

Primary 3 Newsletter (Term 1)



Dear Parent,

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer with your family and made the most of the fabulous, warm weather we had. How lucky are we that this has continued into the month of September?

It truly is a blessing to be teaching so many of the lovely children I have taught before, either in P1 or P2, and I am also thrilled to have some new pupils in my class this year. What a wonderful little team we are making already!

My P3 superstars are very settled in class and have made an excellent start to the school year! They are happy, making new friends and are so eager to move forward with their learning.

This newsletter will give you lots of important information about our class and provide a flavour of the learning and skills that will be developed during this important first term.

Health and Wellbeing

Your child's happiness, health, and wellbeing are of the utmost importance to me, and I promise that I will do everything I possibly can to nurture him/her on their learning journey as they discover new things and develop lots of new skills. Our topic study for this term will have a health and wellbeing focus, centred around the book "The Seven Habits of Happy Kids" and through this book the children will meet lots of characters which help them explore and consider lots of important skills and attitudes for life-long learning.



In my class I have very high standards for learning and behaviour. To support this, I will use a positive reward system called 'Class DoJo' to motivate, encourage, and reward pupils for showing good manners, for helping others, for being on task, for participating in activities, for teamwork and for working hard. I'm sure the children have already told you all about it... and the cool rewards on offer.

Numeracy and Maths



Now that the numeracy assessments are complete, we are now moving forward with our learning in numeracy and maths. This term the focus will be on learning about 'Place Value', and this will involve:

- discussing the digits in numbers to 1000, their position, their value and why zero is important
- recognise and record numbers in different formats
- compare and order numbers to 1000

Listening and Talking



Much of the work in our P3 classroom will involve lots of listening and talking in pairs, in small groups and in larger groups. Each week however, there will be a 'Friday Focus' on helping the children to further develop their listening and talking skills and this term the focus will be on:

- thinking and responding (e.g. I can show you that I am listening to you, thinking about what you are saying, and can add my ideas to yours.)
- using texts (e.g. I can think about ideas from something we have read, or watched, or listened to, and tell you my opinion about them.)

Reading



Core reading work will continue using the Rigby Star programme, as in P1 and 2, and comprehension activities associated with these texts will be done in class. The many other varied reading activities provided in class this term will allow the pupils to focus on developing the following skills:

- reading, retelling, and discussing story sequences
- discussing simple features of text structures including main events, characters actions, story beginnings and endings
- using punctuation when reading aloud
- using word attack strategies to decode unfamiliar words

Writing



As in previous years, we will continue to use the Big Write programme for writing which focusses on developing the children's **V**ocabulary, their use of **C**onnectives, **O**peners and **P**unctuation (**VCOP**). This term the skills we will focus on will be:

- expanding and using a wider range of vocabulary (WOW words)
- using a variety of connectives to link ideas together
- using more sophisticated punctuation such as commas and speech marks

HOMework

Reading

Reading books will be issued each Monday morning and the children will be heard reading in class with me on either the Monday or Tuesday. Pupils should be heard reading at home every night and should discuss the ideas as set out in the homework information letter attached. Each week, the children should prepare a reading question about the story they have read, and this should be written in their reading notebook. Pupils will then put these questions to their classmates on Thursday mornings during literacy time. Reading books will be gathered in on Friday mornings. Please ensure that reading books come to school in the reading wallet every day.

Spelling

Spelling homework will be issued on Mondays after the new spelling rule has been taught in class. Pupils can choose **one** activity from the Spelling Choice Board each night from Monday to Wednesday and complete these tasks in their spelling homework jotter. These activities should be signed each night by an adult. Revision of the spelling rule and all spelling words should be done each Thursday night in advance of the weekly spelling test each Friday. Spelling homework jotters should come to school each day in the reading wallet and will be gathered in on Friday morning for marking.

Numeracy & Maths

A Numeracy / Maths homework activity sheet will be issued each Thursday and will be reinforcement of work done in class. This should be completed, signed by an adult, and a photo of it uploaded to TEAMS for marking each Thursday evening. This will allow individual feedback to be given to pupils.

Other Homework Activities

Occasionally, other homework activities may be given which link with our topic study. Plenty of notice will be given for this.

PE



Gym lessons will take place on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. Full gym kit, comprising of a red polo shirt, a pair of black shorts and a change of shoes should be brought on these days. For ease of changing, polo shirts can be worn to school on gym days. To comply with authority guidance, all long hair must be tied back, and jewellery should be left at home.

Staffing

I teach in class from Monday to Thursday each week and Mrs Macleod has responsibility for teaching the class on Fridays. We are also very fortunate to have Covid Recovery Teacher, Miss McKay, who will work with small groups for an hour on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Our wonderful Pupil Support Assistants this year are Mrs McCallum and Mrs Goyal, who will support groups of children throughout the week in class.

Reading Wallets

It is very important that reading wallets are brought to school **every day** as homework, some letters and important information will be put in here.

Diary Dates



- Friday 17th September – Pupil Learning Journals sent home for parents to see.
- Friday 24th September - Pupil Learning Journals sent home for parents to see.
- Friday 8th October - Schools close for October break
- Monday 18th October – In-service Day for school staff
- Tuesday 19th October – Schools re-open to pupils

I hope you found this newsletter and homework information sheet both informative and helpful. Should you have any queries, worries or concerns about your child, then please do not hesitate to get in touch by contacting the school on the usual number.

I look forward to working in partnership with you to help your child develop their skills, strengths, and talents.

Yours sincerely,

Susie Provan

Principal Teacher