



St Joseph's Primary

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Term 1



Primary 1

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Dear Parent/ Guardian, welcome to our first P1 newsletter which will give you some key information for this term. *P1a - Mrs Hume. P1b - Miss Palmer*

General

Children have their login information for **Google Classroom** and all children have been able to access this platform confidently in computing lessons. All homework is now set on Google Classroom. If you need any support with this, please get in touch or access our school [website](#).

Curriculum Learning

STEM



In STEM we have three main areas of focus this term; Forces and Electricity, Space and Materials. We are exploring Materials through a variety of traditional tales including "Ellie's Wellies" (a waterproof material) and "Hansel and Gretel." (comparing transparent and opaque materials). The children will be exploring scientific terms such as "classifying", "investigating" and "predicting". If the children have any non-fiction books at home on these subjects, we would appreciate borrowing them for our class library. Mrs Goold and Miss Harvey will be the "STEM teachers" covering Forces and Electricity and Space as well as working with our children to develop technology skills such as sewing, hammering and sawing.

Literacy



At the beginning of Term One, Primary 1 will retrieve some key Literacy concepts from Nursery including rhyme, alliteration and counting syllables. Our main focus this term in Literacy is learning our initial sounds. P1 use the [Jolly Phonics Programme](#) which is a multi-sensory approach that includes a song and an action for every sound. The children will be asked to complete homework about their sounds each week. A Google Slide with more information will be available on your child's Google Classroom.

In Writing, Primary 1 will be invited to the ["Drawing Club"](#) which encourages children to invent new characters and adventures based on books, traditional tales and cartoons. This also helps to develop their fine line drawings, with a focus on adding detail to their pictures.

The children will receive a Big Cat reading book weekly which will be accompanied with sight words. Ideas for games using the sight words (sight words are words that do not follow a particular rule and, therefore, the children are encouraged to learn them from memory) will be included in their homework folders. There are useful prompts at the back of each book to ask your child to help develop their understanding of the book further. The storytelling approach will also be used in P1, where the children retell stories using actions, story maps and extended vocabulary. This helps the children to increase detail in their stories, pictures, writing and increases their own bank of vocabulary.

Numeracy and Maths



In Numeracy, we are exploring a variety of different numerical concepts including: forming numbers 0-10, counting forwards and backwards (starting and stopping at different numbers), the number after, the number before, the number in between and missing numbers.

The children will be introduced to Number Talks which is a mental maths approach and looks at concepts such as subitising. Ask your child at home what the Number Talks hand signals look like!

Some groups will begin addition and subtraction within 10 using concrete materials. [Useful Maths Website](#). This term we will also be focusing on the mathematical concepts of fractions, 2D shapes and 3D objects, symmetry and pattern.

Health and Wellbeing



During Mental Health lessons, Primary 1 will be encouraged to explore the 4 “Zones of Regulation”, as well as lots of strategies to help manage “big” feelings. We also utilise a programme called ["Cool in School"](#) which uses role play to reinforce how to build and maintain positive peer relationships and navigate issues that may arise in school or in the playground. A link to the strategies will be posted on Google Classroom later on this Term; it would be helpful to discuss these strategies at home with your children.

Our focus in P.E. is continuing to develop our gross motor skills and turn-taking through a variety of games. We would love to encourage parents/carers to practise skipping, hopping, jumping, side-stepping, galloping and throwing/catching balls with your children at home. If any families know any sports coaches who would be interested in coming in to lead some P.E. lessons with the children please get in touch with our school office or Mrs Leddy.

Modern Languages



Bonjour! Primary 1 are excited to be learning French. We use a multi-sensory approach to support Primary 1 children to grasp new vocabulary including greetings, colours and numbers up to 20. Madame Palmer will teach French in both Primary 1 classes.

Religious Education



Our key theme in R.E. in Term 1 is recognising and celebrating that God made us as unique individuals. We recognise that we are all different and we look forward to celebrating our God-given gifts and talents with our P1 Talent show. [God Made Me Hymn](#). We will go on to explore the Story of Creation.

We will begin preparing for our first School Nativity Show later in the term. The children will have a choice of roles such as narrator, actor or choir member. Our **P1 Nativity performance** is on **Wednesday 9th December** at 2pm.

ICT - Monday (Mrs Goold/Miss Harvey)

Muddy Movers - Wednesday

PE - Thursday (remember trainers)

Meet the Teacher - Thursday 27th August 3:15-4.15pm

P1 Welcome Night - Thursday 11th September 6-7:30pm

Dates for Outdoor Learning *Children come in wearing clothing suitable for outdoors and all weathers.*
P1a and P1b - Friday 23rd October

Halloween Howl Friday 30th October - children can come to school in costume.

Parents' Night: Thursday 12th November

Winter Wonderland: Wednesday 16th December (tbc)

For more key dates check our [School Calendar](#) on our Website.

Homework folders should be brought into school **every day** as we use the reading books in class.

All homework must be brought into school **on Friday** so that reading books can be collected and new homework can be given out. If you have any queries or questions you can communicate with your child's class teacher on Google Classroom or by leaving a note in your child's homework diary.

To support your child with their choice of lunch option please discuss the options with your child each night.
<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/primary-menu>

We are excited for our very first term in Primary 1! Thank you for your engagement and support.
Please log in and follow your child's learning here: Instagram: [@Stjosephspserc](#)