

# Lismore Newsletter Term 1 2020

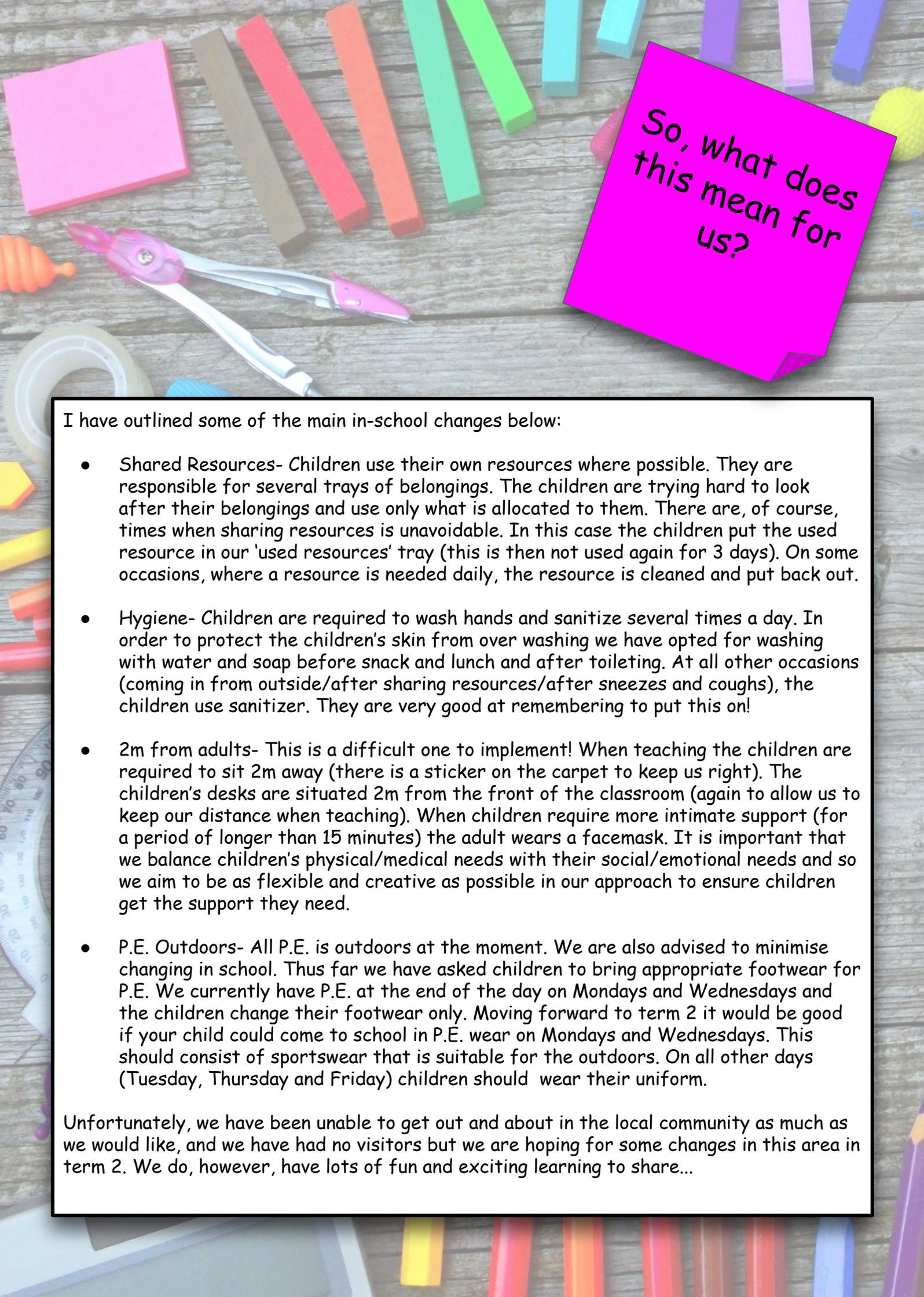


## A Weird but Wonderful New Term

It has been the most unusual start to a new term in many ways for our boys and girls here at Lismore. Not only have they had to adapt and settle back into school after 5 months away from the learning environment but they have also had to adapt to the new rules and regulations in place due to COVID-19. To top it off we have had and will continue to have staffing changes which can also make things more challenging than usual.

