

A note from the class teachers...

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to Primary 3/4. I am sorry there has not been much in the way of communication from myself yet, but we have been working behind the scenes to get our new Book Creator class book up and running. On this platform you will soon get lots of information about what is forthcoming and see photographs of your children hard at work.

I am extremely proud of how well all children have settled into their new class and have been consistently demonstrating our school rules; Ready, Respectful and Safe. I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know your lovely children and look forward to working in partnership with you this year where there will be an equal mix of hard graft and fun!

If you have a PVG for Biggar already, or any available time on your hands and would like to help in my classroom, please see Mrs Collins in the office about getting your PVG and I will welcome you with the widest of open arms! 😊

Kind regards, Mrs Speirs

Language & Literacy



In reading, we are working in line with the Active Literacy approach. In term 1, alongside individual readers, we will be working as a class to enhance our skills in summarising, questioning, metalinguistics, predicting and visualisation through studying Flat Stanley.

Phonics and spelling are taught in class and practised daily to aid embedment. We use a multi-sensory approach to cater for all learning styles.

In writing this term, we will be focussing on individualised core targets and enhancing our sentences by incorporating lots of description.

Numeracy & Mathematics



In Term 1 we are working on estimating and rounding, number and number processes and addition. We will also be focusing on rapid recall of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

In Maths we are studying time, shape and money. Lessons will be taken outdoors whenever possible. At all times, pupils will engage with mental maths starter tasks and a pre and post assessment to ensure they are being suitably supported and challenged and consolidating skills.

We will also welcome a visitor from The Royal Bank of Scotland to engage us in a workshop about 'How We Use Money.' This ties in with our class reward system 'The Biggar Bank.'

Homework



All homework will be issued on a Monday morning. There will be a Core, Digital and Choice option so that it can accommodate everyone's varying schedules - hopefully without causing any additional family stress whatsoever! In line with Talking and Listening benchmarks, it is my intention for each child to present for 1 minute on a Friday what they have completed for homework that week. More info. will follow but typically it will look like this:

Core - Super Speller Game, 10 mins reading per night + oral Times Tables
Digital - Sumdog/ Other online maths game linked to termly topics
Choice - Personal Inquiry Project

Interdisciplinary Learning



As part of my PT remit this session, I have launched the SLC Inquiry-Based Learning approach school wide this term. As such, our interdisciplinary topic is a 'Big Question' set to each class. That question is 'What would a perfect future look like for your school and community?' Each class teacher has created a unique provocation to launch the topic in their class. We had a very special 84 year old visitor who told us about her school and community when she was 8 and gifted us a 'key to our future.' Our class are working through the inquiry cycle to figure out what is important to our class and what 'our' perfect future will look like. Stay tuned...

Science & Technologies



Mrs Ellwood will teach Science and P.E. this term as she covers my non-class contact time. In Science she is teaching waves and vibrations. She is also teaching French including topics such as the calendar, greetings and numbers.

In ICT we will be practising logging in to Glow and navigating Google Classroom. We will do the same with Book Creator and Sumdog. This should support pupils in completing homework tasks independently.

We will also be covering technology through cooking both in school and during Forest School (helpers permitting!) 😊

Health & Wellbeing



P.E. sessions will take place on a Monday and a Wednesday, one with myself and one with Mrs Ellwood.

It is requested that pupils wear shorts, t-shirt and suitable indoor trainers. Anyone who is not wearing appropriate kit will unfortunately not be able to participate due to health and safety implications.

This term we are focussing on games and related skills. We will have opportunities for pupils to become Sports Leaders too.

In addition to this, children will be working in class to learn about lessons outlined in our Primary 3 or Primary 4 Jigsaw programme. All pupils will join up for Jigsaw and all Primary 3 pupils will come to me this term.