**Primary 5-7 Term One Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Now that we are settled back into school after our first few weeks, I would like to share some information with you about your child’s learning.

**Reading:**

This term, the pupils have been sorted into reading groups, and each group has selected a book to read from Meldrum Library or Barrington Stoke. The groups will meet twice/three times a week in class to read together and they will be required to read their books at home as part of some reading homework. Their reading days are highlighted on the front cover of their reading records. Please could these records be signed at home once the reading is complete. Throughout the week, the pupils will develop a variety of reading skills within these lessons.

Once again in replacement of Accelerated reader, the P5-7s have been assessed this year on reading using a system called *GL Reading Assessment.* The class will be taking this test again in February and May as a tool to measure progress across the year. These results can be shared with parents upon request.

The Primary 5-7s have daily opportunities to engage with books of their choice. We have all been reading a wide range of stories and enjoy recommending books to each other. Popular texts in P5-7 include the Alex Rider series, the Skullduggery Pleasant series and the Dork Diaries.

**Writing**:

In literacy we are going to be focusing on personal writing this term. This will include formal and informal letter writing, reflective writing and personal essays. The children have each set a personal writing target they would like to focus on throughout all pieces of their writing, and they will assess their progress with this after each writing lesson. We will have Ms Crofts in class on a Wednesday to support the class with writing.

We will also continue with grammar, punctuation, handwriting and spelling lessons to focus on the up-levelling of descriptive phrases in sentences and understanding the various aspects of the English language. Spelling homework will be given out weekly. More details on this can be found below.

**Listening and Talking:**

For listening and talking over the next two terms, the pupils will be asked to prepare individual presentations on a relevant topic to their learning and present these to the class. They will also have opportunity to share their learning at an assembly on the 6th of October. Parents are welcome to attend this.

**Maths:**

This term we are focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, with some children progressing onto investigating the order of operations (BODMAS). In term two we will be moving onto negative numbers and angles. We will be using Big Maths to constantly revisit other maths topics through weekly CLIC and SAFE challenges. We will use the Learn Its challenges to focus on our mental maths and improve our instant recall. We will be using a combination of written, active and virtual mathematics activities. Before each Maths topic, the children are assessed to identify any gaps in their learning and inform what their next steps may be. They will then revisit these assessments throughout the topic to measure their own progress.

**Health and Wellbeing:**

PE is on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday** for P5-7. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed for PE on these days. They will be learning about basketball this term with a focus on the skills of passing, receiving, shotting and dribbling. The children will then progress to play and referee small basketball games.

In our Health and Wellbeing lessons, our focus will be on social and emotional wellbeing and food and health. We will use SCARF Coram as a resource to support this.

**Across the Curriculum:**

This term, Primary 5-7 will have French on a Monday with Mrs Gagne. They will then be learning some Spanish later in the term. The pupils will also participate in Science, Art, Technology, Social Studies and Music lessons throughout the first two terms.

**Outdoor Learning:**

Our outdoor learning lessons will now be on a **Friday** morning (known as Fresh Air Fridays). We will be taking the learning outside at frequent opportunities throughout this term. Please ensure that your child comes to school with appropriate clothing for this as we move into colder months.

**Homework:**

Reading homework will be issued weekly. Please see the reading records for updates on this.

Spelling homework will be given out on a Wednesday to be returned the Tuesday of the following week. The first homework will be issued out on Wednesday 6th September.

There will also be maths homework given out to the pupils. 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 doing in school.

**Groups:**

The pupils have all opted into our four school groups. These are the Rotakids, Eco Group, Rights Respecting Group and Learning Council. Many of the Primary 5-7s have taken on leadership roles within these groups this year.

**If you have any questions about this term, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school.**

Kind Regards

Miss Smith 😊