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**Canongate Primary School - Learning Letter Term 1 2025/26**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of our home/school partnership, we are aware that parents would like to know what their child(ren) are learning in school. Please use our ‘Learning Letter’ to discuss your child’s learning with them.

Please find an overview below of the areas they will be looking at this term. These are the overarching ‘Learning Intentions’ for the whole class for the term. Individual children’s targets may differ slightly based on need. Please don’t hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries or if there is something you feel you could support us with.

Miss Fernie and Mrs Meikle

**Learning:**

Children engage in ‘Teacher Directed’, ‘Teacher Initiated’ and ‘Independent’ learning activities to complete the intended learning outcomes below.

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| **Reading** | **P1**   * We will be working with Miss Campbell’s P1 class for phonics. * We are learning to read our initial jolly phonics sounds – please see sounds fan for current sounds in your child's folder). * We are learning to practise blending sounds to make simple words. * We are learning to share and enjoy a wide range of stories together to build on our vocabulary and phonological awareness. * We are being introduced to the Oxford Reading Tree (ORT) programme. We will be introduced to wordless stories, learn character names and begin to read ORT Stage 1 words. * We are learning to read for pleasure and enjoyment through daily stories and regular visits to the bookery.   **P2**   * We are continuing to practice phonics by recapping and consolidating sounds and diagraphs. * We are continuing to learn and recognise common words (first 50) and ORT keywords. * We are learning to use context clues to read and understand texts. * We are learning to demonstrate some fluency in reading. * We are learning to read aloud with expression. * We are learning to retell the beginning, middle and ending of a story and talk about the main ideas. * We are learning to share our opinions about stories in different ways. * We are learning to read for pleasure and enjoyment through daily stories and regular visits to the bookery. |
| **Writing** | **P1**   * We are learning to hold our pencils properly. * We will continue to use different materials to make marks, patterns and will practice forming letters and numbers. * We will continue to use loose parts to improve our fine motor skills. * We are learning to retell a story using beginning, middle and end vocabulary and to share our thoughts about stories in different ways.   **P2**   * Our writing focus this term is response writing (book/short film review). * We are learning to write simple sentences which give detail about a topic. * We are learning to use descriptive language (adjectives) to uplevel our writing. * We are learning to write personal reflections (what did we like/dislike). * We are learning to use phonetically plausible strategies to spell or attempt to spell unknown words. * We are learning to spell the first 50 common words. * We are continuing to practice correctly using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in our writing and will begin to explore other punctuation such as exclamation marks and question marks. * We are continuing to practice writing letters of mostly the correct size and are learning to neatly present our writing i.e., writing on the line. * Some children will use Clicker for writing support. |
| **Listening & Talking** | * We are learning to take turns when listening and talking and will develop this through whole class, group and partner tasks. * We are learning to share ideas and can share them in the correct order. * We are learning to listen and follow instructions correctly. * We are learning to retell a story orally and can talk about what we liked/disliked. |
| **Numeracy** | **P1**   * We will continue to develop our sense of size & amount (using words like ‘more’ and ‘less’). * We will practise recognising the number of objects in a group without counting – known as subitising. * We are learning to create simple patterns with a range of objects. * We are learning to show the correct amounts using different manipulatives (Numicon, cubes, counters etc). * We are learning to count on and back (to 10) starting at 0 and different numbers (i.e count back from 8) * We are learning to place missing numbers on a number line (up to 10). * We are learning how to match groups of objects/pictures to the correct numeral. * We will practise doubling numbers to total of 10 mentally. * We will explore partitioning (separating) quantities up to 10 into two or more parts to help us understand the structure of numbers. * We will begin to learn our Friends of 10 – these are numbers which add to 10. * We are learning to name simple 2D shapes, e.g. triangle, circle, square, rectangle and recognise these in the environment. * We are starting to talk about the properties of simple 2D shapes e.g. edges, vertices, curved, straight. * We are learning to recognise simple 3D objects in the environment. * We are starting to talk about the properties of simple 3D objects e.g. flat, round.   **P2**   * We are learning to count to 100. * We are learning to subitise to 20. * We are learning to recite number sequences forwards and backwards in order in the range of 0-100 from any given number. * We are learning to identify missing numbers on a number line or number square within 100. * We are learning to count in 2’s and 10’s (forwards and backwards). * We are learning doubles to 20. * We are learning to recognise the value of each digit in a 2-digit number and to explain the link between its place and value. * We are learning to order a set of 2-digit numbers in ascending and descending order. * We are learning to use mathematical vocabulary related to our learning (e.g. more, less, between). * We are learning to identify the properties of common 2D shapes, e.g. edges and vertices * We are extending our understanding of 2D shapes to be able to name pentagons, hexagons and octagons * We are learning to recognise and name simple 3D objects. * We are learning to recognise the properties of 3D objects, e.g. vertices, faces and edges. |
