



Primary 4 Newsletter

Term 1 - August 2023.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child back to school after a well-earned break. We hope you had a lovely summer holiday. The children have all come back refreshed, focussed and settled well into new class routines. We are looking forward to getting to know the children and we will be continuing to grow as individuals through looking at our school values. Please find useful information below about what the key focusses of term 1 will be.

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 and expectations for both the children and teacher in order to create our classroom ethos. 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. We will also be looking at the Rights of the Child and Anti bullying in the first few weeks of term.

P.E.

Our P.E. days this term will be on a Tuesday outdoors and on a Friday, we will be indoors. We will be outdoors even in light rain, so please ensure the children are dressed appropriately. As agreed by the pupil voice committee, we ask 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.

Please ensure that your child refrains from wearing jewellery on these days, if they are wearing earrings we will ensure they are covered accordingly. This term we will be focusing on ball skills and team games.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Our focus this term will be on Place Value and Addition and Subtraction. There will be some time spent on revision and assessment 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 through the use of number talks. This term we will also explore 2D shape, 3D objects and their properties.

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 have begun reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl and will be completing tasks linked to this during the first few weeks. The children are all engaging well in this. Moving forward we will begin to look at reading books appropriate to your child's stage where they will complete tasks related to this. Some children may also be working on Rapid Readers in addition to this. In writing, this term we will be working on recount and narrative writing. This will be done through structured taught writing lessons and the class Topic. During your child's teachers non-class contact time, Mrs Simpson will be focussing on tools for writing and grammar to enhance the children's writing experiences.

Social Studies

Topics are now being set for each year group to ensure progression throughout the school; our initial topic will be Titanic. We will be delving into history, looking at people and social class, undertaking science experiments, and getting an idea of what life on board the Titanic would have been like through the Expressive Arts. Pupils will also be encouraged to suggest what they would like to learn within this topic. We hope to host our class

assembly on the retelling of the Titanic story in October - prior to the October break. You will be given information about this in due course.

STEM and Digital Technologies

As a school, we are dedicating Monday afternoons to exploring STEM and digital technologies. The children will have opportunities to work collaboratively across the P4 stage to engage in a variety of STEM based activities and enhance their understanding and confidence using ICT. We will also explore digital safety and the importance of this as we are now living in a digital society.

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.

RME

This term through RME, we will be exploring Hinduism with a focus on the Ganesh Chaturthi Festival. The children will have opportunities to conduct personal research and engage in their religion and culture.

Expressive Arts

The children will engage in a variety of expressive art opportunities through our Interdisciplinary learning. The Titanic topic will facilitate our learning surrounding music, drama and art. However, will also be opportunities for children to express their own interests and showcase this through these curricular areas.

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. The senior management team take the time during our Star Pupil and Wider Achievements/Pupil voice assemblies to discuss our school value of the month. For the month of August, the value we will be focussing on as a school is friendship. As we move into September and October the focus will be gratitude and honesty. Please access our website and twitter for our focus value of the month. There will be a piece of learning in your child's snapshot jotter in relation to our values.

Homework

Through our homework, we will be engaging in literacy-based activities relating to reading, spelling and writing (through topic learning). Children will receive a homework pack 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. Children will also write their weekly spelling words in their homework jotter on a Monday afternoon and practise these throughout the week using a termly spelling grid. In addition to this, children will receive a 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. Our newsletter and homework grid will be posted on the school website, should you require an additional copy.

Information Evening

We will be holding an information evening on **Tuesday 29th August 2023** to explain the points outlined in this newsletter further. We look forward to seeing you all there.

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 @balmalloch for regular updates of what is happening in class. Please note all children in **P4B only** should bring a change of footwear for inside the classroom.

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

Kind regards,

Miss H McCarthy (Class Teacher P4A)

Miss H McDonnell (Class Teacher P4B)



