



Monday 23 August 2021

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to welcome the children back to school for their final year at Balmalloch Primary. I am looking forward to an enjoyable and exciting year for all of us - as we hopefully get back to some 'normality'. As I have explained in class, being senior pupils demands the highest standards in work, behaviour and manners and I am sure that the children will rise to the challenge admirably.

Interdisciplinary Project: Britain during World War II

This project will integrate all our literacy work for the term in a relevant and meaningful historical context.

Literacy will focus on developing Research Skills necessary for lifelong learning:

- Reading for information from a variety of sources.
- Applying comprehension strategies: metacognition (prior knowledge), metalinguistics (words and phrases), inference, visualisation and summarising the text.
- Note-taking and creating 'Information Text' in an appropriate form to communicate key ideas.
- Personal choice in conducting an Independent Research Study within this context.
- Listening and talking to share information, understanding and opinions.

Numeracy and Mathematics

After an initial period of revision, our themes for this term will include:

- Extending the range of whole numbers i.e. more advanced work with Place Value.
- Developing a range of mental strategies for addition and subtraction. This will link with calculations using formal algorithm methods (i.e. chimney sums) and contextualised problem solving, encouraging pupils to select appropriate strategies.
- 2D Shape and their properties; perimeter, area and symmetry.

In addition, we will be making use of Sumdog in class to help the children develop their skills, particularly with mental maths and times tables. This can be accessed at home and I would strongly recommend encouraging your children to use this; it can be downloaded onto tablets and/or phones and the children will be aware of their logins.

Health and Well-Being

At the moment pupils should still come to school dressed for P.E. on our gym days: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Kit should consist of a t-shirt, shorts, joggers or leggings and suitable gym shoes; jewellery should be removed or covered for P.E. lessons. Inspired by the Tokyo Olympics, we will be participating in the Sportshall Athletics Primary Award Scheme with a focus on running, jumping and throwing skills, as well as developing fitness, strength and stamina.

Outdoor Education: Strathclyde Park (28/09/21 - 01/10/21).

Health and Well-Being lessons will focus on '**Keeping Safe**' this term and will be taught by Mr Clark on a Wednesday afternoon.

ICT - Enhancing learning with Maths and Literacy; Cross-curricular Links e.g. Global Citizenship - Inspiring Purpose Poster Project (Character Education based on Core Values) and WW2 Research.

RME - Judaism: Purim and Esther (Mr Clark).

French - Revision of previous learning e.g. introductions and greetings, numbers, weather, calendar and body parts.

Homework

Reading for Enjoyment - First Minister's Reading Challenge

As the Scottish Book Trust recognises, 'Reading has the power to change lives and developing a love of reading in childhood can have a huge impact on educational attainment and future wellbeing'. With this in mind, personal reading remains the main homework and as such, we will be participating in the First Minister's Reading Challenge. At this age and stage, pupils should have developed stamina to read uninterrupted for at least 20 minutes daily. The emphasis should be on an enjoyable, quality reading experience that is appropriately challenging for your child, rather than completing a large quantity of books below their reading level. Please encourage your child to enjoy reading and monitor that they are undertaking this homework: Reading Records should be signed once a week and handed in **every Friday morning**. If your child is a reluctant reader, remember they are still not too old to enjoy sharing a story with you; alternatively, use of audio books may be a good motivator.

Homework Grids: Additional optional homework is supplied in a grid, which will include a variety of activities; these tasks can be returned to myself on completion.

Studyladder: The class have been signed up to Studyladder and the children have been given their individual logins. There will be activities allocated to the children and they will be updated to match our class work.

IDL Spelling: Any children who are currently using IDL for spelling should continue to access this at home.

Pupil Leadership Roles

Later this term P7 pupils will be able to apply for the position of Captain, Vice-Captain or Prefect.

Finally, I trust that this newsletter gives you a clear indication of our plans for this term and I hope that by working together we can make this a memorable, productive and enjoyable year. Please do get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lee Vernet

Our Culture and Values

responsi**B**ility

gr**A**atitude

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

hu**M**ility and forgiveness

persever**A**nce

Love

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

h**O**nesty and generosity

Compassion and respec**T**

friends**H**ip & family