

Primary 4 Newsletter

Term 1

September 2024

We have had a lovely few weeks in Primary 4 getting to know all our fantastic pupils and settle back into the routine of school life! You'll all be glad to know that the children are already working hard and showing great enthusiasm to learn new things. We are so excited to be teaching this great year group and helping guide them through their fourth year at St. Michael's Primary School.

As you will already be aware, Mrs McMullen will be teaching at the beginning of the week and Mrs MacKinnon at the end of the week. The class will also receive I.C.T. lessons from Mrs Devlin and Expressive Arts lessons from Mrs McNab. There will be assemblies each Monday when your child is welcome to share their successes outside of school.

Glow Teams will be our primary means of communication but if you have a personal issue, a note brought in by your child, phone call or e-mail to the school, is also welcomed. Appointments for meetings can be made by phoning the school office.

We are so looking forward to this year and would like to thank you in advance for your support!

The following information will give you an idea of the routines of the class, and will help give you an insight into some of what your child will be doing this term:



Homework

Details of homework will continue to be carried out digitally using the children's P.4 Class Glow Team. You will now be more familiar with logging into Teams. An email will have been sent to you by the school reminding you of how to log into Teams and will also include the P.4 Class Team Code.

Should you require a reminder of your child's Glow login details, please check the label at the back of their homework jotter.

You will be able to continue to find details of the children's homework each week under 'Files' in the class Team. I will also go over it on a Monday to ensure that the children are clear in what is being asked of them for their tasks.

The homework itself will mainly focus on: Spelling, Reading and Maths (Sumdog and Times Tables), which is in line with the new St. Michael's Homework Policy (recently emailed to parents). Homework will now be posted each Friday but does not need to be started until the Monday when the words will have been taught in class. As always, you should choose when it best suits your family's needs to when it is to be carried out. In most of what is set, the children should be able to complete it independently; however, your continued support with hearing them read or playing a maths game, is very much appreciated and is incredibly beneficial to their progress.

The children will always need the jotter for their Friday Spelling Test, so please ensure that it is returned to school by that day at the latest. When the jotter comes home on the Monday, you will be able to check how well the children have done in their test. **We would be very grateful if the homework and test results could be signed/initialled on a weekly basis.**

We have included a few guide sheets in your child's homework jotter which will prove useful, such as: Suggestions for Spelling Activities, Spelling Strategies used in class and a copy of the Times Tables. A massive benefit to the children is for them to continue to practise their Spelling and Tables when they get the chance, to help reinforce the learning and to ensure they are retaining what they have learned. It will also allow them to be confident and well-prepared for their tests on a Friday.

Literacy

In Primary 4, the children will be introduced to the North Lanarkshire's Active Literacy Programme. The strategies are continued until the end of Primary 7 and have proved to be extremely effective in children's learning of spelling and reading at school and beyond. As mentioned before, there is a copy of the strategies in your child's homework jotter.

We begin each school year using the NLC Active Literacy Programme Modelling Block for reading. 'The Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl is proving to be a great success with P4!

P.E.

Our P.E. sessions will take place on a **Monday** and **Thursday**.

The children should bring a bag in on the *Monday* and keep it on their peg for the rest of week, taking it back home on the *Friday* to be washed. Please remind children to bring in soft shoes or trainers for P.E. as many are wearing their school shoes which are uncomfortable when running around and exercising.



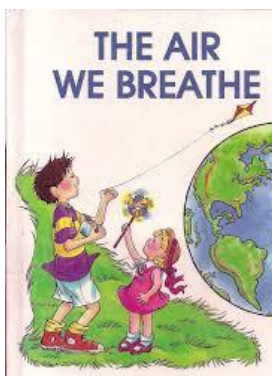
Please could you ensure that all items of clothing have the children's names on them as we are then able to quickly identify who they belong to when things get lost. There will also be a lost property box in the cloakroom containing any items that are found at the end of the school day without a name. It would also be beneficial to ensure that no jewellery is worn on gym days for Health and Safety reasons. If earrings can't be taken out, please ensure that your child has plasters to cover these.

Outdoor Learning



Outdoor Learning will take place each **Monday**. This will normally take place in the forest which can be very muddy. Children should bring in suitable outdoor learning clothes which cover their legs and arms so they are not scratched by thorns or branches. If they have suitable outdoor footwear e.g. wellies or old trainers then they can bring these in too and keep them on their peg for use every week. As this is last period on a *Monday*, children are able to wear their outdoor learning clothes home.

Topic



This term we are starting off with a STEM topic - The Air We Breathe - in conjunction with the Glasgow Science Centre. The children have already shown great enthusiasm for this topic! After a super discussion in class, children have told us they are keen to learn about our vital organs, pollution, forests and germs.

In addition to this, we will be learning some French and Italian and comparing their cultures to that of our own.

If you have any resources for either topic that you would be willing to share, we will take great care of them. We would also be very grateful if you

have any special knowledge on these subjects and would like to come in and share it with our children, who absolutely love to see and hear from a new face!

Allergies!

Please remember that we are a **nut free school**. We have children in our class and throughout the school with nut allergies, **therefore snacks or lunches containing nuts are not permitted within the school** for their safety. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

Finally, if you ever have any worries, concerns or questions about your child and school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With kind regards,

Mrs McMullen and Mrs MacKinnon