

Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class



Class Newsletter

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,

Welcome to the Term 3 newsletter for Primary 5B. I hope you had a relaxing and fun festive period with your children, and I would like to wish you all the best for 2024. Term 3 is our longest term, and I am eager for the children to seize this opportunity to re-focus on their learning and take pride in their work. **This term our gym days have changed**, our gym days will be **Tuesdays (outdoor 1.45 - 2.45)** and **Wednesdays (indoor 10.45 - 11.45)**. Please encourage your child to come to school with no or minimal jewellery, micropore tape to cover piercings they cannot remove, appropriate footwear and a jacket. Please could you ensure that on these days, children attend school wearing comfortable shoes, black jogging bottoms/leggings and a white polo-shirt. If pupils want to change into trainers or more suitable footwear for sport, they can do this on PE days. It would also be helpful if you could label your child's clothing if you have not already done so.

A Term 3 Homework Grid has been created and you will find this attached. Each week, or fortnight depending on your child's stage, **all children** write their spelling/phoneme words in their jotter for them to practise at home. If children forget their jotter, they write it on paper and still put it in their bag to take home. I would like to encourage children to practise these words and their phoneme sounds as much as possible. We do a lot of work in class in identifying how many sounds children can hear in a word. For example if the word is shop, your child can identify that there are three sounds in this word: 'sh', 'o' and 'p'. Children can also diacritically mark their phoneme words, identifying single, joined and split sounds, again this could be encouraged at home.

Last term, I considered it may be beneficial to give **new words on a Friday** to enable practise over the weekend for a Spelling Test the following Thursday. When practising these words at home, it would be great for the children to identify spelling strategies that help them remember the spelling of the words and to apply the words in sentences. Writing sentences encourages children to include punctuation and exciting vocabulary. Therefore, please try to encourage your child to **bring their homework jotters in on Fridays**. Additional homework tasks are outlined in the Homework Grid attached and can be completed and handed in for me to review at any time.

Time is made in class for children to participate in private reading and I always allow children to borrow books from my library (which they know they can take home if the books are returned), or to bring in books from home. Please try to promote reading at home with your child whether it is comics, annuals, novels, magazines, or non-fiction books. If your child reads out loud it will support fluency, awareness of punctuation and you can help your child sound out unfamiliar words.

The children can also undertake an activity listed on the homework grid. The method of learning children respond to, along with the rate at which they learn differs, meaning children may be in different groups throughout the year and have different aims. The children will continue to learn the spelling strategies that are listed below.

- Sounding out letters
- Syllabification
- Words within words
- Compound words
- Use of analogy
- Mnemonics
- Applying a spelling rule

Your child's physical and emotional well-being is always at the fore front of my teaching and assessment. Time is always set aside for children to discuss their emotions and concerns and this year the class teachers have lead learning in Health and Wellbeing linked to the SHANARRI indicators.









My NCCT (non-class contact time) has changed and is now a **Tuesday afternoon between 1.30pm and 3pm** and **Thursday afternoon between 1:15 and 2:15 pm**. In the Tuesday session the children will be taught by Mrs Simpson and the focus will be Literacy. On the Thursday afternoon the children will attend a whole school assembly.

On the next page of this Newsletter you will see an overview of your child's learning for the term. As always, I am very grateful for your support during your child's learning. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or welfare please do not hesitate to contact me. You can phone the school office to request a call back or send a note in with your child.

