**CUMBRAE PRIMARY & EARLY YEARS CLASS**

**HT Update Term 3**

**January 2022**

Dear Parent and Families,

Welcome back to our third term of the session! We hope you had a lovely holiday and managed to spend some time with close family and friends. We really do hope that this year will be kinder to us all and that we can introduce activities and events to help us feel more excited about the future.

LEARNING & TEACHING in TERM 3

We are delighted that our new year starts as normal, with all classes in school learning with a full staff complement. You will shortly receive your class newsletter outlining the core learning and teaching for each class.

All classes begin the term with our Scottish Fortnight focused learning. This is a much loved part of our annual curriculum where children learn about the rich heritage, culture and history of our own country. Each class will also learn a Scottish poem to share aloud and if the children wish they can be considered for our annual Scottish recital competition in February.

Class homework will continue to be issued weekly. Most classes will have a weekly Literacy and Numeracy task. Reading together at home is a great way to supplement learning and encourage a positive attitude to reading. Mrs Neilson is our Literacy coordinator and along with our book ambassadors is revamping our school library to create a welcoming space in which children can spend time in enjoying books in peace. Mrs Neilson also holds a well attended book club on a Wednesday lunchtime ably supported by our ambassadors Jack and William.

Parents appointments will be scheduled for March and at the moment these will take place by telephone. Further details will be issued nearer the time. However, if you have any concern or question regarding your child’s learning or wellbeing please contact the school to speak to myself or your class teacher.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP

Our new pupil voice groups have been established and each will have a clear focus for school improvement. Our groups allow the children to share their opinions, views and drive change across the school community.

Our Pupil Council will focus on evaluating our learning and teaching experiences and work on developing our school playground by introducing some new games and more exciting areas in which the children can play. A representative from our pupil council will deliver a short report of school successes to Cumbrae Community Council.

Our Eco-committee will ensure we are learning about sustainability and lead the introduction of our new chicken family in the spring.

The Digital Leaders will be involved in ensuring our technology is all up to date, that we are cyber safety aware and will work towards the school achieving our Digital Schools Award.

Although the committees lead these developments all children will have their voices heard and be involved. Exciting times ahead!

PARENT SURVEY

During February I will issue all families with our annual survey to evaluate our school and learning provision. As always, if you have any issues or ideas for improvement please let me know through the usual channels – phone or email.

JUNIOR DUKES

In term 2 all children P2 to P7 received their Junior Dukes books. Some children have brought their books in to have one or two challenges signed off. Could I please ask that you encourage the children to partake in these challenges as they are valuable and fun. If you need anything printed off or copied then please let me know as we can do that in school for you. If your child has completed any challenges then send the book in to school so I can sign them off. It would potentially be a good idea to have 2 challenges done before the February holiday and then another 2 before Easter.

PARTNERS IN LEARNING

We are very proud of the diverse learning activities our chidren experience at Cumbrae Primary. Much of this is down to our very effective partnership working. Recently all our children experienced 15 hugely successful weekly outdoor sessions with the FSC but beyond that there are many other opportunities. P6/7 filmed with the Scotland learning team this month about the benefits of living on an island – link - [Cumbrae Pupils](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0bj2905). Our children regularly tend our Community Garden in the church grounds and we are hoping to build an outdoor building in these grounds so that we can use the area all year round. Now that Covid restrictions have lifted, our Active Schools team is able to work with the children and will be providing sports lunchtime clubs twice a week and supporting curricular PE across the school. We are also waiting to hear back from Vikingar, as with kind donations from the Elderly Forum, we intend to provide swimming lessons for P5 to P7 children in Term 4.

PUPIL SAFETY

We have become more aware that the road outside the school seems to be increasingly busy at the end of the school day. The pavement is very narrow with a shallow kerb and visibility is greatly reduced due to parked cars or those exiting the church car park. We have discussed road safety and proper crossing of the roads with the children in school but would ask if you could kindly reinforce this at home. We would encourage the children to stay close to adults when walking on the pavement and to not run across the road.

Mrs J McAleese

gw09mcaleesejulie01@glow.sch.uk