| **Social Studies** | We are focusing on our society in social studies.   * We are learning about communities and will be talking about the different communities we belong to. * We are learning to name important people who help us in our community. * We are learning to describe the difference between something we need and something we want. * We are learning to talk about why rules are important and how they help keep us safe. * We are learning to take responsibility for our actions and choices in school. * We are learning to describe some of the rights that all children have. * We are learning to explain why kindness and helping others are important in a community. * We are learning to identify different jobs in our community and describe what they involve. * We are learning to match people in our community with the tools or equipment they use. * We are learning to talk about how our choices can affect the world around us. |
| **RME (Mrs Meikle)** | **P1**   * We are learning about world religions and as part of this we will listen and discuss the messages in Christian stories, The Good Samaritan and Joseph and His Coat. * We are learning about fair and unfair and why caring and sharing are important.   **P2**   * We are learning about Christian beliefs and values by exploring Bible stories, The Wise and Foolish Builders, The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin. * We are learning and becoming aware of the idea that people’s beliefs and values affect their actions. |
| **Health & Wellbeing incl.**  **P.E.** | * We are learning to understand the importance of friendship, caring, sharing, fairness, and love in building positive relationships. * We are learning about the importance of following our whole school values (ambition, kindness, equity, respect). * We are learning to recognise and respect the different needs of people around us. * We are learning to take responsibility for our own behaviour and actions in class and at home. * We are learning to describe ways to keep ourselves safe, including following safety rules. * We are learning about the importance of food and water in keeping our bodies healthy. * We are learning how hygiene, like washing our hands, helps us stay healthy. * We are learning to explore how kindness and helpfulness can improve our wellbeing and friendships. * We are learning to understand our rights and how they help us feel safe and cared for. * We are learning to recognise our strengths and skills and how these help us in our community. * We are learning to share our feelings and ideas clearly with others. * We are learning to take part in group activities and make positive contributions. * We are learning how to keep our bodies healthy and safe through good choices. * We are learning about building resilience through our assemblies and also work in class. * We are learning to follow instructions and rules through team games. * We are learning about teamwork and the importance of communication when working as a team. * We are learning to familiarise ourselves with a ball/quiot/beanbag and think about our co-ordination when throwing and catching. * We are learning about the different types of throwing and passing (Overhand, underhand, chest pass, etc.) * We are learning about different ball sports and will have the opportunity to explore some of these sports. * We are learning to improve our staminal and levels of fitness to increase heart rate and strengthen key muscles. |
| **Expressive Arts**  **(Music, Art and Drama)** | This term we will have focus on art:   * We will continue to explore mark making using a variety of different materials. * We are learning to respond to the work of artists and designers by discussing our thoughts and feelings. * We are learning to give and accept constructive comments on our own and others’ work. |
| **Digital Literacy/Technology** | * We are learning to log onto the computer and netbooks independently (with support from our P7 Digital Leaders) * We are learning to use different online resources to support our learning such as Top Marks and Sumdog. * We are learning to follow simple algorithms (instructions). * We will use our interactive whiteboard to select our lunch choices, practice letter formation and handwriting and to play games to support our learning. * We will continue to remind ourselves how to stay safe online and be aware of the risk to our wellbeing. * Some children will use Clicker software to support and enhance learning |
| **Science** | Our science learning will link to our social studies topic of society:   * We are learning to explain what humans, animals, and plants need to stay alive (links to needs and wants) * We are learning about how to keep our bodies safe and healthy. * We are learning about the different tools that people that people who help us use to keep us healthy and safe. * We are learning about different materials and why these are useful for different purposes (e.g. a firefighter’s uniform is heat resistant). * We are learning about the impact that some of our choices make on the environment. |
| **French (Mrs Meikle)** | * We are learning to understand and say simple greetings in French. * We are learning to understand and say simple phrases that encompass praise and being polite. * We are learning to ask ‘How are you?’ and respond with different phrases. * We are learning to understand and say some simple classroom instructions in French. |
| **Outdoor Education** | * We are learning to develop our teamwork and exploration skills through weekly visits to the forest. * We are learning to take and navigate risks safely through visits to the sensory garden and forest. * We are learning to explore natural resources to create artwork. |
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**Play Pedagogy – Core Provision Learning**

