**Primary 1/2**

**Session 2023/2024 – Term Three**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

P1/2 continue to be enthusiastic and motivated learners who enjoy playing and learning in our classroom environment and beyond. What follows is a brief account of what present life in P1/2 looks like and what you can perhaps discuss with your child.

**Health and Well-being**

Our regular P.E days will continue to be Mondays and Fridays. Our focus on a Monday will be dance. We will be learning Scottish Country Dance steps and collaborating to present our dances during our whole school Burns Assembly. We will then explore creative dance. On Fridays Mrs Chalmers teaches us P.E and our focus is core movement skills including throwing, catching and using our hands and feet to practise hitting a target.

Please dress appropriately for energetic activity and tie 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.

**Learning Across the Curriculum**

During the first few weeks of January our mini topic will be, “Scotland”. Most of this topic work will be linked to Expressive Arts (art and design, dance, drama, music) and Literacy, including learning Scots/Doric poems and rhymes linked to our local heritage. In addition, in Social Studies we will be learning to recognise a simple map of Scotland and then to become aware of some of the major cities in Scotland from our experiences of these cities. We will also be learning about famous Scots like Robert Burns. We encourage all children to share their experiences by bringing items linked to the topic into school for the duration of the mini topic.

Throughout February and March our major focus will be, **“Our Natural World.”** This is a whole school theme, and we will be learning about materials, what plants need to grow and examining the theme of water. This will culminate in a visit with P3/4 to Aberdeen Science Centre to take part in a workshop entitled, “The Water Cycle”

**Outdoor Learning**

Outdoor learning is embedded in P1/2. We plan to use the outdoors wherever appropriate. “Welly Wednesday” is our regular day for taking the learning outdoors whatever the weather.

These outdoor sessions are more enjoyable if we are dressed appropriately for the changing weather patterns. We will continue to explore our outdoor environment and local community, 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, teamwork, creativity, and innovation.

**Mathematics focus**

**Number** – Our pupils will be examining number concepts appropriate to their age and stage of development. We all work with addition concepts. All pupils will explore the practical application of subtraction matched to their ability. For those who are ready and able, multiplication will focus on counting in 2s 5s and 10s. All pupils will learn to estimate and count objects within counting sets and containers with a range of amounts from 15 to 100 and beyond. We will all read, write, order and recite whole numbers up to 20, 30 or 100 and beyond.

**Shape –** Our pupils willexamine, explore and use 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes and identify their names, characteristics and properties.

We will examine which 2D shapes tile and use 3D shapes to construct models.

**Time –** The new year offers us lots more opportunities to learn the months of the year and to relate these months to major events including our birthdays. Days of the week order and sequence remains a focus as we all learn what comes after Wednesday etc. and how many days are in each month. Telling the time using clocks will link to our school day.

Our play environment offers lots of opportunities for pupils to apply their growing mathematical knowledge and skills within practical mathematical activities.

**Religious and Moral Education**

We will continue to examine Christianity through Bible stories. Easter will be a focus. Visits from our Reverend enhance our learning.

Other World Religions and celebrations will be a focus where relevant e.g. We will learn the Chinese Zodiac story and perform a puppet show to consolidate our learning. The Hindu Holi festival is celebrated on March the 25th this year and marks the arrival of spring.

**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.

Our writing focus will be poetry and rhyme. We will be learning to write rhyming couplets and to rap with the use of rhyme.

Imaginative writing will be the major focus for term three, with opportunities to use personal and functional writing where appropriate.

Our library day is Thursday. Please ensure that books are returned so that a new book can be selected.

World Book Day will on the 7th of March this year. (Further details will follow)

**French** – Mrs Chalmers is teaching us French on Mondays. Our focus this term will be learning how to say the days of the week, months of the year, our birthdays and colour words.

**Art and Craft**

Our mini topic, “Scotland” will provide opportunities to be creative and to explore art and craft activities including:

* Weaving with coloured paper to create a tartan design
* Responding to the work of Scottish Artists – e.g., Andy Scott and his Kelpies
* Unicorn artwork (linked to Scotland’s national animal)
* Draw and paint from personal experiences
* Recognising and naming the visual elements of colour, line, shape and pattern
* Colour mixing primary colours and adding white to lighten tone

As we regularly take part in messy activities. 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**

We have Eco Group, Rights Respecting Group, Rotakids and our Learning Council. Group tasks will be implemented on a Friday. P1 pupils have now joined a group that they will remain in until the end of session.

**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**

All pupils 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. 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.

Hopefully this will have offered you a snippet of some of the tasks that have been planned for learning this term. I do hope 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