



Dalbeattie Primary School
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 Head Teacher: Mrs E. Duncan

Term 3
Week Ending 4th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. We continue to work in unprecedented times, and I want to thank you all for your ongoing support and understanding of the actions we have in place to keep us all safe in nursery and primary school.



COVID-19

We have seen varying degrees of absence throughout the school so far this term, some of which has been Covid related. Can I please remind everyone not to send children to school if they have any signs of being unwell whether this be for Covid reasons or other illnesses. Symptoms of Omicron also appear to be sore head, sore stomach, diarrhoea and vomiting. Although LFTs are not required unless directed to test primary pupils, using these to check does help to reduce the risk of transmission.

Also, to remind everyone that if a pupil has sickness or diarrhoea they should not return to school until they are 48hrs clear of their last bout of illness.

If your child is going to be absent, please notify the school office. In these challenging times of high absence, the office staff have increased recording jobs to do related to Covid and if we have absence information as early as possible it makes recording and reporting quicker. It also reduces the need to chase absences up through text messages.

Pupils not arriving for their allocated class start time will be noted as late on the register. I appreciate that that staggered starts with siblings in different areas of the school might be a challenge, but these times do help with in school morning arrangements. Learning and teaching also starts straight away and some pupils arriving late are missing key messages and information for their day.

8:50 and 2:50 – P1, P3/4, P4/5, P5 and P6

9:00 and 3:00 – P1/2, P2, P3, P6/7 and P7

We are aiming to return to one start and finish time following the mid-term holiday but will be keeping staggered times at the moment as Covid cases are still popping up in school.



Ventilation – this will continue as a mitigation to reduce the transmission of Covid 19. Children should wear layers under their school uniform to keep warm. If children do feel cold during their time in class, then please ask them to speak to the class teacher.



Head Lice

We have had notification that these little creatures are once again doing their rounds. Please can we ask that you regularly check your child's hair and if you find any visitors treat them as soon as possible.



School Meals and Water Bottles

Can we please ask that everyone completes the online ordering through ipayimpact. All pupils in P1-P5 are now entitled to free school meals.

Please remember to provide your child with a bottle of water each day to help maintain hydration. There is access throughout the day to refill water bottles.



Clothing and Shoes

It's great to see we don't have too much lost property gathering this term (early days I know) it does make a difference if children take responsibility for all their own items. Please remind your child about checking they have everything at the end of the school day.

If anyone has been provided with school clothing for a particular reason, could you please make sure that these items are washed and returned. Unfortunately, we do not have an endless supply of clothing to hand out.

Standards in school uniform are also a concern at the moment. Most children are wearing school sweatshirts however, there is an increasing number of pupils wearing sports leggings, black skinny jeans, jogging/sports trousers and shorts out with P.E days. These items of clothing are not part of our school uniform/dress code. Please adhere to the dress code (noted in school handbook on the blog) as this is something as a school, we have always prided ourselves on. We have a stock of nearly new sweatshirts. Should anyone require these please contact the school office.



P.E

P3/4 – P7 classes should be changing following P.E lessons. Please remember to send school uniforms for children to change into. Remaining in sweaty P.E kits is not the most hygienic option for maturing children. Children in upper classes might also want to consider bringing in roll on deodorants for after P.E and sports leader sessions.



Scots Poetry

Having been in various classes since we have returned following the winter break, I have been able to listen to some of the Scots poems pupils are learning. It is great to see the effort that some pupils are putting into this once again this year. We appreciate that this may not be something that all pupils enjoy but trying something new is always good and children will be supported to do as much as they feel confident/comfortable to learn. Class teachers will let children know when they will be carrying out class judging – keep a check on class dojo pages for this information.

Finals day will take place on Thursday 17th of February when Mrs Howie and I will listen to all finalists from each class throughout the morning. In the afternoon, Mr Sanderson and Mr Cathro from Dalbeattie Burns club will be joining us in school (risk assessed) to judge the P7 art and poetry competitions. We hope to video all winners on 18th of February to share at assembly and then share with you all through dojo at the end of the day.



Class Learning

Primary 1 have been learning about signs of winter and the properties of water. We have investigated ice balloons, made ice decorations, and conducted some little experiments so we now know all about freezing and melting. We are working hard in numeracy on subtraction within 10, data handling and money. We like counting money and have played lots of online games! We are also working hard on our reading skills, learning new words and sharing our books we read in class at home. We are currently enjoying some Katie Morag stories and plan to compare the Island of Coll to Dalbeattie.

Primary 1/2 began the term with a Scottish theme looking at traditional food, food packaging and tartan textile patterns. We have learnt about the stories told for Bodhi Day by Buddhists, and those shared around Chinese New Year. Our next topic is material science where we will follow Teddy around the park and solve the problems he runs into with our experiments. The Stone Age, Easter and Lent will be our focus for the end of this term. In literacy, pupils will create 'wee books' of writing and subtraction will be explored in numeracy.