I am, however, happy to report that all children and staff have taken this in their stride. The many adaptations have been implemented carefully and thoughtfully by staff who have helped guide children in adhering to new safety regulations. The children have been working hard to stick to these regulations. I have detailed some of what has changed on the next page. Well done everyone!

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the boys and girls and I am looking forward to what's to come! We have many exciting things to tell you about from Term 1: read on to find out more!



So, what does  
this mean for  
us?

I have outlined some of the main in-school changes below:

- **Shared Resources-** Children use their own resources where possible. They are responsible for several trays of belongings. The children are trying hard to look after their belongings and use only what is allocated to them. There are, of course, times when sharing resources is unavoidable. In this case the children put the used resource in our 'used resources' tray (this is then not used again for 3 days). On some occasions, where a resource is needed daily, the resource is cleaned and put back out.
- **Hygiene-** Children are required to wash hands and sanitize several times a day. In order to protect the children's skin from over washing we have opted for washing with water and soap before snack and lunch and after toileting. At all other occasions (coming in from outside/after sharing resources/after sneezes and coughs), the children use sanitizer. They are very good at remembering to put this on!
- **2m from adults-** This is a difficult one to implement! When teaching the children are required to sit 2m away (there is a sticker on the carpet to keep us right). The children's desks are situated 2m from the front of the classroom (again to allow us to keep our distance when teaching). When children require more intimate support (for a period of longer than 15 minutes) the adult wears a facemask. It is important that we balance children's physical/medical needs with their social/emotional needs and so we aim to be as flexible and creative as possible in our approach to ensure children get the support they need.
- **P.E. Outdoors-** All P.E. is outdoors at the moment. We are also advised to minimise changing in school. Thus far we have asked children to bring appropriate footwear for P.E. We currently have P.E. at the end of the day on Mondays and Wednesdays and the children change their footwear only. Moving forward to term 2 it would be good if your child could come to school in P.E. wear on Mondays and Wednesdays. This should consist of sportswear that is suitable for the outdoors. On all other days (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) children should wear their uniform.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to get out and about in the local community as much as we would like, and we have had no visitors but we are hoping for some changes in this area in term 2. We do, however, have lots of fun and exciting learning to share...

# Outdoor Learning

We have been spending lots of time outdoors and we love it! Every Monday we work in our outdoor learning groups to take part in 2 outdoor activities. These activities are broad and varied and have included, so far, obstacle courses, ball runs, senses scavenger hunts, finding the colours of our garden, mini-beast hunts and gardening!

Every Thursday, we work in our outdoor groups again and our main focus is the garden. So far we have been involved in weeding the raised beds, collecting and spreading seaweed on our raised beds, to prepare them for planting and growing, and cleaning out our outdoor classroom-ready to use again!

We have also been busy writing letters to the parent council to ask for some help in getting our garden back in order. We are hoping to have our new shed and polytunnel up soon as we have big plans for these over winter. We have also ordered some new gardening tools to allow us to continue our work in and around the raised beds. We are now officially green fingered!

I am looking into funding opportunities to revive our pond area! I will let you know of any updates! If anyone has any ideas for this or would like to help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Dear parent council

We are excited to be updating our garden. In order to update our dream garden we are going to need your help. First we had a discussion with our class and we need to order a couple of things. Would we be able to get a watering can so we can keep our flower beds healthy? Secondly would we be able to get gloves to keep our hands clean? After that all we will need is a Trowel, spade, Hoe, garden shears and last of all a wheelbarrow. Last of all we will need soil and seeds.  
Thank you for reading and helping our school and our garden a better place!

Your Sincerely  
Lismore primary

Emma

We wrote letters to the parent council asking for some gardening equipment.

