



Primary 4/5 Newsletter

August 2021.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child back to school and to our new class, Primary 4/5. I am excited to be joining the school and wider community at Balmalloch. I look forward to facilitating your child's learning, but firstly, the welfare of your children will be my priority. I hope to help them settle in their new class and help alleviate any worries they may have regarding their return to school. I will do my very best to make all children feel welcome, safe and valued.

Health and Wellbeing

To help ensure your child is happy and settled in their new class and to create a calm environment, pupils have created a class charter based on what a healthy, safe and happy classroom should look like. Together, we looked at the United Nations Rights of the Child, and came up with responsibilities for both the children and myself in order to create an ethos of "Be Kind". The children are already settling very well into daily routines.

Health

In our health topic, pupils will be working this term on activities linked to the SHANARRI indicators SAFE and HEALTHY, which will include developing knowledge of hygiene and physical activity.

P.E.

Our P.E. days will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On a Monday, we will be indoors and on a Wednesday and Thursday we will be outdoors even in light rain, so dress appropriately. On PE days, children should attend in black jogging trousers, leggings and a white polo shirt as there will be no changing in class. If pupils want to change into trainers or more suitable footwear for sport, they can do this on PE days only.

Please ensure that your child refrains from wearing jewellery on these days, particularly earrings. This term we will be focusing on fitness and outdoor games.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Our focus this term will be on place value and number processes. This will be a revision of previous learning before progressing. We will learn to work with larger numbers. We will work on addition and subtraction and explore the links between them, including mental maths strategies. This term we will also explore 2D shape, 3D objects and their properties.

Literacy

We will be continuing the North Lanarkshire Active Literacy spelling and phonics programme, at an appropriate stage for your child. As a class, we have been reading "The Twits" by Roald Dahl and will begin to engage in reading books appropriate to your child's stage from next week. Some children will also be working on Rapid Readers in addition to this.

In writing, this term we will be working on instruction writing, and every term we will work on narratives.

Social Studies

Topics are now being set for each year group to ensure progression throughout the school; our initial topic will be Growing things. We will be undertaking science experiments, looking at life and water cycles, and getting the opportunity to grow and care for plants. Pupils will also be encouraged to suggest what they would like to learn within this topic.

Modern Languages

We will use conversational French in class, revising previous learning and we will work on learning larger numbers, colours, days and months, and seasons.

Homework

Our focus will continue to be on reading every night. Children should aim to read 15-20 minutes daily for pleasure. Pupils can borrow a book from our class library if they wish. A homework grid will be available each term. Class Teams will be in place in due course with further information.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us by dropping a note via your child.

Additional information

We would also appreciate if you could please ensure that all items of clothing, and personal belongings are **clearly named**, so lost property can be returned to rightful owners.

Additionally, water fountains are currently out of use for pupils due to Covid19, therefore, please ensure that your child comes to school with plenty of water. You can follow us on Twitter. Search for @balmalloch for regular updates of what is happening in class.

I am really looking forward to working with you and your child and look forward to an exciting year of learning ahead.

Kind regards,
Miss A McCallum

Class Teacher.