

Balmalloch Primary School,
Kingsway,
Kilsyth.
Monday 16th January 2025

Dear Parents,

We hope you have enjoyed a relaxing festive period. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. We are looking forward to an exciting term with lots of learning taking place and fun activities for your children.

Literacy:

The children will continue to follow the North Lanarkshire Active Literacy programme. We are also starting formal writing lessons where children will be using their sounds and word building skills to write words independently. Please encourage your child to learn to spell the common words sent home with them for homework.

There will continue to be regular consolidation weeks; to ensure pupils are reminded of previously taught sounds and spelling words.

Reading books will continue to be issued twice weekly on a Monday and a Thursday. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of ensuring that your child comes to school with their book daily, as it is required for reading and to work on literacy tasks. If your child is absent or forgets their book, please try to return the reading book to school promptly. We appreciate your co-operation with this.

Writing

There will be one taught writing lesson per week, this term we will be focusing on narrative stories.

Children will also have opportunities to write daily for a variety of purposes and for a variety of reasons.

Our grammar focus will be capital letters, full stops and finger spaces.

Talking & Listening

This term we will be learning a Scottish poem of which we will send more details on. We will also be continuing to encourage your child to take turns when they talk and listen.

French

This term for French we will focus is on days of the week, feelings and the culture.

Numeracy:

Number and Number Processes:

This term we will learning to combine two quantities and explore addition.

Money:

The children will be learning all of the coins up to £2 and will have the opportunity to pay for items with toy coins that will link to addition.

Time:

We will be learning to tell the time on digital and analogue clocks to o'clock and half past the hour.

Information Handling:

We will have opportunities to collect objects and learn to organise and display findings in different ways.

Pupils will continue to develop mental maths strategies, problem solving skills and revisit previous learning.

Social Studies:

In January, we will begin learning about Scotland.

This term our topics are Katie Morag and Toys. The children will be learning about life on an island and will compare it to life on a mainland. The children will recognise about people in the past living differently and demonstrate the differences between toys today and toys then.

Health and Wellbeing:

We will continue to learn about children's rights and particularly respecting the rights of others, as part of our Rights-respecting school ethos. Our focus for health and well-being will be on being active, being responsible and we will be learning about food & health too. Our school values this term will be perseverance, responsibility, and the school motto 'believe in yourself to achieve your goals'. Primary 1 will also continue to focus on Love and how they show this to others.

Our P.E. days will remain the same as previous terms. Our main topic will be gymnastics indoors and games outdoors. Please ensure that your child comes to school on those days in appropriate clothes including shoes and refrains from wearing jewellery on these days, for health and safety reasons. If your child is wearing ear-rings that cannot be removed, please try to place tape over their ears, **prior** to attending school.

RME

The focus for this term will be on Chinese New Year and the Easter Story.

Homework

Homework grids will continue to be issued on the first Monday of the month, please remember all children have a QR code login inside their jotters for Studyladder too - this is a hugely helpful tool for children to complete tasks relevant to learning in literacy and maths.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support and more importantly, for helping to encourage your children to work hard and enjoy learning.

Kind regards,
Miss McNeill and Mrs Macfarlane
Class teachers