**Primary 3/4**

**2023-2024- Term 3 Newsletter**

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year! Everyone at Cultercullen Primary School and I wish you all the best for the year ahead. I hope that you all took the time to relax and enjoy the Christmas break. It is fantastic to welcome you all back into Term 3. Below is an outline of what current life looks like in P3/4.

**Topic**

This term we will have a short Scotland topic. This will include exploring and creating Doric/Scots poetry and music. We will use our drama skills and knowledge to act out classic tales and songs. Followed by learning about the history of Scotland and famous figures such as Robert Burns.

Alongside the other classes we will begin our whole school topic of **“Our Natural World.”** Where P3/4 will learn to investigate food chains and show an appreciation of how animals and plants depend on each other for food, design experiments to find out what plants need in order to grow and develop and explore properties and sources of materials. This topic will allow us to discover what materials/foods we have locally to us and what we need to import from other countries and areas such as the rainforest, which will lead us to investigate Fairtrade and what this means. At the end of the topic, we will be joining the P1/2 class on a school trip to Aberdeen Science Centre to take part in a workshop entitled, “The Water Cycle”.

**Literacy and English**

**Reading**

This term our reading days will remain the same as the previous two terms, 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. This term we will also begin a whole class novel which will be ‘The Enchanted Wood’ by Enid Blyton. Library sessions will continue on a Thursday this term, thanks to our parent volunteers, please remember to bring your books, in order to exchange them for new ones.

**Writing**

On Wednesdays we have our ‘Wonderful Weekly Writing’ sessions. Imaginative writing will be the main focus this term however, there are opportunities for a range of personal and functional writing too. This term we will embark on our ‘Talk for Writing’ journey where the children will listen to, recall and write a classic story. After they will be given the opportunity to innovate and create their own versions of the story. We will also be focusing on creating poetry, P3.4 will be exploring acrostic and shape poems this term.

Every 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. 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 pair discussions, along with celebrating success within the classroom and sharing their out of school achievements at assemblies. This term we will have opportunities to hear peers recite their Doric/Scots poem and we will be working towards a group presentation to share with the class based around our topic.

**Numeracy and Maths**

In numeracy and maths, we will be focusing on multiplication, division, volume & capacity and expressions & equations this session. Volume will involve many practical lessons such as cooking and collecting/measuring the amount of rainfall over a week. We will also be developing mental maths skills, this will involve a range of writing, active and technological activities. We will continue to use Big Maths to support our development. Our Learn It’s 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, this will be at the correct level/challenge for each child. Through this small group inputs can be taught to support individuals or groups.

**Health & Wellbeing**

**Physical Education**

PE days will continue to be on a Wednesday and Thursday. In Term three we will be focusing on Scottish/Country Dancing where we will be learning a variety of different dances and techniques, alongside working collaboratively in groups or pairs. To follow Mrs Chalmers will be teaching Creative Dancing where children will learn a range of different movements and ways to travel. Gymnastics will be taught this term and this will involve children developing skills in flexibility, balance, jumps and rolls, as well as utilising the equipment safely. 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 have weekly Health and Wellbeing lessons. This term our focus will be achieving which will link with our New Year Goals, alongside some nurture lessons. Each child will be presented with a Happy Self Journal as we will begin these as a class.

**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 Chalmers will be taking the class for French every Monday afternoon. Miss Davidson will be teaching violin/viola lessons on a Monday and Mr Oddo will be teaching a variety of brass instruments on a Friday to those who have signed up.

**Across the curriculum**

During the week we will have a flexible slot for Expressive Arts, where we will have a range of art, music and drama lessons linking to our topic. We will be responding to artist who use a range of sustainable materials within their artwork and create our own, along with creating art linked to our topics using the elements of art.

There is opportunity within the week for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) linking to the ‘Our Natural World’ topic.

Technology will be used to teach some typing skills as the children learn to login to the laptops and access safe websites to support their skills and knowledge in typing. The P5-7 class will work collaboratively with us to teach and support us with logging in until we are independent.

RME will be taught weekly this term, the focus within Christianity will be on Easter *– Who were the Special friends of Jesus and what role did they play I the Easter story?* Our other world religion focus will be Judaism – What is the Torah and what is a Synagogue? Alongside investigating different artifacts.

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 led 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 choice and enjoyment.

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

**Homework**

Reading

Reading will be assigned to individual children; this will consolidate the reading that we do in class and will develop 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.

Out of School Achievements

Please let us know of any out of school achievements your child has achieved, as we enjoy celebrating the success of our pupils as a school.

**Additional Information**

As we are currently in the winter season and as we approach the start of spring we have noticed that our classroom has become muddy after break and lunch due to the weather. Therefore, 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. Please provide you child with a water bottle so they are able to access the water fountain throughout the day.

Our Primary 4s will begin their SNSA (Scottish National Standardised Assessments) this term. These will include a numeracy, reading and writing assessments and these will take place over the next few weeks. SNSA’s are used to support teacher judgment of a child’s progress and inform future learning opportunities.

This year the P3/4 children will take part in another *GL Reading Assessment*. The results can be shared with parents upon request.

Please continue to access Learning Journals in order to see your child’s enthusiasm and progress within their learning. This will also keep you updated on daily/weekly learning activities which can be perhaps discussed and shared with you child.

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 😊