



Primary 4 Newsletter

Term 2 - October 2023.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child back to school after a well-earned October break. We hope you had a restful time. It has been positive to see the children come back refreshed, focussed and ready to learn. The children worked really hard during Term 1 and have settled well into the new routines of Primary 4. We are looking forward to continuing the learning journey with your child 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 2 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 HEALTHY, ACHIEVING and NURTURED.

P.E.

Our P.E. days this term will continue to be on a Tuesday and Friday. We will be outdoors on a Tuesday, even in light rain, so dress appropriately. We will be indoors on a Friday. 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. If they do wear earrings, they will be given tape to cover them accordingly. This term we will be focusing on central wall and net games such as badminton, participate in traditional Scottish dance and will continue to engage in team games.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Our focus this term will be on Addition and Subtraction which we intend to focus on for the first 4 weeks of term, exploring 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers and the formal methods used to solve problems. Throughout these 4 weeks, 2 of the days will be spent focusing on measurement, we will explore methods to measure weight, length, area and capacity. We will also be exploring estimation and rounding for 2 weeks following this, looking again at 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers and rounding these to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. Alongside this we plan to be covering Data Handling, focussing on gathering our own data and displaying this in the appropriate format. All concepts 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 a class novel every term. The children are all really enjoying the works of Roald Dahl so will cast a vote as to which novel the children would like to read next. We will continue to look at reading books appropriate to your child's stage where they will complete tasks related to this.

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

Social Studies

Our topic for Term 2 will be biological systems. We will be exploring body systems, cells, and inheritance as well as looking at other living things. This will be delivered through carrying out science experiments, using ICT to research and engaging in the expressive arts. We will also be carrying out a mini topic on the run up to Christmas based around The Polar Express.

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 October, the value we will be focussing on as a school is honesty. As we move into November and December the focus will be respect and family. Please access our website and twitter for our focus value of the month.

Homework

Our focus for this term will continue to be focussing on spelling every evening - expanding our sentences through the use of adjectives, conjunctions etc. 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 (if they are a group who have it) 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 afternoon 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 thank you for your co-operation with this so far.

Parents Evening

Parents evening will be held this term. You have the option to get a phone call throughout the weeks beginning 20th November and 27th November or alternatively a face-to-face meeting on the 23rd of November. This will be organised through the booking system.

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. If you have any queries regarding a personal issue with your child, please get in touch with the school office and they will put you in touch with the relevant member of staff.

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

Kind regards,

Miss H McCarthy (Class Teacher P4a)

Miss H McDonnell (Class Teacher P4b)



P4 Homework Grid Term 2



Maths and Topic

<p>Topic Work with an adult, and see if you can figure out your family tree. Have you inherited any characteristics from any great grandparents?</p>	<p>Topic Choose a wildlife creature of your choice, research their lifecycle and draw a diagram to show this.</p>	<p>Topic Family values - what likes/dislikes/beliefs do you have that you may have inherited from your family? Write these into your homework jotter. For example: football team, animal preference, takeaway preference etc.</p>	<p>Topic Ask a family member to see a baby photo of yourself and of them. Compare these pictures - look at eye colour, hair colour etc. Who do you look like?</p>
<p>Seasonal Write a Halloween Acrostic poem - think about what 'spooktacular' adjectives you could use!</p>	<p>Seasonal Make an informative poster on how to stay safe on Halloween night. With permission from an adult, you might want to do some research.</p>	<p>Seasonal Make a Christmas card for someone. This could be for a friend or a family member.</p>	<p>Seasonal Make a list of wants and needs. We need things like clean water and nutritious food. We may want a new Nintendo switch or a new doll.</p>
<p>Sumdog Log in to Sumdog. How many questions can you answer correctly?</p>	<p>Number Choose a number between 0 and 50. Count forward three times in tens. E.G 45, 55, 65, 75 32, 42, 52, 62</p>	<p>Addition Get someone at home to give you 2/3 digit numbers and add them together. You may do this with/without carrying.</p>	<p>Estimation and Rounding Choose a 2 or 3 digit number. Can you round this number to the nearest 10 or 100? Challenge: round a 4 digit number to the nearest thousand.</p>
<p>Subtraction Get someone at home to give you 2/3 digit numbers and subtract them from each other. Remember the biggest number should be on top. You may do this with/without carrying.</p>	<p>Chance and Uncertainty Create a grid of possibilities - some may be impossible others may be certain e.g. Miss McDonnell can jump 100 metres high without any help is impossible. If it is Thursday, it is certain that it will be Friday tomorrow. Can you sort these accurately?</p>	<p>Measurement Find 10 household items. Using a ruler or tape measure, measure the length of them in cm.</p>	<p>Data Handling Create a questionnaire and gather data about your family and/or friends about their favourite meals, snacks and drinks. Use Tally Marks to record this data. You could present your findings in a graph.</p>

Health and Wellbeing/Values

<p>Shopping Help someone at home write out a grocery list. You may consider how much these items will cost.</p>	<p>Physical activity Get your heart racing by doing at least 10 minutes of exercise every day. Try skipping, football, dancing, walking up and down the stairs... even cleaning works up a sweat!</p>	<p>Honesty Take time to consider the word honesty. What does it mean? What does it look like? Research the correct meaning in the dictionary.</p>	<p>Family Prepare a meal with your family. You could be in charge of the ingredients, of the chopping or stirring! (With an adult of course!)</p>
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