We are currently developing our ‘Play Pedagogy’ in P1-3; this means that children throughout their day engage with play-based learning activities which are provided by the Class Teacher and child initiated. The areas of ‘Core Provision’ for your child’s class this term are:

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| **Home Corner** | **Sand/Water** | **Loose Parts** | **Small World** |
| Developing skills of:   * Communication * Curiosity * Sense-making * Curiosity * Feeling * Creativity * Sense-making | Developing skills of:   * Communication * Curiosity * Collaboration * Creativity * Critical thinking | Developing skills of:   * Curiosity * Creativity * Focus | Developing skills of:   * Communication * Feeling * Collaboration * Creativity * Sense-making |
| **Craft Area** | **Outdoor Area** | **Block Play** | **Construction** |
| Developing skills of:   * Creativity * Collaboration * Communication * Focus * Initiative | Developing skills of:   * Adaptability * Initiative * Communication * Collaboration * Leading * Curiosity * Critical thinking | Developing skills of:   * Adaptability * Communication * Collaboration * Leading * Creativity | Developing skills of:   * Adaptability * Communication * Collaboration * Leading * Creativity |

**Important Class Information:**

**CLOTHING!**

School uniform should be worn daily except for Thursdays in P1 which is our forest/outdoor learning time. Children should wear dark leggings/joggers/jeans, old jumper, raincoat & wellies or old trainers. Children should bring their school trousers/skirts & sweatshirts to change into. Indoor shoes are now necessary every day as the grass can be very muddy. Black gym shoes that can be left in school are perfect. Your child should bring a raincoat every day. Please ensure ALL belongings are labelled.

