

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,

Welcome to the Term 3 newsletter for Primary 7. I hope you had a relaxing and fun festive period with your children and I would like to wish you all the best for 2025. Term 2 was such a busy time, and I'm sure the children had a fantastic time with all the amazing activities we had on. 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 will be as follows. Tuesday will be indoors 2:00 - 3:00 pm and Wednesdays will be outdoors, 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Please encourage your child to come to school with no or minimal jewellery, micropore tape to cover piercings if they cannot be removed (children will not be allowed to take part if they have piercings uncovered, as per North Lanarkshire Council's Policy), 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.

As reading is a main priority for the pupils of Balmalloch Primary School, I will be encouraging the class to read most days and I would appreciate your support with this at home. Children should continue to try and maintain a period of private reading each night, novels, comics, on-line or even newspapers, and this will help a great deal with their learning in class. It is really important to try different genres to help the children find an author/genre they enjoy. As always, please feel free to write in your child's homework jotter the book that they are reading and the pages they have read if this helps make them more accountable for reading! I have told P7 that they are more than welcome to borrow and take home books from our class library as long as these are returned.

I will continue to give homework out at the start of each week (usually a Monday or Tuesday), children will write their spelling words in their homework jotter to allow practise to be completed at home should you wish to do so. Weekly homework will consist of writing their spelling words out two/three times in a variety of ways - capital letters, rainbow, bubble, dotty, pyramid, and then writing three super sentences that will include at least two of their spelling words. There will also be a class Sumdog competition on, that is tailored to the children's learning and stage. 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

I would ask that you continue to encourage your child to explain these strategies to you and show you how these can be used to help with spelling.

This term the children will undertake their solo talk on a person who inspires them. The title of their talk will be 'Who Inspires Me'. It should last approximately 5 minutes (it can be slightly longer) and all children are encouraged to create a PPT (they can do this at home and some time will be given in class) or to bring in physical props, such as prompt cards. They could also bring in items associated with their talk (pictures, etc). As the children are in Primary 7, I would ask that they do not read from a script. The talk will take place week commencing 20th January 2025.

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.

Balmalloch Primary School is a Health Promoting School, therefore I would appreciate it if you could ensure that your child only brings water to drink in class. Water bottles can be refilled throughout the day as fruit juices/cartons should only be consumed at lunch. Although gym days are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, outdoor education and activities such as the Daily Mile will often be incorporated in to learning so it would be helpful if children brought a water bottle each day.

As you are aware, I am off on a Monday, this will continue to be covered by Miss Luxton, who will cover Numeracy, Literacy and RME, coupled with a whole class assembly. My NCCT is a Thursday afternoon, and this will also be covered by Miss Luxton. In the Thursday afternoon Miss Luxton will focus on Gaelic and Health and Wellbeing.

The Dalguise residential trip will take place this term, and I am sure the children are super-excited (as am I). Mr Paterson will organise an information evening in February to provide you with all the necessary information and answer any questions you may have.

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,

Mrs Kirsty Hamilton
Class Teacher

What I am learning this term:

Health and Wellbeing



PE and Sport: Aesthetics - Gymnastics and Dance
HWB: SHANARRI Indicators - Active (Physical Activity), Respected (Healthy Lifestyles) and Responsible (Food and Health). Value of the month - perseverance.

Expressive Arts



Art & Design: Papier Mache, still life, hip-hop cartoonists.

Drama: Real life dilemmas

Music: Scottish music, Robert Burns, fun Scottish songs.

Mathematics and Numeracy



Time (Mrs Hamilton): calculate durations that cross several hours and parts of hours in both 12 and 24 hour times, calculate the approximation of a journey, use timetables, use stopwatches to measure seconds, tenths and hundredths of seconds, calculate the speed travelled in meters per second and kilometres per hour and solve a variety of problems involving time.

Fractions/Percentages/Decimals(Mrs Hamilton): find the percentages of a quantity and record them as decimals, make equivalent fractions by multiplying or dividing, express fractions in their simplest form, explain the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Angles/Symmetry and Transformation (Miss Luxton): reflex angles, revolution, draw and measure angles, calculate the size of missing angles in a shape, interpret compass bearings on a map, use real dimensions of an object to make a scale drawing, create symmetrical pictures and patterns and explore rotational symmetry.

Literacy and Languages



Listening and Talking: carry out solo talk, answer questions from talk, listen to feedback.

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 persuasive, discursive and instruction.

Grammar: connectives, persuasive language and complex punctuation.

Modern Languages: Gaelic

Social Studies



STEM: SOCIAL STUDIES - Forces, Electricity and Waves (Electricity - Light), applying skills. I can use my knowledge of the properties of light to show how it can be used in a creative way.

Religious and Moral Education



World Religions: Buddhism - Vesak Day and Lantern Festival - China. Investigates, describes, explains and expresses an opinion on at least one value from one belief group independent of religion.

Technologies



ICT: Cyber resilience and internet safety. Explore online communities, demonstrating an understanding of responsible digital behaviour and being aware of how to keep safe and secure.

School Values



Primary 7's School Values:
Perseverance and Responsibility