

**Primary 3/4**

**2023-2024- Term 1 Newsletter**

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to begin by welcoming you all to the start of our new academic year. The children in Primary 3/4 have had a great first few weeks back at school. They have been enthusiastic about their learning and are settling back into rules and routines. Below is an outline of what current life looks like in P3/4.

**Topic**

This term we will be focusing on Space. We will be developing knowledge about our earth, sun, moon, and planets around us. In addition, we will investigate gravity and forces. The children will link this to many aspects of the curriculum such as maths, technology, science, social studies, and expressive arts through developing research, recording, and investigating skills.

**Literacy and English**

**Reading**

This term our reading days will vary, individuals will be notified on the days their group will read. This will be made clear on the front of the reading record. Reading aloud with a group or adult will encourage group discussions in order to develop knowledge and understanding of the text. The children will also have the opportunity for choice during independent reading sessions and selection of a whole class story.

**Writing**

On Wednesdays we have our ‘Wonderful Weekly Writing’ sessions where we will welcome Ms Crofts into the class to support weekly taught writing. Personal writing will be the main focus this term, however, there are opportunities for a range of imaginative and functional writing too. On a Tuesday we will plan for the writing sessions and/or evaluate previous writing. Each child will have their own personal targets that they will identify and work towards. Weekly we will have spelling, handwriting/grammar and comprehension lessons that will support our writing too. We will focus on forming our letters and numerals correctly this term, along with moving onto joining letters as part of our handwriting.

**Listening and Talking**

Throughout the week there will be multiple opportunities for the class to part take in group and paired discussions along with celebrating success within the classroom and sharing their out of school achievements at assemblies.

**Numeracy and Maths**

In numeracy and maths, we will be focusing on addition and shape this term. We will also be developing mental maths skills which will involve a range of writing, active and technological activities. We will continue to use Big Maths to support our development. Our ‘Learn Its’ will be used to practise instant recall. CLIC and SAFE challenges will be carried out weekly to continuously revise and revisit wider maths and numeracy topics that have been taught previously. These are set at the individual level/challenge point for each child.

**Health & Wellbeing**

**Physical Education**

PE days will be on a Wednesday and Thursday. In Term one we will be focusing teambuilding games and ball skills, which includes, working collaboratively with others, following instructions, taking leadership roles, problem solving, ball control, striking a ball with a stick, aiming for targets and dribbling/passing a ball. Please arrive to school ready for PE on a Wednesday and Thursday. We will continue to stay active during Track Challenge Tuesdays with the whole school.

P3/4 will be learning about how to keep healthy through a range of CORAM/SCARF lessons, along with cooking/baking where possible and relevant. Safety will be another focus as we develop knowledge about how to look after ourselves and others around us.

**Outdoor Learning**

We will have Muddy Monday on a Monday afternoon. However, we will be taking as many opportunities as possible to take our learning outside. We will be outside in all weather therefore, please arrive prepared with welly boots, waterproofs and jackets, along with anything else that is suitable for the weather/season, such as extra layers for warmth or suncream and a hat.

**Specialists**

Mrs Gagne will be taking the class for French every Tuesday morning. Miss Davidson will be taking the P4 children for violin/viola lessons on a Monday.

**Across the curriculum**

During the week we will have an art and design focus, currently we are exploring the 5 elements of art. There is also opportunity within the week for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) linking to our space topic. RME will be taught weekly this term, with an overview of world religions and a focus on Christianity, along with relevant learning about significant celebrations that may occur from other world religions. Each morning there will be a range of activities for the children to engage with that cover many aspects of the curriculum. Often these activities are child let and occur naturally.

**Groups and Reward Time**

Reward time will take place on a Friday, this allows the children to interact with pupils from other classes and provides an element of personal choice and enjoyment.

Groups will be held on a Friday afternoon. They are an opportunity for leadership and pupil voice. There are four groups: Eco, Learning Council, Rota Kids and Rights Respecting.

**Homework**

Reading

Reading will be assigned to individual children, and this will consolidate the reading that we do in class, and this will fluency and understanding. Please check your child/children’s school bag and reading record to see individual group reading patterns, once the reading has been completed at home, please sign the record.

Spelling

Spelling words will be sent home on a Wednesday for the following Monday. The children can choose which activity they would like to carry out from the grid which will be placed in the cover of their homework jotter. Common words will be provided to support word recognition which will develop both reading and writing skills.

Numeracy and Maths

Numeracy and maths homework will be sent out along with the spelling and will follow the Wednesday for Monday pattern. However, this may not be weekly as it will only be assigned if there is a topic/activity that is purposeful and relevant to the learning that the children will be exploring in school.

**Additional Information**

If possible, could you please provide your child with a pair of indoor shoes to wear after break and lunch and these will stay in school until the end of term.

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact the school or you are more than welcome to come into school for a chat with myself at the end of the school day.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Aird 😊