P.2 have been learning about Time - Days of the week, Months of the Year and Seasons and will then be revising analogue and digital times. In the forthcoming weeks, our topics will be day and night and space. I would like to have a trip to Kirkcudbright to the space exhibition if Covid restrictions allow us to.

Primary 3

This term P3 are learning all about The Vikings. We will be exploring various aspects of Viking life in lots of fun ways. This topic gives great opportunity for cross-curricular links. We will be learning how to write an information report on the Vikings, we will be researching Vikings on the computer, typing up information and we will be engaging in various art lessons linked to the Vikings. The children are also going to be involved in a home project of designing and creating a 3D Viking longship. This term we will also be focusing on Time as part of our maths work as well building on our addition and subtraction skills. We will be reading and exploring various non-fiction books for reading as well as working on reading comprehension skills.

P3/4 this term are learning about the Romans and have already found out lots of interesting facts. Their ICT skills have been put to good use creating a poster; choosing between Roman schools, pets or food, using Word. Children will also be using PowerPoint to make a fact file about the topic. In Numeracy we are continuing to develop our number knowledge including using strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have also been looking at telling the time and fractions. Feis Rois have been visiting the class on a Thursday. The children have been learning simple words/phrases in Gaelic and using xylophones to accompany songs. This will culminate in a class performance. Continuing the theme, we are also looking forward to hearing Scots Poems the children have been working hard to learn.

P4/5 have recently started a new class novel, *'I was there, On Board the Titanic'* by Margi McAllister. This novel relates well to our new topic and we are enjoying linking topic work to other areas of the curriculum. At the beginning of the term, we focused on Scotland and celebrated our learning by making Scottish cuisine and hosting Dalbeattie's Highland Games. We are also lucky enough to have Fèis Rois this term where we have been concentrating hard to keep the beat and have also been learning Gaelic along the way.

Primary 5

This term P5 are learning about the life and times of Mary Queen of Scots as part of their Social Subjects curriculum. They have also started learning about other world religions to be able to compare and contrast key elements. They have looked initially at Islam and are now focusing on Judaism. The HWB focus for the class will be a healthy life style considering the importance of a balanced diet, sleep and exercise. The children are all putting a great effort into learning their Scots poems, which is great to see. They are also developing their knowledge of French vocabulary through a French café theme.

Primary 6

This term in P6, we are busy learning how to write recounts, create movie trailers and write narrative texts. In maths, we are recapping our place value, four operations and fractions. Our topic is Space this term and we are hopefully going to be creating our own Mars Rovers.

'Creating Global Links in P6/7!

Last year in P6/7, we studied Japan as part of our topic work, comparing the geography and culture of Japan with Scotland. Through this topic, we were able to access a live lesson with the Japanese embassy in Edinburgh and were able to link with a school in Takasaki-shi, Honshu Island in Japan. Before Christmas, we sent over letters, describing the Christmas holidays here, traditions and celebrations, and this week we have received replies!! The letters are beautifully written in English with many illustrations and drawings. The children are delighted to read all about their fellow students overseas. We will continue with this project throughout the year. We are also studying the Jacobites this term, focussing on Culloden, the last battle fought on British soil. We are learning about Bonnie Prince Charlie and his intrepid escape to Skye, disguised as an Irish maid!!

Primary 7

This term Primary 7 have been learning about Scots Language, we have studied, and analysed 'The Tale of Tam O'Shanter' in preparation for the upcoming P7 Burns Competition. We have also recently started our long-anticipated topic on World War 2 and, so far, have learned why World War 2 began, who was involved and where these countries are situation in the World. This week we have started to learn about evacuation and are beginning to build understanding and empathy for those who were forced to leave their homes and loved ones.

P.E Mrs Gray

How wonderful it is to be able to do Gymnastics again this term in PE, after missing it last year. It's often the children's favourite activity, especially when more and more exciting apparatus comes out. Hopefully, the children have told you how wonderful they've been and shown you themselves on dojo, if caught on camera in action. So far, we've been balancing brilliantly in different ways in each class, showing how still and strong we can be ourselves, and for the older children with others. We have tried different ways of getting upside down, some of us on apparatus like the poles, and some of us in headstands and shoulder stands. We have been coached by our classmates to improve our rolls, as well as enjoying jumping from a variety of apparatus in different shapes, to land safely on our feet. The older children have put their skills together to create and perform some stunning sequences, taking turns and working wonderfully in a team. Look out on dojo for what we get up to in our final 2 weeks.



Outdoor Learning

As you would see on Dojo, Mrs Lumsden was sharing the work that has been carried out in school with a wider group of colleagues that are part of our collaborative group of schools. We would welcome ongoing support with developing this area and if you have any items that you think may be of use in our outdoor space please either send in with your child or contact Mrs Lumsden via the school office about this. Old waterproof trousers, jackets or wellies that children have outgrown would also be welcomed to keep up our stock and allow more children the opportunity to access this space.

Many thanks
Regards
Mrs E. Duncan