

Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class



P7/6 Term 3 Class Newsletter

Our Culture and Values

responsiBility
grAitude
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
huMility and forgiveness
perseverAnce
Love
ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS
hOnesty and generosity
Compassion and respeCt
friendsHiP & family

A PLACE OF ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. I realise it has been a big change having a new teacher in the middle of a session, but I am truly proud of everyone for welcoming me to their class and for their resilience in coping with unforeseen change. I am very excited to be leading P7/6 into another action-packed term ahead! I hope you find this newsletter useful in outlining our plans up to Easter.

As a Rights Respecting School and a School of Character, our class has determined and agreed upon their own Class Charter to ensure everyone's rights are being met and to encourage a positive and productive learning environment. This ties in with our Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy. As part of this, values education will play a crucial role in developing pupil's 'Character' and in helping shape the person they will be and will become; the key message is to always be the best version of yourself. In fostering this mindset, we will embark upon a special Poster Project of self-discovery called: Global Citizenship - Inspiring Purpose (Sustainable Futures) based on Character and Values Education.

Our school values are reflected in all aspects of school life and our focus values for this session are: PERSEVERANCE and RESPONSIBILITY; FOREGIVENESS and HUMILITY. As I have explained in class, being senior pupils demands the highest standards in manners, attitude, behaviour and work and I hope you can re-iterate this important message at home.

Interdisciplinary Project: The Victorians

This project will integrate much of our literacy and cross-curricular work for the term in a relevant and meaningful historical context. Learning will include:

- Non-fiction reading for information from a variety of sources, including digital literacy. This aspect of learning will focus on developing research skills necessary for lifelong learning.
- Fiction text will develop and extend Higher Order Thinking and Comprehension skills: metacognition (prior knowledge), metalinguistics (words and phrases), inference, visualisation and summarising the text.
- In both non-fiction and fiction genres, we will continue to develop ability with: Literal, Inferential and Evaluative Questions.
- Writing Genres: Information Text: using notes to create text in an appropriate form to communicate key ideas; Historical Narrative Text: applying figurative language to engage and entertain the audience, as well as creating atmosphere e.g. similes, alliteration, metaphors etc.
- Listening and talking to share information, understanding and opinions.

Other aspects of Literacy and English

Core Reading: Chapter Books and more advanced Novel Studies will still be used in class to develop comprehension skills. Where this is not possible within the 'Victorian' context, other texts will be used.

Spelling, Vocabulary & Phonics - We will continue to follow the North Lanarkshire's Active Literacy Spelling Program using phonemes, common and tricky words relevant to your child's spelling stage; prefixes; IDL topic specific vocabulary for The Victorian topic.

Grammar & Punctuation - Compound sentences and showing variety in sentence structure; figurative language: similes, alliteration, onomatopoeia, metaphors etc.

Talking & Listening

Preserving Scottish Culture: Burns' Poetry Recitation - To encourage motivation and enjoyment, pupils have selected a Scottish poem they would like to learn. This task will focus on presentation skills with audience awareness. Every pupil will be expected to learn their chosen poem to the best of their ability, whether they intend entering the competition or not.

Solo Talks - In Term 2 we learned how to create an Explanation Text within the subject of 'writing', pupils will now have the opportunity to apply and deepen these skills within a different context: Talking and Listening. Pupil's will be given personal choice for their subject - further details will follow when the task is issued.

Numeracy and Mathematics

Primary 7/6 will be continuing to learn Number and Number Processes, as well as aspects of Mathematics:

- Division (linked with our work on multiplication).
- 3D Objects.
- Negative Numbers within the context of Temperatures and Money.
- Fractions and Decimals, including contextualised Word Problems and forging links with measurement aspects - convert between common units of measurement using decimal notation e.g. 550 cm = 5.5 m; 3-009 kg = 3009 g.
- Measurement of 2D shapes: calculating perimeter and area using practical measurements and applying formula e.g. area = $l \times b$; Volume of 3D Objects.
- Money and Financial Education - linked with work on decimals.

Modern Languages- French: We will continue to immerse French into our daily routines wherever possible e.g. greetings, feelings, weather, date, calendar, basic instructions etc.; we will extend ability to talk about ourselves and others e.g. personal descriptions, family members.

STEM: Using ICT to enhance learning with Maths, Literacy and across the curriculum; P7 Teacher Miss Wright will teach specific ICT skills e.g. On-line safety; Scratch Programming (Coding) on a Tuesday afternoon 2-3pm, while I will cover her class for French.

Expressive Arts - Art: Zentangle Patterns, Paper Craft: Celtic Designs and Victorian themed art e.g. silhouettes and Victorian artist William Morris; Music - Scottish Songs and selected songs from the musical: Oliver (Victorian themed). Drama: Values - Act out relevant scenes from the musical Oliver.

Health and Well-Being

PE - Indoors: Expressive subjects: Gymnastics and Dance; Outdoor: Hockey. Due to timetable changes, our PE days will be: Wednesday (Indoors) and Thursday (Outdoors) and I will be teaching all aspects of PE this term. Please ensure that your child adheres to the school policy on P.E. uniform which is plain black shorts/jogging bottoms, a plain white t-shirt/ polo shirt, outdoor jacket, when applicable, and suitable footwear as appropriate to the weather conditions. Please also ensure pupils requiring inhalers have these available at all times and on gym days all jewellery should be removed and hair tied back.

NCCT: Health & Well-Being; Religious and Moral Education

Due to staffing changes, Mrs Murphy will now be covering P7/6 for my non-class contact time on a Monday.

HWB lessons are as follows: January is 'Active' - Healthy Lifestyles; February is 'Achieving' - Food and Health; March is 'Responsible' - P.E.P.A.S (PE and Physical Activity)

RME: World Religions - Jewish Weddings.

Homework: Reading for Enjoyment - Reading Schools

'Children who enjoy reading and can read well by the age of 11 have the door opened to new discoveries and wider interests, to knowledge, creativity and confidence. Reading is the key to opening every child's potential and opens up a world of possibilities.' (The Power of Reading, taken from the Read on; Get on Campaign published by Save the Children 2015)

Personal reading - for a minimum of 4 nights a week - remains the main statutory homework. Please continue to foster this at home - remember your child is never too old to enjoy sharing a story with you. Pupils have been issued with a new homework jotter this term; all aspects of Homework should be contained within this **one** jotter. I have included detailed information about P7/6 homework requirements within this, including Studyladder requirements for Maths, along with Term 3 'Homework Grid'. All pupil's should hand this in on a Friday as normal and please ensure set homework has been signed by yourself.

Transition Programme

Term 3 marks the start of our Transition Programme with Kilsyth Academy. Please be assured that working in collaboration with our Secondary Colleagues, everything will be done to ensure your child makes the leap from Primary to Secondary as smoothly and confidently as possible.

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 2023 a memorable, productive and enjoyable year. Please do get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

Kind regards

Mrs Lee Vernet