



COMMERCIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL
Term 1 2023-24
Class Newsletter for Room 10

General Information

This term P5/6 will be working with Mr Logie and Miss McCouaig. The class have already demonstrated a commitment to creating a welcoming classroom and working together to make a positive start to our learning journeys. The learners have begun to produce some exciting work which they are eager to share. Thankfully, sharing work will become easier this term due to the introduction of Seesaw, which has been introduced across the whole school. Our focus is on developing skills in key curricular areas such as literacy and numeracy whilst establishing connections with wider learning across the curriculum.

Literacy

Reading

Our class novels will be based on life in the Victorian Era, starting with 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty.

We will be learning to ask and answer a range of questions based on our understanding of different texts. This will include the class novel alongside a range of primary source documents from the Victorian period. The children will use these texts to develop their evidence gathering and analysis skills. In addition to our class novel, we will explore a variety of genres, particularly non-fiction.

Every pupil will receive a reading book. Weekly reading homework will be set to be completed by the following Monday. Pupils will have the opportunity to read aloud and share opinions and question the texts. Please ensure that the reading book is kept in the folder supplied and is brought to school every day.

Writing

This term so far, we have focused on descriptive writing. This is part of our broader focus on functional writing. Much of our writing will be linked to our class novel and the broader Victorian context for learning.

We will explore different approaches to writing and text types. Within this, there will be a focus on using appropriate vocabulary to suit purpose and audience. VCOP (vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation) will serve as a tool to support our confidence in editing and self-assessment. Learners will develop their skills in using different tools for writing throughout the year.

Spelling

We will continue to concentrate on spelling, looking closely at spelling rules. Children will be given a variety of independent spelling tasks as well as formal lessons. Weekly spelling homework will be issued on a Wednesday.

Listening and Talking

The class will be focussed on engaging in respectful dialogue, justifying our opinions with evidence and having the confidence to express ourselves. In doing so, the class will be developing their co-operation and collaboration skills. Everyone will have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts on our class novel alongside a

Numeracy and Maths

This term we will be focusing on Place Value. We will be learning about the importance of a decimal place and will explore the link between decimals and fractions as we progress. Pupils will identify and represent decimal numbers up to two decimal places using numerals, words and pictures to consolidate their understanding.

The class will also continue to develop their knowledge of addition and subtraction strategies within a variety of different numeracy contexts.

In Maths we will be focusing on Shape – this will be taught on a Thursday by Miss McCouaig.

Health and Wellbeing

We will follow the Building Resilience programme to develop strategies to cope during challenging times throughout our lives. As with much of our learning this year, UNICEF's Articles in Action will play a pivotal role in helping us understand the rights of children. Some key subjects this term will include international day of charity, world homeless day and mental health day; all of which can be linked to our IDL topic. We will also use the Health and Wellbeing resources from Tree of Knowledge to learn about building resilience, creativity and communication as well as how to be a good friend and a positive role model to those around us.

Physical Education

This term PE will take place primarily indoors as we focus on developing our skills in the context of badminton. The class will be challenged to develop and demonstrate their personal qualities, such as resilience, motivation, confidence and leadership skills. In terms of physical and cognitive skills, there will be a focus on positioning, movement and decision making. Developing fine and gross motor skills in a variety of different contexts will be a focus throughout the year. P.E. will take place on Wednesdays.

Expressive Arts

Our learning in expressive arts will primarily be explored through our Victorians topic. In art, we will demonstrate knowledge about the Victorian Era through symmetrical

range of different texts. The class have already been demonstrating their listening and talking skills through working together on our class charter and planning their individual learning journeys. Key skills this term will include using more sophisticated vocabulary and listening to obtain specific information.

Interdisciplinary Topic (IDL)

Our topic will be a focus on the Victorian Era. Allowing the children to explore this era of history will enable them to conduct a comparative study of present life and life in the past. This topic will continue until Christmas. Pupils, through a learning journey discussion, decided they wanted to learn about...

- Social class (divide between wealthy and poor).
- Children at work and workhouses.
- Industry and technology.
- Victorian schools and education.
- Colonialism.
- Victorian Dunfermline.
- Victorian toys, sports and hobbies.
- Clothes and food.
- Cost of living/money.
- Crime and punishment.

We will study the topics in a cross-curricular manner and they will link to all subject areas.

ICT and Technology

This term we will be using technology for a variety of purposes. Using technology allows for opportunities to research different sources in our Victorians topic and how to identify their reliability. The aim of this is to encourage the class to develop their critical thinking skills in all contexts, but especially when online.

ICT will also be used to develop computational thinking and coding skills. The class have already begun to demonstrate an interest in computing science and have used coding programmes to make animations. Developing these skills will be a continual focus throughout the year.

Opportunities will also be given to use ICT to develop and consolidate numeracy and literacy skills where appropriate.

Outdoor Learning

P5s will continue to work on the natural connections award through various outdoor learning activities. P6s will begin working towards achieving their John Muir award (completion in P7).

patterns, tile patterns and still life drawing/painting. Music and drama will provide pupils with the necessary tools to deepen their understanding of Victorian life.

French and Spanish

This term the class will focus on consolidating their French vocabulary. Spanish will also be explored throughout the year. Languages will be taught by Mrs McCouaig.

Religious and Moral Education

In RME we will be exploring the Bible. We will be learning about stories from the Bible and how they inform key Christian beliefs. Learners will continue to develop their understanding of Christianity and encouraged to compare their beliefs and values in different contexts. There will be opportunities for the class to explore Christian beliefs and values in the context of their Victorians topic.

Key Information

- Spelling and reading homework will be issued on a Wednesday. Each pupil will be supplied with a homework/reading folder and jotter. Homework should be completed and returned on the following Monday. The homework assignment will be posted on Seesaw, however, please complete using the homework jotter. There is no need to send any evidence of homework and the jotter does not need to be returned to school.
- Numeracy homework is no longer assigned. To support your child to practice their numeracy skills at home I would recommend exploring the link below, which contains fabulous ideas and resources: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/supporting-numeracy/introduction-to-supporting-numeracy/>
- Reading groups will be heard in class throughout the week. Set reading homework should return the following Monday. The reading/homework record should be signed by a parent/guardian. Please bring the homework/reading folder to school each day.
- P.E will take place on a Wednesday, please ensure a full kit is brought into school to change into.
- Our outdoor learning day is on a Monday. Please bring suitable outdoor wear every Monday e.g. waterproof jackets and wellies.

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter or any other matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch directly through the school office.

Thank you,
Mr Logie