



Primary 4 Newsletter

Term 3 - January 2023.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and welcome your child back to school after a well-earned winter break. We hope you had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed time with family and friends. It has been positive to see the children come back refreshed and excited for what 2023 is going to bring, The children have all worked hard so far and we hope that we can continue to support them in their learning journey. It was lovely to catch up with so many of you during our Parents Meetings in November and December and are looking forward to working in collaboration with you again this term. Please find useful information below about what the key focusses of term 3 will be.

Health and Wellbeing

Through the use of our class charter we have created a calm, safe and happy environment. We will revisit our class rules this term and make adaptations where necessary. The children are enjoying having roles within the classroom and wider school community through their work in pupil leadership roles. This term we will be looking at healthy lifestyles where we will learn about diet, exercise and hygiene.

Health

In our health topic, pupils will be working this term on activities linked to the SHANARRI indicators ACTIVE, RESPECTED and RESPONSIBLE.

P.E.

Our P.E. days this term have changed slightly, and will now be on **Thursday** and **Friday** afternoons. We will be **outdoors** during our PE session on a Thursday, even in light rain, so dress appropriately. On a Friday we will be **indoors**. The pupil voice groups agreed that on PE days, children should attend in black jogging trousers/leggings/shorts, a white polo shirt and red school jumper 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 central wall and net games such as badminton and will continue to engage in team games.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Our focus this term will be on Multiplication and Division, Fractions and Money. We will learn about the relationship between multiplication and division and will work on our recall of times table facts through a variety of mental maths games and strategies. We will be implementing active maths much more during this term to help support the teaching of money and fractions. All teaching will be delivered using a variety of written and active games to help consolidate children's learning.

Literacy

We will be continuing to work on the North Lanarkshire Active Literacy spelling and phonics programme, at an appropriate stage for your child. As a class, we will continue to engage in class novels. The children all really enjoyed our mini literacy topic based on The Polar Express before Christmas and made the lead up to the holiday magical. We will continue to look at reading books appropriate to your child's stage where they will complete tasks related to this.

We will be encouraging talking and listening during this term by continuing show and tell on a Friday and will be developing our handwriting skills by introducing cursive handwriting.

In writing, this term we will be working on explanation writing. This will be done through structured taught writing lessons and the class Topic.

Social Studies

For the month of January we will be exploring the works and life of Robert Burns, and will celebrate this on Robert Burns day. As we move in to February and March we will be learning about The Romans and what life was like for them in the past. We will be exploring this topic by carrying out research through the use of books and technology, across all areas of the curriculum. We will also be looking at the Easter story

Modern Languages

We will use conversational French in class, revising previous learning and we will work on seasons, calendar and clothing. We will encourage children to order their lunch using French vocabulary and use informal greetings in the morning and afternoon.

Values

We will be looking at the school values in order to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective contributors. There will be a focus on our class value; respect for the duration of the year. The children have been working hard to understand what it means to show respect and have built a classroom wall display around this theme. Miss McCarthy our Head Teacher takes the time during our Star Pupil and Wider Achievements/Pupil voice assemblies to discuss our school value of the month. For the month of January the value we will be focussing on as a school is Perseverance. As we move in to February and March the focus will be believe in yourself, achieve your goals and responsibility. Please access our website and twitter for our focus value of the month.

Homework

Our focus for this term will continue to be on reading and spelling every evening. Children will receive new spelling and IDL homework grids over the next week. Children should aim to read 15-20 minutes daily. This can be their school reading book or a book of their own choice. Pupils can borrow a book from our class library if they wish. Children will also write their weekly spelling words in their homework jotter on a Monday morning and practise these throughout the week using their termly spelling grid. In addition to this, children will receive a new homework grid which will include maths, topic and HWB/Values tasks which children can complete at their own discretion. Children should hand in their homework jotters with any completed work on a Friday ready to be marked and re-issued on a Monday.

We have posted a copy of the new grids in the files section on Teams, however, we ask that you continue to refrain from posting completed work on this platform. We thank you for your co-operation with this so far. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us by dropping a note via your child.

Snapshot jotters/learning logs

We really appreciated your support with the snapshot jotters and learning logs during Term2. These will be re-issued week commencing 27th March 2023. Parents evening will be held at the beginning of Term 4 so keep an eye out for information regarding this.

Additional information

We would 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. Could we kindly ask that children refrain from bringing teddies/toys, fidgets and Poppit's in to school unless there has been an agreement between parents and staff for this to be allowed. Water fountains are back to full use by staff and pupils, therefore, children will be able to fill up water bottle's throughout the day. You can follow us on Twitter. Search for @balmallock for regular updates of what is happening in class. If you have any queries regarding a personal issue with your child please get in contact with us via email.

Miss McDonnell - nlmcdonnell@northlan.org.uk

Mrs Hutchinson - nhutchinsona@northlan.org.uk

We look forward to another Term of learning and fun with your child.

Kind regards,

Mrs A Hutchinson (Class Teacher P4a)

Miss H McDonnell (Class Teacher P4b)

