

# Calderwood Communicates: Primary 7 Termly Learning Letter Term 2 2022/23



Welcome to Term 2 of Ben Lomond. This time of year is a great vessel for exciting learning opportunities. With Halloween celebrations, the Autumn & Winter season and Christmas traditions around the corner, P7 pupils will be using these as contexts for learning where possible. We are so proud of all they have achieved so far, raising more than our target amount of money and being fantastic leading examples at our P7 Fun Day – they are keen to keep the momentum going. They are already thinking of ways they can lead groups and provide learning experiences to the rest of the school during the Christmas season. P7 pupils are in the midst of campaigning for their chance to become House Captain and Vice Captains. This requires a lot of work and effort, as well as public speaking and presenting. A lot of support, practice and guidance is happening in the classroom with all children to build skills in confidence, self-esteem and resilience. We know you will continue to support them through these exciting times. The Bens Clans have decided they want to learn about historical people, civilisations & events. We have started with Ancient Greece as a whole Clan context and the pupils will help navigate where else this context could go.

This is an overview of all learning experiences offered. These experiences may be differentiated to support and challenge each child.

## English & Literacy

### Listening and Talking

- Presentation Skills – All P7 pupils will be developing their understanding of what good public speaking and presenting looks like. Using TED Talks, political figures and positive world leaders as examples, we will begin to explore different styles of public speaking and develop our own success criteria.
- Story telling – In the Christmas term, Pupils will be given the chance to develop their writing skills and create their own Christmas or Winter themed story. Creation of a book will allow them to visit other Clans and engage in shared reading.
- Debating Skills – Part of our historical topic will include challenging beliefs and opinions of historical concepts we perhaps cannot confirm. i.e. did the Egyptians worship Cats – why/why not, what evidence do we have for this?

### Writing

- Spelling learning will include a range of practical & active experiences tailored to the needs of each child. Spelling groups will have different rules to focus on and this will be done through play-based experiential learning linked heavily to talking, listening and reading skills.
- Persuasive Writing – An aspect of Ancient Greece will be used as a stimulus to create a persuasive text. i.e. 'Ancient Greek food was healthier than modern Greek food'. Research and evidencing skills will be taught as well as the structure of a persuasive text.
- Pupils will be creating narrative stories to tell to younger pupils.

### Reading

- Pupils are encouraged to read fiction/non-fiction texts during stag starts and across the day purely for enjoyment. We have a range of books & audiobooks available that all pupils can access during reading times.
- We will be taking ideas for a whole class novel which we will read, study and explore as a whole class. This novel will be linked to our IDL topic – Ancient Civilisations
- Before we write our own texts, it's important pupils have many opportunities to read, explore and analyse different narrative texts. Doing this helps us recognise the structure, tone and features of different types of texts.

### One Plus Two

- Teaching of the French number system to 100 – building this knowledge into numeracy and number talks will allow application of skills in real contexts.

- Ben Lomond will be using their French speaking skills to design and carry out learning activities with other clans and each other, to encourage deeper learning, enhanced understanding and leadership skills.

## Numeracy & Maths

### Numeracy

- Number talks allows all pupils to build their mental agility by talking through number strategies. This term we will focus on different strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication & division.
- Short, daily SumDog challenges will help to support numeracy strategies and improve speed & accuracy in mental maths skills.
- Building Thinking Classrooms – Ben Lomond are taking part in a project which investigates how children think. Lots of challenges, games and rich tasks will allow a culture of thinking to emerge, building on problem solving, critical thinking and collaborating skills.
- Fractions, Percentages Continued – Building on the learning from last term, we will explore how to calculate percentages and fractions of amounts, making links to data.
- Time – Telling the time on analogue & digital clocks, 12 & 24 hour time conversions, the relationship between time, speed and distance & timetables and time increments.

### Maths

- Data – Exploring ways of collecting data, displaying data and interpreting data from other sources.

## Health and Wellbeing

- We will continue to explore emotions through the Emotion Works Programme. It allows pupils to explore emotions, behaviours, and body sensations. It also allows them to identify triggers and recognise strategies to help support them when they experience strong feelings.
- **Outdoor Learning** – An hour of the week will be dedicated to learning in the outdoors. This will require walking to woodland areas and engaging in activities related to our IDL topic, literacy, numeracy and expressive arts.

### P.E

- **Gymnastics** – We will be improving our skills in balancing, coordination, flexibility, rolling, climbing and sequencing moves in creative, child-led learning supported by champions.

## Interdisciplinary Learning

### Ancient Civilisations

The Bens are exploring ancient history which includes: civilisations, important historical events and key historical figures.

We have begun with a whole clan topic on Ancient Greece. Pupils are working together in groups to research and present findings on sub-topics such as philosophy, food, customs, festivals, military and education.

Throughout the term, pupils will be able to work on learning about an ancient civilisation of their choice in focus groups. Support to properly research, note-taking and evidence from reliable sources will be given by key adults.

The skills we will be focussing on this term will be:

- Collaboration
- Reliable researching – considering bias, sources and how to evidence
- Presenting – voice, body language and designing Success Criteria
- Learner Agency – Pupils having freedom to choose contexts for learning and how to display learning
- Expressive arts – exploring different art styles from each civilisation

- Data – Historical data collection will be a focus of learning projects. i.e. comparing average life spans, number of children, sizes of armies, weather and climate data.

## STEM

In STEM, we will be further exploring the idea of historical data. We will be comparing & contrasting collected data from different historical time periods and modern day.

We will be continuing to build our Karts by learning about key engineering principles of forces, torque and motors.

## Discrete Learning

IDL – Independence & leadership skills.

Philosophy 4 Children (P4C) – children will be accessing philosophical concepts through our IDL topic and will be encouraged to engage in conversations around 'big ideas'. Agreeing and disagreeing respectfully and building on other's ideas will be a focus for teaching.

Expressive Arts – Exploration of different mediums i.e. chalk, oil pastels, watercolours and pencil sketches.

Digital Technology – Use of Teams in and outside of school helps with digital literacy skills. They will learn how to create documents, upload and download correctly and organise their online jotter appropriately.

## Other information

### **P.E. Days:**

Ben Lomond – Monday (PE inside) and Thursday (outdoors)

### **Non-contact time:**

Ben Lomond – Monday for STEM and PE with Miss Christie

**Outdoor Learning:** Thursday am. (Please ensure children have appropriate clothing: warm jackets, long trousers, appropriate footwear for walking, hats, gloves & scarves in required.)