the focus for term one and two, with opportunities to use imaginative and functional writing.

**French** – Mrs Gagne is teaching us French on Mondays.

**Art and Craft**

We regularly take part in messy activities. If you have not already provided an apron, please could your child bring an art apron or an old oversized shirt for such activities? This will be sent home at holidays to be washed and returned.

**Life and Ethos of the school** **groups**

This session P2 have chosen which of the whole school groups they would like to join. We have Eco Group, Rights Respecting Group, Rotakids and our Learning Council. Group tasks will be implemented on a Friday. At present, to give the children an opportunity to see what each group does, P1 will join a different group each week.

**House Points**

Each child has been assigned a “house” and they can then earn points for their house. Positive behaviour such as showing manners, being kind, displaying significant effort, out of school achievements, teamwork and helping others will be recognised and rewarded. Please let us know of any out of school achievements so that these can be celebrated in class and at whole school assemblies.

**Reward Time**

Reward time is our reward for positive behaviour in school. This will usually be on a Friday. Our pupils select from a range of opportunities to join other children from other classes in a shared interest. We would welcome the support of parents that might like to help by sharing a skill e.g. knitting/sewing, art and craft, woodwork etc.

**Shared Learning/Homework**

Children will take home the reader that we have been focusing on in class. Usually, the reading sessions will be Tuesday for Thursday **or** Monday for Wednesday, but individuals may have reading sent home more frequently. It is very helpful if reading folders are kept in schoolbags so that they are accessible. Primary one pupils will receive a reading book and homework later this term.

**P2** – Homework jotters and special folders will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned for marking the following Tuesday. Reading homework will be issued separately.

**P1** – Homework will be given out on a Wednesday and returned for marking the following Tuesday.

All P1 children will have a “Sound Book” which will usually have new phonics sounds added. Reading books will follow shortly.

**Learning Journals** is a useful tool for helping us share our learning with you and we enjoy seeing the feedback that we receive and the parental partnership that this encourages. Please consider this as an opportunity to initiate discussion with your child about their learning.

I do hope that this information serves you well and that you feel that you can contact us if you are concerned about any aspect of your child’s experience in school.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs A S Dow