



Brydekirk Primary P5-7 Newsletter

Newsletter 06/11/2020, Session 2020/21, Term 2, Mr. Archibald, P5-7 Class Teacher



Dear Parents,

I am writing a newsletter to welcome all back to school after the October break and to share some learning and plans for the second term. I'd also like to welcome Hattie to P5-7 and her family to Brydekirk Primary.

Although last term our class and school have had to make changes so that we are working as safely as possible, I'm still glad to be teaching in school with all the pupils present and I really hope we can continue in this manner, adapting to new guidance as required. The pupils have coped with the changes admirably and I think they are happy to be at school too as they are making the most of being in class and playing with one another at break.

Last term we made many adjustments to our processes and routines, which has required patience at times and been illuminating at others. Hand hygiene and table wiping are part of our day now. The pupils stay in their own seats most of the time including during group work for reading and maths. This requires more attention as the pupils are spread across the class rather than all gathered at one table next to me. Work completed tends to be kept in the pupils' own trays rather than handed in, which is now usually checked at the start of the next group session. Tasks that happen once a week, for example Handwriting lessons, can be handed into the finished tray, which allows time for me to check and feedback for the next week. We also have a system for handing in finished reading books which are then put away three days later. I teach mostly behind my desk and wear a face mask when venturing onto the carpet where the pupils are. Our doors are open and there are always two windows open. The lunches continue to be served in the GP Hall and taken back to class. We've had virtual assemblies (see overleaf). There have been other changes too and we may need to adapt further but I think we'll take this in our stride whilst managing to retain our positive learning environment.

In PE last term, we were mostly lucky with the weather, where we enjoyed playing and practising golf once a week. I ended the term with a class tournament which ended in a draw between Alex and Alahna. We then had a playoff on the last day which was remarkably close (see the blog for pictures and the result). This term the class has been entered in the Virtual Sportshall Athletics and we are going to play and practise short tennis, again on a Thursday. Otherwise, I hope to continue the Daily Mile on every other day when the weather isn't too wet. Pupils should bring a spare pair of socks in case they do get wet feet.

A Stranger Came Ashore by Molly Hunter was the class novel that I read last term. This proved to be a popular story about the mythical Selkies and was set in Shetland. The class then worked on their own suspense stories (please see the blog). We also learned about the water cycle, atoms, molecules and properties of materials in science. Miss Davies made a welcome return and continues to teach music on a Monday afternoon. Miss Scott had a very successful first term teaching Art and continues to do so on a Tuesday morning (please see the graffiti art display on the blog). We've also reused the plastic alcohol wipe tubs and designed graffiti covers (again see the blog).

Already this term Halloween has come and gone, which was different but fun (please see the pictures on blog). Christmas this year will be different too: I am planning to teach technology to all and then some will make online animations or videos instead of our usual celebrations. Otherwise, pupils will make an animation or video focusing on being a Rights Respecting School. We'll be learning about ecosystems and are going to learn to write discussion texts, amongst other learning.

As ever, should you need to get in touch with me or the school please call or email the office.

Best wishes,

Mr. Archibald

This newsletter and pictures are on our School Blog:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/BrydekirkPrimaryNewsWorld/>



Finished Class Charter

We are a Rights Respecting School, where we recently gained the Silver Award. Last term we finished our Magna Carta learning of our Class Charter. Please speak to your child about this interesting piece of work. You can see this image on the school blog.

Virtual Assembly

We have virtual Assemblies where all classes from our School Partnership join a video call on Microsoft Teams. This gives us a chance to come together and celebrate achievements in our schools.



Graffiti Art Class Display



This display of graffiti artwork was created by P5-7, taught by Miss Scott. Please see this vibrant piece of work on the school blog.



Halloween Fun

On Friday the 30th of October some of our pupils got dressed up, carved pumpkins (and watermelons) and came to school. The P7s then planned a party, respecting current restrictions, for each of the classes in the afternoon and had some dancing and games. Please see the school blog for some more pictures.