



COMMERCIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL
Term 3 2023-24
Class Newsletter for Room 11



General Information

Welcome once again to Room 11 with Mr Kenny, Miss Philp and Mrs Johnston. We are looking forward to another exciting learning journey with you all! Our focus is to develop skills across key curricular areas such as literacy and numeracy whilst establishing connections with wider learning across the curriculum.

Literacy

Reading

Our current class novel is almost finished. We aim to maintain our enthusiasm for reading together. Our new class novel will be *The Accidental Prime Minister* by Tom McLaughlin. This links directly with our new topic, Democracy.

We will continue to ask and answer a range of questions based on our understanding of the text. We will continue to analyse text (mainly the class novel or topic-related texts) and use evidence from it to support answers. Bloom's questioning taxonomy will be a key focus within our classroom.

Pupils will have the opportunity to read aloud and share opinions and question various texts. Please ensure that the reading book is kept in the folder supplied and is brought to school **every day** until groups have been heard. All groups have been issued new reading books.

Writing

This term we will focus on elements of poetry, persuasive and discursive writing. Our novel and topic will support our writing - great practise for many of the future Prime Ministers and First Ministers of Room 11! We will work on using a formal tone when writing and developing effective introductions and conclusions, particularly when writing and delivering political speeches. We will look at how to present our opinion and how to support ideas using evidence. Pupils will have the opportunity to engage with referencing information and plagiarism.

Spelling

Children will be given a variety of independent spelling tasks as well as formal lessons. Weekly spelling homework will be issued on a Wednesday in the form of a paper copy.

Listening and Talking

There will be a great deal of listening and talking opportunities this term. Pupils will plan, write and deliver a political speech. We will work on debate skills by developing our ability to speak in a persuasive and engaging manner.

The pupils have been given a Scots poem to learn at home. The children do not have to learn the whole poem off by heart but should make an attempt at learning at least some of the poem. Everyone will be asked to perform part of the poem. This can be in front of the class or just to the teacher.

Numeracy and Maths

Moving on from subtracting decimal numbers, we will begin multiplication and division next week. First, we will focus on a brief recall of all times tables and related division facts. We will resource and use the grid/box multiplication method. We will also cover the formal method of multiplication, partitioning, division with remainders and using rounding and compensation. Pupils will learn about common multiples, factors, prime numbers, and divisibility rules for some.

Miss Philp is currently teaching angles and will do so on a Wednesday afternoon.

Health and Wellbeing

We will follow the Building Resilience programme to develop strategies to cope with 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 Women's Day, Commonwealth Day and LGBT History month. Pupils will learn various aspects of health and wellbeing through our story line approach to learning.

We recently started our new dance topic in PE. We will investigate various genres of music through the decades before creating our own dances to a selection of songs. We hope to share this through a music video.

Expressive Arts

Much of our learning in the expressive arts will be conveyed through our topic. Drama, Music and Art will be used in our class learning assembly which you will be invited to attend, late February. The pupils are currently studying the works of Pablo Picasso.

French and Spanish

This term Mrs Johnston will be teaching French on a Tuesday morning.

Religious and Moral Education

This term we will explore some of the beliefs and traditions of Islam and Christianity. Our learning lens will be Ramadan and Easter. We will demonstrate a sound understanding of beliefs across world religions by exploring the similarities and differences between them.

Interdisciplinary Topic (IDL)

In Democracy we will learn about its origins and how it has shaped our society today. We will research parties across the political spectrum and their policies, discuss its relevance to our lives and conduct 'official' debates in the classroom as we transform it into Holyrood/Westminster. We may even run our own 'local election' in class. We will explore a few democracies different from our own in addition to dictatorships.

By studying democracy in a cross-curricular manner, we aim to establish connections between our learning and UNICEF's Articles in Action and the Global Goals.

ICT

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 upon completion.

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.

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. Each class will soon be allocated an iPad. 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. Pupils have opted to use paper copies of spelling instead of a weekly SeeSaw upload. Any important communication regarding pupils should still come through the school office.

- **Homework:**

Spelling words will be sent home in paper form to be completed independently. There is no obligation to return/evidence completion (a whole school approach). Please ask if a new homework jotter is required at any point. The children will also work on the same spelling words in class so any extra practise they have will be invaluable.

Reading groups will have pages set and should be read by the following Monday.

- **P.E.** will continue to 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 should have uniform to get changed into after P.E. All children are expected to wear a PE kit.
- **Outdoor Learning** will take place on a Thursday. We will continue to walk to Carnegie Library approximately every four weeks and choose a new book for reading enjoyment. Thank you to all the volunteers able to help thus far.

I am looking forward to sharing our learning assembly with you. We also have a class trip to the Scottish Parliament to look forward to. 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.

Thanks,

Mr Kenny