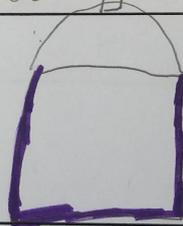
Dear Parent Council,

We would like a Fork because  
It will be good for weeding



You were star writer this week!  
wow!

We would also like a Buckets  
For collecting water.



Finally we would like a Hoe because  
we want to hoe weeds



Thank you in advance, from Cian

Cian and Emma were our star writers this week!

## Digital Learning

We are using digital technology to support our learning as much as possible. We are continuing to use the reading eggs programme for literacy alongside our written and kinaesthetic literacy experiences. We are using mathletics and sumdog alongside numicon and other kinaesthetic maths resources to allow us varied and engaging maths experiences.

The children are all becoming more capable of accessing computers and these programmes independently, but at the moment the younger children still need some support with this.

The older children will soon start to write their own blogs. These will be published on our new school website. You can also find school updates and lots of important and handy information on our school website. Check it out at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/lismore/>. This is currently a work in progress but we will be using it more and more regularly in the months to come so please keep an eye on it to keep up with what's going on!

Google classrooms is accessible to children both at home and at school. All children can access this using their GLOW log-in credentials. We have a copy of the children's credentials for all programmes we use and we have sent a copy of these alongside this newsletter. On google classrooms we currently have tabs for Literacy, Numeracy and HWB. The Literacy and Numeracy tabs are ready to go. They have been populated with homework grids allowing your children to log in and choose their own homework activity. This is not mandatory, but we would encourage it! The HWB tab is a work in progress. For now, children can use it to chat to each other or post up any questions/comments/reflections. We will check these regularly and ensure we respond but please be aware that this may not be instantaneous.



Literacy

Numeracy

HWB

This term the children have been working across the curriculum but we have a specific focus on Literacy, Numeracy and HWB.

### **Literacy**

We have been working hard on our story writing skills. The children are learning how to compose interesting and engaging sentences/short paragraphs by giving consideration to how each individual sentence is made up. This term we have focused on openers (how we start our sentences). We are trying to use a range of openers, in place of pronouns. We have also been getting creative with our spelling. The children have been using lego and knex to spell out their words as well as using new resources such as word screws and triblocks. We are also trying different written methods such as graffiti walls, rainbow spelling and pyramid spelling. This term and next the older children are reading the class novel 'The Witches'. This has led to some suspicion that I, myself, might be a witch! I can neither confirm nor deny! The younger children are reading Oil! Get off our Train! We are doing lots of work around characterisation; focusing on what characters think and feel at certain points in the story.

### **Numeracy**

For Numeracy this term we have been focusing on counting, addition and subtraction. We are trying lots of new methods to expand our counting skills such as clap counting, ball counting and written counting. Ask your children to tell you more about these methods. We are also listening to and singing along to counting in 2s, 10s, 5s and 100s songs- the children thoroughly enjoy this! For our extended maths the children have been focussing on measure with Mrs Cook- they have been looking at conventional and non-conventional units of measure. This has been lots of fun!

### **HWB**

There has been a big focus on HWB this term. Each Monday morning we have a check in and write our weekly targets for Literacy, Numeracy and HWB. Each Friday afternoon we have a check out and review our targets/reflect on our week. Every day (except Tuesdays) we start off with 10 minutes of movement. This ranges from yoga, mirror me movement (copy your partner), dance to the mood of the music etc. We have incorporated lots of free time/choice time where the children are able to choose an activity such as drawing, reading, construction, parachute games or play in the park. We have been exploring kindness and what this looks, feels and sounds like. The children earn marbles for acts of kindness and are aiming for 100 marbles which will be awarded with a pupil chosen class treat!



## Project

This term we have been learning about World Culture and Current Affairs. As such we have visited America, Canada, Sweden, Australia and Africa (children's choices). The children took a snapshot about each country learning about things such as animals, inventors, artists and landmarks. This culminated in a week of cooking where the children cooked a dish from each country. This was a lot of fun! Check out our cooking week photos and comments below!

