

## Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class



### Class Newsletter - Term 2

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,

This newsletter marks the beginning of your child's second term in P5/6. I would like to acknowledge how hard the children have worked and how well they have settled into the class. It has been a busy term between trips to the library, swimming lessons and the commencement of our new school Houses! The importance at the start of Term 1 was to build the relationship between myself and the pupils of P5/6 and for the children to develop relationships between each other. Through positive reinforcement, team-building activities, and the creation of our Class Charter I believe we have created a supportive, encouraging and cohesive learning environment which I am excited to continue to build on.

In Term 1 the pupils engaged with reading through a 'Modelling Block' experience which allowed us as a class to understand the benefit of reading with fluency and expression and enabled us to explore the relevant reading strategies as we read. We have spent time exploring the author's underlying meaning in texts, we have worked out the meaning of tricky words through reading on and reading back, we have learned to summarise a text, we have applied our prior knowledge of a text/subject, we have made predictions as we are reading, we have visualised characters and settings and we have investigated the main themes in a book. In Term 2, children will complete these tasks with more independence in their reading groups. Please be aware that in P2-P7, pupils do not bring home reading books and instead read these books in class.

At the start of Term 2, P5/6 will still be participating in weekly swimming lessons on Tuesday afternoons. It has been fantastic to observe the progress of each child's ability and confidence in the water. These lessons replace one of our weekly gym lessons and our other gym lesson remains on **Monday afternoons** indoor. I will update you when our new gym slot begins. Please encourage your child to refrain from wearing jewellery on these days (especially earrings), and to wear suitable clothing and footwear.

During my Non-Class Contact Time (NCCT), the class will now be covered by Miss Luxton. My NCCT time will usually be Wednesday mornings (9-11.45am), however this is subject to change! Miss Luxton will be leading learning in RME and Health and Wellbeing lessons linked to the SHANARRI indicators. We have also had some maths lessons lead by NLC's Pedagogy Practitioners, but this will be coming to an end in Term 2.

I am sure that your child has mentioned the new House Points system adopted by Balmalloch Primary School! Each class in our school is part of one of three school houses: Lomond, Ness or Tay. Classes collect points for their house which are totalled each fortnight and a winning house is announced at Star Pupil Assemblies. Points can be awarded for the demonstration of our School Values, positive behaviour choices, and for

displaying kindness. Each fortnight the winning house is given extra play time, however the points are cumulative and at the end of Term 2 and then end of Term 4, the winning houses are awarded a Special Prize. Our house is in Team **TAY!** We have already worked together as a house to create our banner and motto and there will be further opportunities for us to work collaboratively throughout the year.

In Term 1, Balmalloch Primary School liaised with the PTA and Parent Council to create a new Homework Policy. Each class will now issue a Homework Grid at the beginning of every month should your child wish to complete any activities at home. Each child in P5/6 has now been given a Homework Jotter. I also provided your child a list with the spelling words/phonemes they had learned so far. Your child will write their Spelling Words in their jotter each week so it would be helpful if their jotters could please stay in their school bag. If your child forgets their Homework Jotter, they will write their words on paper to take home. Your child can hand in their Homework Jotter for me to review at any time.









I have arranged two trips to the library for P5/6 so far this year and I am keen to organise more! I have also been issued a Class Card from the library which enables us to borrow books during each visit. I think the children enjoy these trips and it exposes them to a range of authors and stories. You could encourage your child to read these books at home and summarise what they have read in their homework jotter, create a book review, or character profile or write a different ending to the book! As reading is a priority for the pupils of Balmalloch Primary School, I try to encourage the children to read each day. The class know that they are welcome to also borrow the books from the library I have set up in the classroom as long as they return them.

As always, I am very grateful for your support during your child's learning. Please remember to follow our school twitter @balmalloch for regular school updates and photos of our work in class. 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 in a note with your child.

Kind regards,  
Miss D Wright

Class Teacher

## What I am learning in Term 2:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Health and Wellbeing</b></p>  <p><b>PE and Sport:</b> Basketball - maintain rhythm to pass and move and gain possession of the ball. Perform movement skills in sequence and demonstrate eye/hand co-ordination. Swimming Lessons.</p> <p><b>HWB:</b> SHANARRI Indicators - Healthy, Achieving and Nurtured in relation to Food and Health, Healthy Lifestyles and Physical Exercise, Physical Activity and Sport.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Expressive Arts</b></p>  <p><b>Art &amp; Design:</b> Drawings/Diagrams related to STEM. Van Gogh inspired art related to Halloween and Christmas.</p> <p><b>Drama:</b> Mime, hot-seating, and role play. Christmas songs.</p> <p><b>Music:</b> Percussion from Around the World. Christmas songs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mathematics and Numeracy</b></p>  <p><b>Number and Number Processes:</b> Recall + and - quickly and calculated related facts. Multiply and divide by 10 and 100. Use mental strategies and formal written methods for addition and subtraction. Recall times table facts quickly and recognise patterns. Use multiples of 10 and 100 to create new facts. Apply the correct order of operations when solving multi-step problems.</p> <p><b>Multiples, Factors and Prime (for some):</b> Create a set of multiples and find common multiples between tables. Work out factor pairs and which numbers are prime. Use mental math strategies and formal methods to calculate addition and subtraction.</p> <p><b>Measurement:</b> Estimate the length, mass and capacity of a range of objects using appropriate vocabulary. Record measurements of length, height, mass and capacity to the nearest standard unit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Literacy and Languages</b></p>  <p><b>Listening and Talking:</b> contribute to class discussion about texts read, give opinion on themes read, share previous knowledge</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> make appropriate predictions about what will happen in a text, use visualisation to explain understanding of plot, characters, settings and themes, read between the lines to discover what the author wants the reader to think, understand and value, explore the meaning of tricky or unfamiliar words</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Focus on Narrative, Information and Instructions.</p> <p><b>Grammar:</b> Apostrophes, commas and speech marks.</p> <p><b>Modern Languages:</b> French - describing appearance, likes and dislikes and feelings.</p> <p>Gaelic - greetings, classroom talk.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social Studies</b></p>  <p><b>STEM - Science and Investigation</b></p> <p><b>Materials - Chemical Changes.</b></p> <p>Exploration of the interactions and energy flow between plants, animals, ecosystems, food chains and webs.</p> <p>Investigation of common types of energy and everyday chemical reactions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Religious and Moral Education</b></p>  <p><b>World Religions:</b> Christianity - Babushka. Understand the basic beliefs of Christianity, explore Russian story of Babushka and the interaction with the Three Wise Men.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Technologies</b></p>  <p><b>ICT:</b> Use digital products and services in a variety of contexts to achieve a purposeful outcome - search access and retrieve information with an awareness that not all the information will be credible.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>School Values</b></p>  <p>Primary 5's School Values: <b><u>Honesty and Generosity</u></b></p> <p>Primary 6's School Values: <b><u>Humility and Forgiveness</u></b></p>