**P5-7 Term 3 Newsletter**

**2024**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

I hope you all had a lovely festive period and I wish you all a very happy 2024! We were delighted to welcome back the Primary 5-7s who have returned to school with enthusiasm and motivation to set new goals. Now that we are settled back in, I would like to share with you an outline of what life will look like in Primary 5-7 and what you can support with at home.

**Reading:**

This term, the P5-7s will continue to read in groups, engaging with novels that were selected last term and completing weekly reading homework. Their reading days are highlighted on the front cover of their reading records and inside. **Please could these records be signed at home to indicate the reading is complete?**

Each reading group will also be engaging in non-fiction texts called Connectors, where they are encouraged to explore new ideas and think critically, creatively and reflectively. They will also develop their close reading skills with a variety of comprehensive questions and tasks to be completed weekly.

Personalisation and choice continue to be a daily opportunity in Primary 5-7, where the pupils are given 15-45 minutes a day to engage with a text of their own choice. Our library visits are on a Thursday and the pupils can take up to two books out at a time. These books can be taken home to be enjoyed too. Thank you to our parent helpers for volunteering their time to run the library.

In Term 2 we also began a whole class novel; *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. We will continue to engage with this text weekly throughout the term.

In February, the pupils will once again be assessed using the GL Reading Assessment, which will provide some evidence of progress, indicate any learning gaps and inform some next steps. These results can be shared upon request and during parents evening appointments in March.

**Literacy:**

Writing:

This term our focus will be on creative writing. We will begin with a focus on poetry, linking in with our Scotland focus at the beginning of the term. The pupils will be reading and writing different kinds of poetry. We will then move onto creating narrative pieces of text. 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. They will complete an independently written task for an assessment in March.

Spelling and Grammar:

Pupils will continue to work through personalised spelling targets with a weekly spelling focus in class. Spelling homework will continue to be provided weekly for pupils to complete. Some pupils will continue with Nessy for spelling and should be encouraged to engage with this frequently at home to ensure progress continues. Grammar lessons will link to our creative writing focus for the term.

Listening and Talking:

Last term, the pupils prepared and presented individual presentations on a topic of their choice. This term, the pupils will be working in groups to present to the rest of the class. They will also learn to recite some Scots poems in honour of Burns Night and should be encouraged to practise these at home.

Modern Languages:

French and Spanish lessons will continue now with myself on a Monday.

**Numeracy and Mathematics:**

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. 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. The topics we will be focusing on in maths this term are:

* Negative Numbers
* 2D and 3D Shapes
* Angles, Position and Movement
* Symmetry and Transformation

**Health and Wellbeing:**

PE is typically on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday** for P5-7. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed for this on these days. We will be learning about Scottish dance, Creative Dance, Fitness and Games. Some students from Active Schools will also be visiting on Monday the 22nd of January, Monday the 29th of January and Monday the 5th of February to support PE lessons. PE days will be **Monday** and **Tuesday** during these three weeks.

The pupils will continue to have a weekly Health and Wellbeing focus. This will include a focus on social and emotional wellbeing, happy self-journaling and learning about food, substances and health. We will use SCARF Coram as a resource for these lessons.

**Across the Curriculum:**

The pupils will participate in Science, Art, Technology, RME, Social Studies and Drama lessons throughout the term.

This term we are going to have a whole school theme. We will begin with a whole-school focus on Scotland. This will include literacy lessons on Scottish poetry, a social studies focus on notable Scottish figures in history as well as Scotland and its place in the world. Our expressive arts lessons will also link to this Scotland theme, with dance, drama and art activities. After our focus on Scotland, the whole school theme will be **‘Our Natural World’**. This will inspire our science focus for this term, learning about pollination and the water cycle.

**Music Specialists:**

Miss Davidson will continue to see pupils for Violin and Viola on a Monday morning. Mr Oddo will continue to see pupils for Brass on a Friday afternoon. Pupils should continue to bring in their instruments on the appropriate day.

**Outdoor Learning**

Our outdoor learning lessons will continue to be on a **Friday** morning (known as Fresh air Fridays!). We will continue taking the learning outside at frequent opportunities throughout this term. Please ensure that your child comes to school with appropriate clothing for this, especially during the 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.

There will also be maths homework given out to the pupils. This will 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:**

We have Eco Group, Rights Respecting Group, Rotakids and our Learning Council. Group tasks will be implemented on a Friday.

**House Points:**

Each child 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. Pupils can bring in a toy of their choice from home to play with at “Chill Out”.

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.

I hope this newsletter will provide clarification and insight into the learning of Primary 5-7 this term. The pupils will be encouraged to share their learning with you through our Learning Journals.

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

Kind Regards

Miss Smith 😊