



COMMERCIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL
Term 1 2023-24
Class Newsletter for Room 11



General Information

Welcome to P6 with Mr Kenny and Mrs Johnston! Words cannot express how delighted I am to be teaching this group of children once again. I have had my fingers crossed for several years. It has been brilliant getting to know all the pupils again and also meeting many new additions to the class. I am looking forward to an exciting learning journey with you all; my captain hat and flight jacket are ready for travel! As restrictions have now eased, there will be opportunities to share learning in person now (including a learning assembly later in the year); something we can all look forward to. Our focus is developing skills in key curricular areas such as literacy and numeracy whilst establishing connections with wider learning across the curriculum.

Literacy

Reading

Our class novel will be based on life in the Victorian Era, starting with 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. Street Child is a tale of an orphan in Victorian London, whose plight inspired Dr. Barnardo to open his famous children's homes. Our class novel complements our interdisciplinary learning about The Victorians. After Street Child, we will read Wonder by R.J Palacio.

We will be learning to ask and answer a range of questions based on our understanding of the text. We will also be analysing a text (mainly the class novel or topic-related texts) and using evidence from it to support answers. Bloom's questioning taxonomy will become key learning vocabulary within our classroom. In addition to our class novel, we will explore a variety of genres, particularly nonfiction.

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.

Writing

This term we will focus on functional and descriptive writing. Much of our writing will be functional writing this term and link directly to our class novel, using the 'Workshop for Literacy' approach. Street Child will be at the heart of our literacy learning this term.

Using the Workshop for Literacy approach, we will focus on using appropriate vocabulary to suit the purpose and audience in our writing. VCOP (vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation) will serve as a tool to support our confidence in editing and self-assessment. This will develop our skills in using writing tools such as commas to show interjections, apostrophes for contractions and various aspects of direct speech. Some pupils will be encouraged to use additional punctuation such as colons and semicolons. Using sophisticated vocabulary is a key focus throughout the year and pupils will use subject-specific vocabulary.

Articles in Action (RRS) and Global Goals will be key features across literacy throughout the year. Putting pupils at the centre of learning, we will use the 'Story Line' approach to

explore key global issues and current affairs. Room 11 is very keen to create their imaginary community!

Listening and Talking

Our listening and talking skills will be focussed on cooperation, collaboration, constructing and justifying opinions. We will discuss our thoughts on our class novel by listening and respectfully responding to others who have different viewpoints. We have demonstrated this through our class charter. Key skills this term will include using more sophisticated vocabulary (including around the curriculum itself) and listening to obtain specific information.

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.

Numeracy and Maths

This term we will be focusing on Place Value. We will be looking closely at the importance of a decimal place and the link between decimals and fractions (although we will visit fractions later in the session). Pupils will identify and represent decimal numbers up to two decimal places using numerals, words and pictures whilst understanding the value of each digit. Using a number line to demonstrate our knowledge and understanding will be central to our learning. We will look at the rounding of numbers and explore situations when numbers need to be rounded up or down and the reasons why.

Moving forward, we will develop addition and subtraction strategies, within a variety of different numeracy contexts (including decimal numbers). Some pupils will be consolidating these skills, whereas others will be looking closely at the relationship between addition and subtraction and speeding up their recall.

Mrs Johnston will be teaching data handling as our maths topic.

Interdisciplinary Topic (IDL)

Our initial topic will be a comparative study of present life and life in the past, more specifically, The Victorian Era. This topic will continue until December. Pupils participated in a learning journey discussion. We decided to learn about...

- Queen Victoria's reign (including the colonial aspect)
- Social class (divide between wealthy and poor)
- Children at work (focusing on workhouses)
- Victorian education
- Houses and architecture
- Victorian Dunfermline
- Victorian toys, hobbies and games
- Clothing
- Food
- Technology (including inventions)

We will study the topics in a cross-curricular manner and they will link to all subject areas. We aim to establish connections between our learning and UNICEF's Articles in Action and the UN's Global Goals.

ICT

This term we will focus on the basic functionality of using a Windows-operated device. Beyond functionality, the pupils will begin an eight-week digital modelling course with links to 3D printing. CPS does not currently have a 3D printer, however, the course has been designed by Fife College without the need for one. We will showcase some of our learning through our weekly Facebook post.

Outdoor Learning

Room 11 will begin working towards achieving their John Muir award (completion in P7). Pupils will learn about John Muir and his contribution to worldwide conservation. Some outdoor learning/planning will take place in the classroom with most learning activities taking place in School Woods and beyond. We will look at the damage caused to School Woods and how we can regenerate growth and preserve the area.

Health and Wellbeing

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.

PE will take place both indoors and outdoors. We will work on team games and fitness initially and continue to build good relationships within our class through communication and cooperation.

Expressive Arts

Much of our learning in the expressive arts will be conveyed through our topic. In art, we will demonstrate knowledge about the Victorian Era through symmetrical patterns, tile patterns and still life drawing/painting. Drama will provide pupils with the necessary tools to deepen their understanding of Victorian life. We are currently using hot seating as an active tool in planning for writing.

French and Spanish

French will be taught by Mrs Johnston. This term we will be consolidating our vocabulary from French. Our main aim is that the children speak with confidence and enthusiasm.

Religious and Moral Education

This term we will explore the beliefs and traditions of Judaism through the lens of Hanukkah. Later in the term, we will revisit the Christian season of advent. There will be opportunities to compare and discuss the values and belief systems of some other global religions.

Key Information

- **Seesaw** is a learning platform now used by P4-7. Please ensure both a family account and pupil account have been created through the QR codes provided. Seesaw will be used as a means of sharing our traditional termly learning journeys. Pupils will have the opportunity to select, share and upload their work in class. Whilst a weekly Facebook post will be shared, some snapshots of class learning will also be uploaded onto Seesaw. Seesaw/homework will commence next week. Any important communication regarding pupils should still come through the school office.

- **Homework:**

Spelling words will be assigned on Seesaw every Wednesday. Please note that this is now an independent homework task. There is no obligation to return/evidence completion (a whole school approach). A jotter will be supplied to keep at home for practising spelling words.

Reading groups will have pages set to be read by the following Monday. Please ensure pupils bring the reading folder every day to school as groups will be heard throughout the week.

- **P.E.** will take place on a Friday. Pupils should come to school in their P.E. kit as this will save time and ensure we get the most out of our P.E. slot. Please ensure pupils have uniform to get changed into after P.E. There may be opportunities for further P.E. time on a Monday moving forward. Any changes will be communicated in advance.

Once again, words cannot express how pleased I am to teaching the pupils of Room 11 again. If you have any questions regarding this newsletter or any other matters, please do not hesitate to get in touch directly via the school office.

- **Outdoor Learning** will take place on a Thursday. Please bring suitable outdoor wear every Thursday e.g. waterproof jackets and wellies. Outdoor learning will take place regardless of wet weather (in most circumstances).

- **Links to Optional Home Learning**

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<https://learn.sumdog.com/en-gb/>

<https://mathsbot.com/manipulativeMenu>

**Thanks,
Mr Kenny**