



Meet the Teacher

Mrs. N. Chalmers

Welcome to Primary Five.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to you all at the beginning of our new school term. My name is Mrs. Nicola Chalmers, and with over 25 years of teaching experience, I am passionate about creating a caring and supportive learning environment for every child. I am excited to begin another year with Primary Five, where we will explore new learning challenges, practise mindfulness, and enjoy lots of outdoor experiences together.

My passion is mindfulness, and I am a fully qualified Youth Mindfulness Coach. I incorporate mindfulness into both my home and school life every day. In our classroom, I strive to create a nurturing, calm, and respectful environment where children feel happy, focused, and inspired to learn.

What is important to me outside of school? My family and my little dachshund dogs Walter and Willow are very important to me. I like to spend time going for long walks at the weekend with both. I also love travelling to Lake Garda in Italy to experience the Italian lifestyle, shopping the local markets and sampling Italian cuisine.



What's important to me in class...



It is important for me to really get to know the children and form strong, positive relationships. I believe that kindness is a real strength and in our Calm Corner we have a kindness post box for children to nominate one another for kind words and actions towards their peers.

We participate in daily mindfulness sessions each day. The children will focus on a variety of breathing techniques to help increase a calm and relaxing learning environment and enhance their ability to sustain focused and eager to learn.

I also encourage my children to have a positive growth mindset. So you may hear the phrase I cannot do this.....YET! I endeavour to instil in the children that anything is possible when they set their minds to it!



What our year will look like in Primary 5...

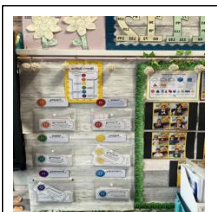
At the beginning of the term, we will spend a great deal of time developing the children's reading skills using the *NLC Reading Strategies*. To help model these strategies, I will be reading the novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* with the class.

- Through this shared text, children will learn how to:
- Predict what might happen next in the story.
- Question characters' choices and story events.
- Clarify tricky words and ideas.
- Summarise important parts of the text.
- Visualise the setting, characters, and events.

By focusing on these strategies, children will not only improve their comprehension but also build confidence and enjoyment as independent readers.

In Numeracy lessons we will focus on our mental agility through the teaching of our 'Number Talks' strategies and use a variety of active Chilli Challenge, Sumdog and maths games to reinforce our learning and challenge thinking further. We will work through the different areas of 2nd Level Curriculum for Excellence, beginning with Place Value.

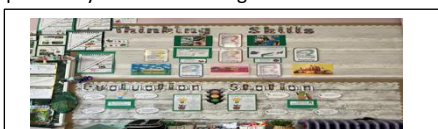
This term, the children will be exploring a variety of topics in Social Studies. We will be learning about Fairtrade and the Rainforest, helping the class to think about global issues and the importance of making responsible choices. We will also study the history of Gartcosh as part of our preparations for moving into the new school building. This will give the children a deeper understanding of the local area and its past, as well as helping them feel connected to their new learning environment.



A glance around our classroom ...

Each day, the children can clearly see the day's work programme, along with the **Learning Intentions** and **Success Criteria**. This helps the children understand the purpose of their learning.

I also encourage the children to use our P5 Evaluation Station to reflect on their progress. Here they can peer-assess and self-assess against the Success Criteria. This builds independence and helps the children take responsibility for their learning.



How we work in class...



Now that we are back a few days and our routines are beginning to be established, the children are rewarded in class with praise 'Brag Tag' lanyards on a weekly basis. The children collect them throughout the course of the year and feel proud to show these off to both parents and staff. Each week a class V.I.P is chosen, and they are then rewarded with special privileges such as lining up first, the use of the teachers' special art resources and a choosing time with a friend.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. *Mrs. N. Chalmers*



Imagine....Believe....Achieve