We have also been learning about communication. As such we have looked at nonsense languages, verbal and non-verbal communication, code cracking, sign language, gaelic and blind orienteering.



Our pancakes were delightful-  
Kristian



Our Anzac biscuits were nice and oaty!-  
Alasdair



I liked the peanut soup but found it a bit peppery-  
Fergus

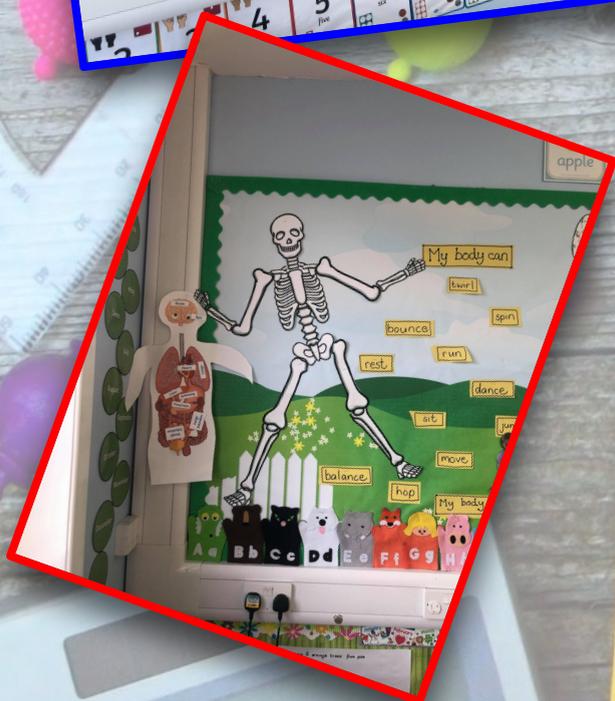


The veg Swedish meatballs were good and weird at the same time-  
Isabella



## Pre-5 News

The Pre 5s have enjoyed getting back to school! We have been very busy this term, learning all about our bodies and spending a lot of time outside helping to prepare the raised beds for planting, exploring the shore and picking brambles. We have enjoyed getting to know our new Headteacher, Miss Harris, and have been learning about numbers and letters with her, especially 'B', 'H' and 'M'. We were also very lucky to be given a box of exciting things from Mess Around, and spent a wonderful morning playing with playdoh, slime, soap, mud and crystal sand. But the best bit has probably been getting to play together again and rediscovering all the school toys!



## Staffing

### New Staff

We have started this new term with a new face for the children to become familiar with! We have spent this term getting to know one another and building positive relationships. This has been more challenging than usual with the 2m distancing restrictions but we are doing our best and everyday I can see/feel/hear the children becoming more and more comfortable and confident around me- which is lovely! As you will of course know, I have been unable to meet with parents in person, much to my dismay. By now, everyone should have had an initial wellbeing meeting to discuss your child's return to school. If you fancy a chat about anything else at all, please reach out and phone the school and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

We also have some other staffing changes to report. We have a lovely new catering manager- Jenny Craig- who is also our Primary Classroom assistant and lunchtime cover 3 days a week in the primary school (how multi-talented Jenny is). The children are thoroughly enjoying working with Jenny. Her bright, positive attitude brings an invaluable energy to our school community.

We welcome Rosemary Barry as our new CCEW maternity cover. Rosemary has been working in the school for a long time and the children are familiar with her. They have enjoyed getting to know her more this term and we are delighted to have her with us on a more long term basis.

### Goodbyes

As well as welcoming new staff, it is sadly time to say goodbye to some of our current staff.

Laura Cook, our class teacher, is sadly leaving us after the October holidays for her new venture at the local shop. Laura has been invaluable to the children's sense of continuity during this challenging time and I am sure I speak for all when I say she will be very sorely missed! Thank you for your continued hard work and commitment to Lismore Primary School Laura!



