

## Primary 4 Curricular Newsletter - October 2016

**PE days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**

Children have the opportunity to change books at the parent run library every Wednesday.

*This term we shall be covering the following work in class:*

### Numeracy

We shall be working on mental strategies as indicated in the homework diary every week. Please continue to practise these at home as it will greatly improve your child's confidence and ability to apply strategies during numeracy activities.

The following concepts will be taught through a range of active and cross-curricular experiences:

#### Triangles

- Place value
- Addition of tens and units (with carrying)
- Subtraction of tens and units (with exchanging)
- Rounding to the nearest ten
- Estimating
- 2D and 3D shape
- Tiling
- Giving directions

#### Circles / Squares

- Place value
- Addition of hundreds, tens and units (with carrying)
- Subtraction of hundreds, tens and units (with exchanging)
- Rounding to the nearest ten and nearest hundred
- Estimating
- 3D shape
- 2D shape, angles and tiling
- Giving directions

## Literacy

We shall continue to use the Ginn 360 Reading Programme, completing workbook and comprehension activities where relevant.

Through reciprocal reading tasks and discussion the children will develop the skills of predicting, summarising, questioning, visualising and clarifying. These activities encourage the children to think about and appreciate what they read and to deepen their understanding of texts.

Listening and talking skills will be developed through a wide range of daily learning opportunities in literacy and across the curriculum.

Through Big Writing activities the children will explore the use of good vocabulary, connectives, sentence openers and punctuation to improve their writing.

The children will have opportunities to develop imaginative, personal and functional writing skills within the context of our 'Robots' topic, Halloween and Christmas.

Children will continue to be taught correct letter formation and joins during handwriting activities. Where necessary, children will be given opportunities to improve formation of letters and numbers.

Spelling rules will be taught weekly with regular tests and dictation work to assess spelling.

A variety of written and active tasks will be carried out each week to reinforce phonics/spelling.

## Social Studies

Our current topic is Robots and we will be exploring their role in society..

We will also learn about Halloween, Gut Fawkes and Christmas during the remainder of this term.

## Health and Wellbeing

In Physical Education we have been working on the skills of team games. These include sportsmanship, participation, cooperation and working together. We will be exploring various forms of dance using Cyber Coach. We will also explore topic related creative dance and Scottish dancing. Children will participate in the daily mile.

Mental and emotional wellbeing will be the focus of Circle Time sessions where we will talk about how we feel, how feelings can affect us and what we can do if we don't feel good. We will also talk about friendship, respect and supporting others.

Children will have opportunities to make positive changes in our school through their involvement in citizenship groups.

Through our topic opportunities will be provided for children to explore the world of work with a focus on robots in industry.

## Technologies and ICT

The children worked cooperatively to design and make a junk model robot.

The children will explore latest developments in technology through our robots topic and will look at the advantages and disadvantages of robots in society. They will be introduced to programmable robots and will participate in a robotics workshop.

All children will be encouraged to participate in the STEM Scottish Leaders Award by participating in discussion with engineers and designing a product of the future.

The children have been introduced to the need for safety when using the internet. They will explore 'Paint' software and create art work using the 'Paint' tools. They will experiment with simple programming software.

## Sciences

Through our Robots topic we shall explore electricity and the children will gain an understanding of simple circuits through experimenting with components and building a battery powered 'Doodlebot'.

The children will explore space, forces and vibrations.

### Expressive Arts

Music - Primary 4 benefitted greatly from the 'Going for Bronze' sessions which were provided by NYCoS last term. The children will learn and perform songs linked to the Christmas Pantomime. They will use percussion instruments to demonstrate understanding of rhythm. They will learn the values of simple musical notes and use these when performing rhythms.

We will learn hymns associated with feast days and Christmas.

Drama - Experiences in drama will be linked to our topic, RE lessons and the Christmas Pantomime. The children will develop skills in role-play, mime and movement. The children will be encouraged to listen and observe others appropriately and evaluate the work of themselves and of others.

### Religious Education

The children will develop their knowledge and understanding of parts of the mass and will be encouraged to participate more fully.

During November the children will learn about the feast days of 'All Saints' and 'All Souls' and will pray for those who have died.

We will explore the traditions of Advent as we prepare for Christmas.

During class prayer times, the children will begin preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by regularly participating in a simple examination of conscience.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have concerns or questions regarding any aspects of the curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs McLean

