



Primary 5B 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 5B. I am excited to be working with some familiar pupils and equally delighted to meet new pupils. I am so impressed with how well the children have settled in to Primary 5 and how eager they all are to learn. I am looking forward to facilitating the children's learning; however, my priority will be their welfare.

I understand that returning to school can be challenging in general for some children however, this is a different and difficult time for all, which may only heighten anxieties. Please be assured that our Primary 5 class will be built on an ethos of respect, positive reinforcement and engagement with learning. I will do my best to make all children feel welcome, safe and valued. I will encourage children to take pride in their work and their choices and I hope they enjoy their learning experiences.

I know that meeting parents/carers at the school gate has been restricted so I would like to provide you with a brief overview of our term including the expectations and format of the year. Please feel free to contact me at any time by phoning the school office should you have any questions or matters you wish to discuss or by passing in a note via your child.

Health and Wellbeing and RME

To promote accountability for choices and to create a calm, happy and inclusive environment, the children of P5B will work together to construct a class charter. There will be a particular focus on respectful behaviours with the expectation that children are 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' at all times. Different aspects of Health and Wellbeing education permeates our school day and each day begins with an 'Emotional Registration' check-in and follow up discussions. However, on **Tuesday mornings (9-11.45) Mr Clark will specifically work with the class** on activities linked to the SHANARRI indicators. This term Mr Clark will be exploring the SAFE and HEALTHY indicators, which will include developing knowledge of hygiene and physical activity. Mr Clark will also be responsible for RME throughout the year.

P.E.

Children will be participating in 1 session of indoor P.E. and 2 sessions of outdoor P.E. per week. Our gym days are **Wednesday (indoor), Thursday and Friday (outdoor)** with the outdoor sessions continuing even in light rain. The whole school have adopted a no change policy so we would encourage your child to come to school on these days wearing black jogging trousers (or equivalent comfortable trousers), a comfortable white polo-shirt and suitable shoes. If pupils want to change into trainers or more suitable footwear for sport, they can do this on PE days. Please ensure that all of your child's clothes are **labelled** and he/she refrains from wearing jewellery on these days. If your child has earrings which cannot be removed for several weeks, please try and cover them with tape on P.E. days (e.g. Micropore), for health and safety purposes.

Currently in school water bottles **cannot be refilled** - we would encourage you to please ensure your child has enough water for the full day, particularly in warm weather or for PE days.

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, ensuring that children are secure in their understanding of place value and particularly the importance of '0' as holding a place in a number. We will learn to work with larger numbers whilst continuously building confidence with number bonds and various mental maths strategies. We will focus on the links between addition and subtraction whilst revising multiplication families we have learned. This term we will also

investigate the properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects by using the outdoor environment, P.E. activities and problem-solving challenges

Literacy

We will be continuing the North Lanarkshire Active Literacy spelling and phonics programme, at an appropriate stage for your child. At these stages, spelling and phonics are taught together. The children are taught in a block of four weeks, with two weeks focused on teaching phonemes and their representations, one week on strategy spelling and one week on spelling rules. Children will be given the opportunity to work independently and to work with a partner and reciprocally teach. We will also investigate the structure of words using elkonin boxes and diacritical marking.

In reading, we will be working on a class novel, 'The Last Wolf' by Michael Morpurgo. This will give everyone in the class a chance to revise and build their confidence with reading strategies that I will model to the class. Some children will also be working on Rapid Readers books in addition to this.

For writing, this term will focus on the genres of recount and narrative writing. I will focus on encouraging confidence and independence in all writing across the curriculum. Listening and talking are also very important literacy skills, and your child will have many opportunities to develop these in individual, paired and group activities across the curriculum where and when possible

Social Studies

Topics are now being set for each year group to ensure progression throughout the school; our initial topic will be landscapes and contrasting Scotland and France. We will start with Scotland. We will be learning about the climate, geography, cities and rivers, wildlife and this should be very interesting for everyone. 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 and work on simple time in French.

Homework

Our focus will continue to be on reading every night. Children should aim to read **15-20 minutes daily for pleasure**. I would encourage you to read with your child in a fun and interactive way as much as possible; talk to them about the stories and ask them questions that will help develop their understanding. Please also encourage your child to enjoy a wide variety of books of their choice. Practising number bonds through everyday experiences is also an excellent way to help children become confident with number bonds and make connections between school learning and their own lives. A homework grid will be available each term. Class Teams will be in place in due course with further information.

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. You can follow us on Twitter - search for @balmalloch for regular updates of what is happening in class now that our iPads have been updated.

I am really looking forward to working with you and your child and look forward to an exciting year of learning ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,
Miss D Wright

Class Teacher