P4 Homework Grid Term 1







Maths and Topic

<p>Topic Find out simple number facts about the Titanic, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many passengers were on board? • How long was the ship? • How many lifeboats there were? • How many people survived? • How many funnels did the Titanic have? 	<p>Topic Find out what sort of jobs people have on cruise liners today. Search for images of Captain Smith, Thomas Andrew, Molly Brown and Charles Lightoller.</p>	<p>Topic Explore sinking and floating. Use materials around the house to invent something that will allow a £1 coin to float.</p>	<p>Topic Discuss facts about the Titanic with an adult. Work with an adult to create a 'Top Three Titanic Facts' list.</p>
<p>Topic Make a poster to advertise the launch of the Titanic. Use adjectives to describe how amazing the experience will be!</p>	<p>Topic Search for images of the wreck of the Titanic and use these to draw a picture of the wreckage.</p>	<p>Topic Make an acrostic poem about the Titanic. Use conjunctions like 'but', 'so', 'as' to add more detail.</p>	<p>Topic Design a ticket for the Titanic. Ensure you have included accurate punctuation.</p>
<p>Sumdog Log in to Sumdog. How many questions can you answer correctly?</p>	<p>Shape Create a repeated pattern using a variety of 2D shapes. Explore tessellation. Which shapes tessellate accurately?</p>	<p>Shape Go for a 3D object hunt around your house. Write down which items you find and what 3D object they are. e.g. tin of beans = cylinder dice = cube Record how many faces, vertices and edges each object has.</p>	<p>Before and After Ask someone in your family to give you a random number. Get them to ask you which number comes before/after, Choose between 2 and 4 digit numbers to challenge yourself.</p>
<p>Addition Create your own addition word problems and ask a member of your family to work out the answer. e.g. there were 26 socks and Mum found 12 more. How many altogether?</p>	<p>Place Value Ask an adult in your house to write down 10 2 digit numbers for you. Can you break them in to tens and ones? Too easy? Try breaking up 3 digit numbers in to hundreds, tens and ones. Extra Challenge: 4 digit numbers.</p>	<p>Subtraction Play ten pin bowling with upside down plastic cups. Using 20 plastic cups, line them up upside down like bowling pins. Roll a ball to knock down the cups and work out the subtraction calculation.</p>	<p>Times Tables Practise your 2, 3, 5, and 10 times tables by reciting them as you hop or skip.</p>

Health and Wellbeing/Values

<p>Cooking/baking Take some time to relax and enjoy baking something nice to eat. You could also help an adult in your family to cook the dinner.</p>	<p>Set the table An important life skill is to be able to set a table. Practise setting the table and look at where your cutlery, cup, plate etc goes.</p>	<p>Respect our environment List 5 ways we could show our environment greater respect. Create a poster to show this.</p>	<p>Respect Chain Look up the word "respect" in a dictionary. Find at least 10 different words that mean almost the same thing. These words are called synonyms. Write each synonym on a paper strip. Link your paper strips together to make a chain and staple the ends of each link.</p>
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P4 Spelling Homework Grid - Term 1

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Silly Sentences</u></p> <p>Choose 5 of your spelling words to write a silly sentence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">e.g. School</p> <p>I wear my pyjamas to school.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Across and Down</u></p> <p>Write all of your spelling words for today across and down.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">e.g. N o w</p> <p style="text-align: center;">o</p> <p style="text-align: center;">w</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rhyme Time</u></p> <p>Write out your spelling words. Now write out a word that rhymes with each of your spelling words.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">e.g. School - pool</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Upper and Lowercase</u></p> <p>Practise writing your spelling words in upper and lower case letters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">e.g. school - SCHOOL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fancy Spelling</u></p> <p>Practise writing your spelling words in curly writing.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Funny Voices</u></p> <p>Practise spelling your words out loud using one of the voices below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Deep voice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Whisper voice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Baby voice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opera voice</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Jumping Spelling</u></p> <p>Practise spelling your words out loud. Jump as you say each letter in the word.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Paint spelling</u></p> <p>Spread a thin layer of paint in a shallow tray or plate. Use your finger to practise spelling your words.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chalk spelling</u></p> <p>Use chalk to practise spelling your words. You can either do this on paper or a chalk board if you have one, or if you are allowed you can write on the ground outside.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>

The following websites may be useful:

- Cosmic Kids Yoga - www.cosmickids.com
- Numeracy Games - www.topmarks.co.uk/
- Problem Solving - www.transum.org/
- Numeracy Games - nrich.maths.org/primary
- 10 Nature Activities for Kids - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/kids-nature-activities-selfisolation/>

- Education City - <https://www.educationcity.com/>
- Sumdog - https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign_in
- Newsround - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>
- BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zgckjxs>
- Literacy - https://www.spellzone.com/word_lists/index.cfm
- Music/Dance - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2YBT7HYqCbbvzu3kKZ3wnw>