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| **Everyday Requirements** | * Warm and waterproof jacket for outdoor play and learning experiences. * A change of shoes e.g. bring indoor shoes for in class which can be left at school. * A large full water bottle refreshed daily. |
| **P.E. Days** | * Friday – please come dressed in PE clothes with school sweatshirt/skirt/trousers in school bag. |
| **P.E. Kit Requirements** | * Please see our School Uniform and Kits information copied below. |
| **Outdoor Education Days** | * Forest: Thursday morning with P1 – please come to school dressed in outdoor kit with school uniform in bag to change int afterwards. * Sensory Garden: Friday afternoon with P3/2 (no change of clothes required. |
| **Outdoor Kit Requirements** | * Please see our School Uniform and Kits information copied below. |
| **Homework Schedule (P2)**  **Homework Schedule (P1)** | * Spelling/Vocabulary/Numeracy/Other - Out Thursday returned Tuesday. Some homework tasks will be posted on Seesaw. * Reading – sent out twice a week: Monday due back Wednesday and Wednesday due back Friday. * Please practise sounds at home daily. Eventually, children will be sent home with reading books and tricky/ ORT stage words to practise. * Other - Out Thursday returned Tuesday. Some homework tasks will be posted on Seesaw.   NOTE: Homework folders and entire contents should always live in children’s bags except when being used. They are required **EVERYDAY** in school for various tasks e.g. spelling, reading groups, handing out of important letters, etc. |
| **Class Behaviour Strategies** | * Class reward jar (working as a team towards extra play time, pyjama day, etc.) * House points * Class mascot – Martha the Monkey |
| **Adults in Our Class** | * Pupil support assistants (PSA’s) - Mrs Togi, Mr Spencer, Mrs Dempsey and Mrs Burns * Day out/NCCT - Mrs Meikle (Tuesday and Wednesday after breaktime until lunch). |
| **Visits & Visitors & How You Could Help Us** | * Do you have any expertise in any of the areas we will be learning about in class this term? If so, it would be great to hear from you! * Parent helpers for forest days are always welcome! |
| **Dates For the Dairy** | * Family picnic – Friday 5th September 2025 (12:30 – 13:30) * Building Resilience homework due – Tuesday 23rd September 2025. * Flu Immunisations – Thursday 25th September 2025. * P2/1 visit from Cats Protection charity – Tuesday 30th September 2025. * Coffee Morning & open classroom – Friday 3rd October 2025 (more details to follow). * Parent’s Evening (late) - Tuesday 7th October 2025. * Parent’s Evening (early) - Thursday 9th October 2025. * Last day of term – Friday 10th October 2025. |

**Canongate School Uniform and Kits – P.E./Outdoor Education**

We are aware there is some confusion about what children should wear on P.E./Outdoor Education days. **We do still want to look like we belong to Canongate and ask for the following uniform.**

**Key Points for Parents:**

* **Comfort & Practicality**: Children should be comfortable and ready to be active most days. Minimising changing time helps maximise learning time.
* **No Need to Buy Anything New:** Please don’t feel pressured to purchase new items. Any changes can be made gradually, like with the next shoe change.

**Footwear/Coat Guidelines:**

* Children can wear **dark trainers any day** – school shoes are not required unless you prefer them.
* We would recommend that the best option is for children to have - **two pairs of trainers or trainer style shoes - one for inside to remain dry and clean and one for outside.**
* Children should have a **waterproof coat** in school at all times for all experiences.
* Teachers will use discretion as to when to change shoes to protect the carpets and gym hall floor, especially in dry weather. Outdoor are required for ‘Running the Mile’, playing in inclement weather and outdoor P.E. e.g. children cannot run the mile in wellies/Crocs/plimsoles so trainers that can get muddy would suit all of these experiences.

**Uniform/P.E. Guidelines:**

* **Top:** White or blue polo shirt daily, with a **royal blue school sweatshirt/cardigan** (without school logo acceptable/iron on logos available in the office £2). This is also suitable on a P.E. day.
* **Bottoms:** Grey/black trousers or skirts, or **plain black/navy leggings, joggers, or shorts** (no stripes/logos).
* Some people may prefer other items of uniform e.g. Gingham dresses, these are also welcomed but not on P.E/Outdoor Education days.
* On **P.E. days**, leggings/joggers/shorts are preferred and should be worn as uniform with no need to change.

**Outdoor Education Days:**

* Usual P.E. clothes are fine unless it’s **very muddy** – then a change of clothes and warmer top may be needed.
* Children should have a **waterproof coat** in school at all times for all experiences.
* **Wellies/waterproofs** are available in school, but children can bring their own. Outdoor trainers may be fine in good weather.

**Support Available:**

* If you need help with **uniform or footwear**, please reach out – support is available **confidentially**.
* Some families may be eligible for **additional uniform funding** through free school meals – please ask if unsure.