



COMMERCIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Term 3 January – April 2024  
Class Newsletter for Rooms 3 + 4



**In literacy we will be learning ...**

...to use word banks to help us learn the correct spelling of 'sight words' (i.e. the common words that are on your word walls). In phonics we will be recognising and spelling double vowel sounds, including 'magic e' (e.g. *sail*, *day*, *make*).

In reading, we will continue to work on recognising common words by sight. We will use non-fiction books and the internet to search for facts relating to our topics. We will learn the difference between 'fact' and 'opinion'.

This term, we will study various texts and stories relating to dinosaurs and prehistoric creatures to inspire us to take part in literacy-based activities. We will learn to write 'fact-files' and use titles, headings and bullet points.

We will also study the novel 'Flat Stanley' to develop our literacy skills.

**In numeracy and maths we will be learning...**

...to use money. We will work on identifying and using coins and notes up to £20. We will be learning about different combinations of coins to make a set amount and to pay for items/give change. Through this topic we will continue to work on addition and subtraction strategies, as well as counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10.

In multiplication and division, we will be working with grouping numbers and sharing amounts into equal groups. We will introduce the concept of times tables and use the correct symbols to represent multiplication and division. Practise of counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10 will support this.

We will also be learning about telling time. We will practise ordering the days of the week and months of the year. We will work on telling both analogue and digital times for 'o'clock, half past and quarter past' times. Some P3's will work on 5 minute intervals and 'quarter to' times.

Our topic for Jan-February is:

**Circus**

We plan on using circus acts as inspiration for science lessons to investigate 'forces' (push, pull, twist, balance). We can also try out some circus 'acts' in our P.E. time through gymnastics and creative dance sequences.

We will use our senses describe the sights, sounds, smells of the circus. We will use books and websites to research facts and share our opinions about the circus. We will also use bookmarks in ICT and link this to internet safety.

We will create posters and leaflets inspired by the circus in writing. Including the use of headings, illustrations and the correct layout.

Our topic for March – April

**Primary 2's topic is Dinosaurs:**

We will be learning about the environment the dinosaurs lived in and make connections to the world around us today. We will distinguish between living and non-living things and investigate food chains.

By researching, we will be able to ask relevant questions and contribute to discussions about scientific discoveries.

We will make links to Information Handling in Maths by creating tables and graphs relating to dinosaur facts.

**Primary 3** pupils will join in with some of the dinosaur stories and activities but will extend their learning further by investigating other 'prehistoric beasts' and different time periods. They will look at making timelines and comparing creatures from the ice age and stone age.

They will also deepen their knowledge of science by learning about food webs, classifying animals and animal skeletons.

<p><b><u>Health &amp; Well-Being and R.M.E</u></b></p> <p>Room 3's gym days are <b>Monday &amp; Wednesday</b>. Room 4's gym day is <b>Thursday</b>.</p> <p>Each child has a basket to store their kit in school, this will come home termly to be washed. Please make sure your child's name is on all items of clothing.</p> <p>In physical education this term, we will be focusing on gymnastics and creative dance. We will also be continuing to develop our skills in teamwork, sportsmanship and collaboration in team games.</p> <p>We are looking more closely at 'empathy' this term, thinking about other people's feelings and how we can support others.</p> <p>In R.M.E we will be working on religious stories relating to Easter and parables about how we can support and help others. We will also discuss feelings, resilience and conflict/resolution.</p> <p>We will also learn about the Jewish festival of Sukkot and Shabbat. Discussing customs and celebrations of religions.</p>	<p><b><u>Expressive Arts</u></b></p> <p>In music, we will learn some Scottish songs for Burns day and songs linked to our IDL topics. We will use percussion instruments to create sound stories and practise keeping a steady beat.</p> <p>In art, pupils will investigate primary colours and create various different pieces of art work in relation to this. We will learn how to mix colour to create our own colour wheel. We will think about 'tone' and ways to create different tones of colour.</p> <p>In drama, we will be using stories to explore different characters, make sound effects and use gesture and movement to suit the roles of the characters.</p>
<p><b><u>ICT and technologies</u></b></p> <p>We will be using 'bookmarks' on the computers to visit websites to support our learning and research in our topics. We will look at the importance of internet safety and know how to keep ourselves safe online.</p> <p>We are learning about the different parts of a computer and begin to use the correct names for these.</p> <p>In technology, we will be creating our own models using moving parts and taking part in design activities.</p>	<p><b><u>Outdoor Learning</u></b></p> <p>We will continue to use the outdoors woods every <b>Friday</b> afternoon, in all weathers. Please provide your child with appropriate clothing (i.e. wellies, waterproofs, warm clothing) especially in bad weather.</p> <p>We will learn how to identify and categorise leaves and trees by using a key. We will observe nature and link this to our IDL topic. We would like to make bird feeders to support the nature around us</p>

### **How can parents/ families help?**

Your child should have a copy of their Scottish poem to learn by heart – please help by practising this with them regularly.

Please support your child's learning by working on their reading book and word wall with them each week. (E.g. pointing out common words, blending sounds together, looking for double sounds, identifying words in other contexts – magazines, supermarket etc.)

It would be greatly appreciated if all items of clothing could be **labelled with your child's name** – otherwise these end up in lost property.

### **Other news from our class.**

We are going to be holding a room 3 & 4 Scottish Celebration Day on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January to mark Burns Day. Pupils will take part in various 'Scottish' activities throughout the day, including – Scottish artwork, singing Scottish songs, learning Scottish words and the history of Burns.

Please remember to access Seesaw regularly for any important updates, photos/news from our class and to access weekly homework activities (you need to be logged in as a 'pupil' to access homework tasks).

Thanks for your support and please get in touch via Seesaw/school office if we can be of assistance.

### **Homework**

Homework will continue to be issued on a Wednesday and should be returned by the following Monday. Each child will have a reading book/common words to practise and a phonics/spelling task to complete.

All homework instructions will be uploaded to Seesaw each Wednesday (you must be logged in as a 'pupil' to see the tasks).

Please see below for a list of useful websites that pupils should use to practise numeracy /maths skills this term. Please dip in and out of these as you see appropriate.

[www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com) (pupils login's is on their homework folder)

[Coconut Multiples - Reinforce Times Tables \(topmarks.co.uk\)](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/CoconutMultiples)

[Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds \(topmarks.co.uk\)](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/HitTheButton)

[Mental Maths Train - A Four Operations Game \(topmarks.co.uk\)](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/MentalMathsTrain)

[Funk Mummy || Quick recall of addition, subtraction and multiplication facts || Mobile-friendly version \(ictgames.com\)](http://www.ictgames.com/FunkMummy)

[Teaching Clock \(topmarks.co.uk\)](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/TeachingClock) - will need adult support/input

[Telling the Time - Mathsframe](http://www.mathsframe.com)

[Toy Shop Money Game \(GBP\) - Topmarks](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/ToyShopMoneyGame)

[Pay For It \(ictgames.com\)](http://www.ictgames.com/PayForIt)

[Coins Game for 4-10 year olds \(topmarks.co.uk\)](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/CoinsGame)