

Primary 4 Curricular Newsletter - January 2017

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

- Chance - The likelihood of events occurring
- Data and analysis - Collecting and sorting information
- Multiply by 2,3,4,5 and 10
- Symmetry
- Measure - Length and Weight
- Fractions
- Data and Analysis - Presenting information

Circles / Squares

- Chance - The likelihood of events occurring
- Data and analysis - Collecting and sorting information
- Multiply by 6,7,8 and 9
- Divide by 6,7,8 and 9
- Symmetry
- Measure - Length and Weight
- Fractions
- Data and Analysis - Presenting information

Literacy

This term a large amount of reading work, including reciprocal reading, will be taught through the novel 'The BFG' by Roald Dahl. The story should be read at home as indicated in the homework diary. Please discourage your child from reading ahead, as this can affect their ability to participate in some class discussions and activities. Where appropriate Ginn 360 reading books will still be sent home to ensure consistency and progression.

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 'Scotland' topic and 'The BFG'.

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 Scotland and we will be studying the landscape and land use as well as Scottish traditions. We will then focus in more depth on Paisley, exploring its rich weaving history and finally looking at Paisley today.

Health and Wellbeing

In Physical Education we will learn to extend our fitness levels in Athletics. We will also develop techniques in order to improve performance. Some Athletics work will be taught through the context of the Highland Games, where children will create their own events for our re-enactment of this popular Scottish event. We will also learn traditional Scottish dances. Children will participate in the daily mile.

Children will learn about the human body and the need to look after and maintain it. They will explore the importance of physical activity and food.

We will learn to assess and manage risk when outdoors with a focus on road safety.

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 will be reminded of the need for safety when using the internet. They will explore 'Word' software and create a poster using a range of formatting tools.

Sciences

Our science work this term will focus on the human body. The children will research the skeleton, major organs and the spread of disease. They will explore the senses, the limitations of a sensory impairment and how characteristics are inherited.

Expressive Arts

Music - The children will participate in performing and listening activities with a focus on Scottish music. They will use percussion instruments to demonstrate understanding of rhythm. They will continue to learn the values of simple musical notes and use these when performing rhythms.

We will learn hymns associated with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Lent.

Drama - Experiences in drama will be linked to our topic and RE lessons. 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 continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of parts of the mass and will be encouraged to participate more fully. They will participate regularly in a simple examination of conscience.

In preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, the children will explore the 7 sacraments, with a particular focus on the Sacraments of Initiation. They will learn about sin, repentance, forgiveness and the effect of each of these on their relationship with God.

Please take time to enjoy supporting your child in the completion of homework tasks from the sacramental workbooks when they are sent home.

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