



Canongate Primary School - Learning Letter Term 1 2026/27



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.

Mrs Nixon and P4

Learning:

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

Reading	• We are learning to read aloud with fluency and understanding. • We are learning to pay attention to punctuation to help us read with expression. • Some of us are learning to recognise and understand the effects of bold and italic lettering. • We are learning to identify nouns, verbs and adjectives in different texts. • We will be using our "literacy keys" for various comprehension tasks and learn to answer both inferential (think-about-it) and literal (find-it) questions. We will use both our class novel (The Boy Who Grew Dragons) and our group reading books during these tasks. • We will explore nonfiction texts in connection with our class context.
Writing	• We are learning to spell commonly used words. • We are building upon our knowledge of spelling rules. • We are learning to use a range of strategies to spell unknown words. • We are learning different techniques to practise our weekly spelling words. • We are learning to form our letters correctly, use correct letter heights and to practise joins. • We are learning to "uplevel" the presentation of our literacy jotters by using the school's jotter policy. • We are learning to use openers, connectives and adjectives in our writing to make it more interesting.

	• We are learning to confidently punctuate a sentence correctly, including using commas to write a list. • We are learning to write in the present tense. • We are learning to read over our writing to ensure consistency of meaning, correct punctuation and correct spelling. • We are learning to write for different purposes. This term's text type is explanation, and we will write texts explaining how we created our class sun catchers and how to measure the weather (linked to our art and class context).
Listening & Talking	• We are learning to listen, take turns and make suggestions. • We are learning to ask and respond to different types of questions with confidence, to show understanding of the main ideas of a spoken text. • We are learning to identify and discuss the main ideas of a text.
Numeracy	• We are building upon our maths vocabulary. • We are learning to build and describe numbers to at least 100 using 100s, 10s and 1s. • Some of us are learning to build and describe numbers beyond 3-digits. • Some of us are learning to read, write and say decimal numbers. • We are learning to sequence and order 3-digit and 4-digit numbers. • We are learning strategies to estimate and round numbers. • We are learning to recall numbers just before and after a given number. • We are learning to identify missing numbers in a sequence. • We are learning to recognise, read and write all numbers to 10 000 and, for some, beyond 10 000. • We are practising our mental maths and to quickly recall addition and subtraction facts. • As part of our context, we will be exploring calendars (lunar calendars). • We are learning to create symmetrical patterns with two or more lines of symmetry.
Social Studies and Science	Inspired by the recent eclipse, our context for this term is The Sun, Moon and Earth. • By creating models, carrying out fair tests, and safely observing the Sun and the Moon, we are learning about the different patterns of movement and changes over time. This will include learning about the eclipse. • In turn, we are learning how the above patterns relate to the length of a day and a year, the weather and the changing seasons. • We are learning to use instruments to measure and record the weather and how weather effects life.
Health & Wellbeing incl. P.E.	• We are learning to familiarise ourselves with a ball and focus on coordination when passing, throwing, catching and moving.

	• We are learning to work as a team, communicate and think about directional changes when playing games. • We are learning the specific passes associated with the game of netball. • We are continuing to increase our stamina and strength when running the mile, building on running skills and techniques to increase heart rate and work on key muscle areas. • We are learning about children's rights and to show respect for the rights of others. As part of this, we will create a class charter. • We are learning how we can play a part in bringing positive change in our school and will be supporting others with their learning in French as the school's French Ambassadors. • We are learning about growth mindset. This will include creating our "mistake of the week" learning wall, to help us understand that challenge and making mistakes are part of learning. • We are learning about the dangers of building sites. • We are learning about road safety.
Expressive Arts (Music, Art and Drama)	• We are learning to create short dramas and freeze frames in response to our class novel (The Boy Who Grew Dragons). • We are learning about pattern and colour when creating our symmetrical sun catchers (linked to our maths). • We are learning key skills associated with observational drawings and will be drawing from nature and still life. • We are learning to use our sketchbooks to develop skills associated with the visual elements (e.g. line, form and colour).
Digital Literacy/Technology (Mrs Nixon and Mrs Smith)	• We are learning to use applications and websites such as Sumdog and BBC Bitesize to support our literacy and numeracy. • We are learning to gain confidence with independently signing into GLOW and navigating the menu. • We are learning person to person communications to a pre-defined recipient (e.g. e-mail on Glow). • We are learning about the importance of keeping safe when accessing online resources (ongoing throughout this year). • We can identify and discuss the key messages involved in being a 'SMART' online citizen (ongoing throughout this year).
French (Mrs Nixon and Mrs Smith)	• We are continuing to use French phrases as part of our daily school routine. • We are learning to ask 'What is your name?' and respond in French. • We are learning to ask 'How old are you?' and respond in French. • We are learning to say more classroom objects in French.

	We are learning to be “French Ambassadors” and to support the learning of others by helping the younger classes order their lunches in French and by introducing the “word of the week” during assembly.
RME (Mrs Smith, NCCT)	- We are building upon our learning about Christian beliefs, values and special ceremonies by exploring churches. - We are building upon our learning about the places of worship used by world religions.
Outdoor Education	- We are learning to assess risk when outdoors and to keep ourselves safe. - We are learning to develop our communication, teamwork and exploration skills through visits to the forest. - We will be using the outdoor environment when learning within different areas of the curriculum (including numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing).

Important Class Information:

Everyday Requirements	- Please see our School Uniform and Kits information copied below. - Large, full water bottle refreshed daily. - Homework folder.
P.E. Days	Tuesday (indoors) and Thursday (outdoors)
P.E. Kit Requirements	Please see our School Uniform and Kits information copied below.
Outdoor Education Days	Forest/Outdoor learning – Friday
Outdoor Kit Requirements	Please see our School Uniform and Kits information copied below.
Homework Schedule	- Reading/ Spelling/Vocabulary/Numeracy/Other - Out Thursday returned Tuesday. - Numeracy tasks will be on Sumdog. - N.B. Homework folders and entire contents should live in the children’s bags at all times except when being used. They are required every day in school for various tasks e.g. spelling work/ reading/ transfer of important letters.
Positive Class Routines	House Points and class incentive for showing kindness and promoting the other school values – respect, ambition and equity.
Adults in Our Class	- PSA – Mrs Dempsey, Mrs Togi-Togi and Mr Spencer - Mrs Smith - Non class contact teacher (Monday morning at 9am)
Visits & Visitors & How You Could Help Us	Our topic will be The Sun, Moon and Earth. Please let us know if you can or know anyone who can help with this in anyway (see Social Studies and Science section for more details).

	If you would like to help during our outdoor learning at the forest (Friday at 10:55 until 12:30), please let me know.
Dates For the Diary	- Homework begins – Thursday 3rd September 2026. - Parents’ Night Late – Thursday 1st October 2026 (17:00 – 19:30). - Parents’ Night Early – Tuesday 6th October 2026 (15:30 – 18:00). - End of Term – Friday 9th October 2026 (15:00). - Start of Term 2 – Monday 26th October 2026 (09:00).

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.