Kind regards,

Miss Dianne Wright
Class Teacher

What I am learning this term:

<p style="text-align: center;">Health and Wellbeing</p>  <p>PE and Sport: Aesthetics - Gymnastics and Dance HWB: SHANARRI Indicators - Active (Physical Activity), Respected (Healthy Lifestyles) and Responsible (Food and Health)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Expressive Arts</p>  <p>Art & Design: Painting techniques using natural materials, model creations, perspective drawing Drama: Role play, re-imagining of actual events, improvisation and mime Music: Naming different instruments, use of untuned instruments, discussing and picking out sounds</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mathematics and Numeracy</p>  <p>Fractions, Decimals and Percentages: create simple fractions up to tenths, use the terms numerator and denominator, demonstrate and recognise equivalent fractions, find a simple fraction of a quantity, convert a fraction to a decimal fraction, order and compare common fractions. Time: tell the time in five minute intervals on an analogue and digital clock, estimate time durations in appropriate units, read and record any time in both 12 and 24 hour clock, and convert between the two, calculate durations that bridge across one hour, interpret a digital or paper timetable and/or calendar Shape: Describes 3D objects and 2D shapes using specific vocabulary including regular, irregular, diagonal, radius, diameter and circumference.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Literacy and Languages</p>  <p>Listening and Talking: listen/watch and begin to make notes under given heading, engage respectfully with others in discussion, contribute relevant knowledge and ideas. Reading: find clues in the text to understand the author's style/key messages, group information about a text together, identify important information in a text, restate information from a text, read with fluency using punctuation as a guide, read with appropriate expression and tone, write a summary of the information found, use research notes to create an information report Writing: Focus on Information Report Writing, Explanation and Instructional Grammar: Identify and use commas, write in complex sentences using conjunctions and paragraphs, use of apostrophes for possession and contraction Modern Languages: French - clothing and food</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Social Studies</p>  <p>STEM: SOCIAL STUDIES - People, Past, Events & Societies - Scottish Wars of Independence</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Religious and Moral Education</p>  <p>World Religions: Christianity - Easter Story; World Culture - Mardi Gras</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Technologies</p>  <p>ICT: Cyber resilience and internet safety - discuss of content of online profiles, identify how to be a responsible online citizen and how to report concerns.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">School Values</p>  <p>Primary 5's School Values: Honesty and Generosity</p>

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Home Learning Tasks Term 3

Every child should be encouraged to complete reading homework every night for 15-20 minutes and record this in their homework jotter. Include:

- Reading independently
- Reading with a partner (e.g.) brother, sister, friend
- Being read to by an adult

Below are additional activities that can be completed at home and handed in for me to review should you wish to do so.

Practise telling the time using analogue and digital clocks. Create a family timetable scheduling in activities and mealtimes and discussing the duration of activities.	Research a famous celebrity - it could be a footballer, singer, dancer etc. Write an Information Report about the person. Use subheadings and non-personal language.	Find fractions of items around the house, for example pizzas, tangerines, sweets etc. Convert and record these fractions in to decimal fractions.
Write a recount story about your favourite day during the Christmas period. Remember to write in chronological order and in the past tense. Use descriptive language and your core targets.	Create a poster or PPT that explains the importance of being active. Why should people be active? What ways can they be active? Are there any barriers to being physically active?	Calculate durations of time that bridge an hour. Plan an imaginary trip, for example to Newcastle. Decide the time you would leave your home at and ask an adult to help you work out what time you would arrive at. How long would it take to travel there?
Access this BBC Bitesize link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bring-the-noise/orchestral-families/zfbyy9q - find out about Orchestral families. Which instrument would you like to learn?	Find fun ways to practise your spelling words or phoneme families. You could paint them, create them with shaving foam, spell them on the ground with chalk, or think of your own ways!	Write a review of a book you have read or a film you have watched. What did you like and dislike about it? What were the main themes in the book or film. Would you recommend it to me? Explain why.
Create a timeline about your life. Include significant events and dates, you could even add in photographs and bring it in to show the class.	Write instructions for your favourite game. It could be a board game or sport; imagine you are writing these instructions for someone who has never even heard of the game before.	Research a historical Scottish figure or landmark. Draw or create an art piece showing the person or place and write facts about the person or place.

There are websites that you can access at home that will provide additional resources and challenges:

- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> - Hit the Button and Daily 10 are good activities to try
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zgckjxs>
- <https://www.math-salamanders.com/>
- <https://highlandliteracy.com/spelling-and-phonics/>