Denise Willis, our Clerical Assistant, is leaving us after 10 years-service! I feel very grateful to have worked with Denise, albeit for a short period of time. She has been integral to the children's successful return to school; keeping us right in many aspects of school life. You will also be sorely missed Denise!



### New Prospects

We are currently recruiting for a class teacher and clerical assistant. I will keep everyone updated on any new starts as and when they happen! Exciting times ahead!

## What's to come

We have flu vaccinations on the 22nd October.

In term 2 the children will choose the focus for our P.E. unit. Active schools will be visiting and the children will learn more about sports leadership and how to organise playground games. We do not have confirmed dates yet but plans have been made.

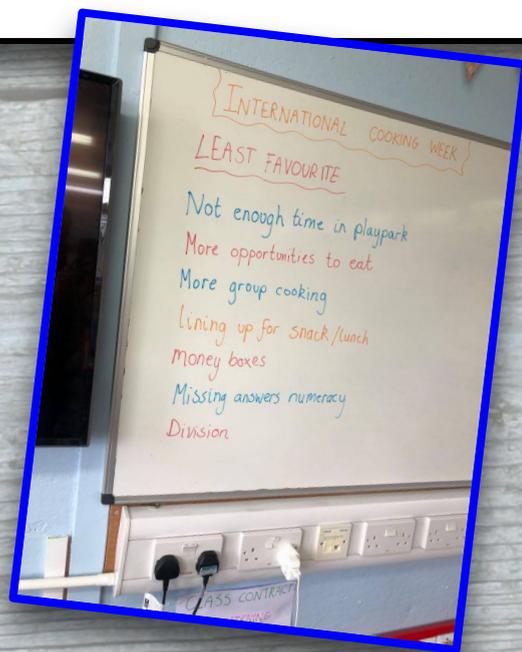
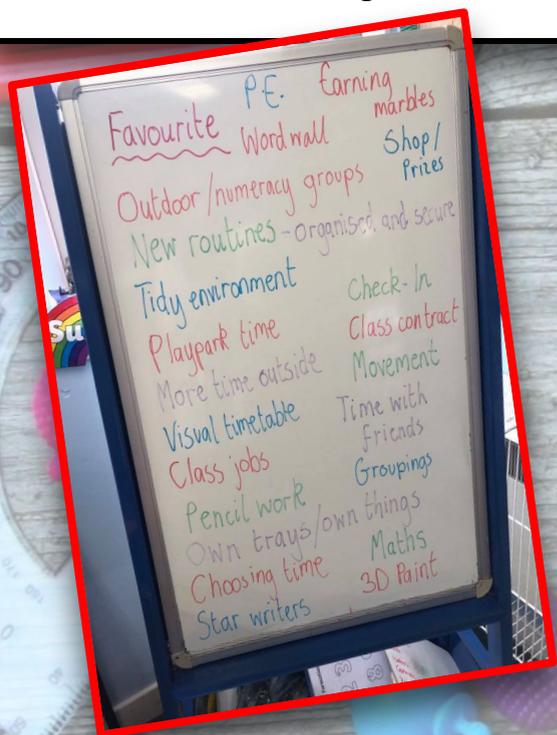
We will have a visiting musician in the school teaching the children ukulele. Dates for this are to be confirmed. The children will receive an hour lesson every week in Term 2.

Rosemary Barry will be working with the children 1 hour a week delivering French lessons in term 2. We look forward to having her. Bienvenue Rosemary!

Homework will be beginning in term 2. The children will have mandatory and optional homework tasks. This will be reviewed every 5 weeks. Please see attached schedule.

Next term our project will be science based. The children will be leading the learning in terms of exactly what path this will take.

The children have recorded their ideas for term 2 as a floorbook. This will be used to inform planning for term 2. The children have also been reflecting on term 1. Check out our favourite and least favourite things below.



We look forward to updating you all again at the end of December! Until then, stay safe, take care and as always if you have any questions or comments don't hesitate to get in touch.

Miss Harris and the boys and girls of Lismore Primary School