

Calderwood Communicates: Ben Lomond & Ben Lawers Clan Termly Learning Letter Term 1 2023/2024



Hello and welcome to Ben Lomond & Ben Lawers, P7! As you are aware, P7 brings lots of new opportunities for our pupils to develop skills for learning, life & work, through gaining much more freedom, flexibility in their school day and new leadership roles around the school. As well as School Camp this term in September, P7s will also have the opportunity to apply for special leadership roles such as House/Vice Captain & Calderwood Chief. We are also planning a fundraising events so that the pupils can raise money to buy their P7 Leavers' jumpers. There are lots of learning opportunities and responsibilities within this and will act as our topic of 'Enterprise' for the first few weeks of Term 1.

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 – P7 children will be invited to take part on House Captain elections. Even if they choose not to go forward for this role, we will be exploring what good presentation skills are. We will be watching public speakers, world leaders and people in the media who are good (and not so good) at public speaking/presenting to evaluate how speech, language, pace, tone, body language and content makes a difference to presentations. These skills will then be practised in games, activities and group mini-presentations as well as House Captain elections.
- Philosophy 4 Children (P4C) - Ben Lomond and Ben Lawers are currently undergoing a philosophy project to explore 'big' questions that we have about life. Questions like: 'should animals be kept in cages?' or 'what is gender equality?' are examples of these. We will be exploring big themes such as love, loss, faith or fairness in a way that is safe, open and nurturing in order to explore discussion and debating skills. The 4 C's of P4C are: collaborative, critical, creative and caring.
- Group Work - Literacy guided reading groups will focus on group discussion skills like agreeing, disagreeing and giving evidence for answers from texts. Our reading skills this term will be: prediction, questioning, summarising and clarifying.

Writing

- Spelling practice 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.
- Descriptive Writing – Using the 'Invisible Strings' book, P7s will be writing a narrative piece of creative writing which covers the themes of loss, love and connectedness.
- Characterisation – we will be exploring the 5 points of characterisation to describe and build deep characters. These are appearance, personality, voice, actions and reactions.

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.
- Reading groups – children will be grouped into similar ability groups and a piece of text will be given on a rotation for them to use their reading skills. Pupils will have tasks to complete before and after guided reading sessions which will focus on a specific skill: prediction, questioning, summarising or clarifying.
- Class novels are yet to be decided but will be read with the children as a book for enjoyment without tasks or activities attached to them.

One Plus Two

- In Term 1 the children will be re-capping their knowledge of French vocabulary covered in Primary 6 with a focus on correct pronunciation and maintaining conversational flow. We will then begin new learning surrounding the topics of 'colours', 'items of clothing' and the 'calendar'.

Numeracy & Maths

Numeracy

- This term we will be focusing on the four operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication & division. In P7, pupils will be continuously developing their understanding and knowledge around mental and written strategies to solve these problems.
- “Number Talks” allows all pupils to build their mental agility by talking through number strategies. Through “Number Talks” discussions we aim to build confidence, flexibility, accuracy and efficiency in mathematical thinking.
- Short, daily SumDog challenges will help to support numeracy strategies and improve speed & accuracy in mental maths skills.
- Through a range of active, concrete, written, and online learning experiences pupils will learn about the importance of place value, as the vital foundation for numerical thinking.

Maths

- Through the context of the P7 fundraiser, pupils will be learning about money in a real-life setting. We will be focusing on areas such as monetary calculations for buying and selling, profit and loss, budgeting, percentages and comparing costs from different retailers.

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.
- This term we will be exploring each of the wellbeing (SHANARRI) indicators, which were created as part of the Scottish government’s Getting It Right for Every Child policy. This will include taking part in meaningful discussions surrounding wellbeing and how we can promote and support a positive wellbeing ethos.
- We will be exploring the idea of global citizenship through our focus on the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The 17 Global Goals offer a wide range of child led, teacher-supported learning opportunities surrounding topical and important issues such as poverty, pollution, education and gender equality.

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 staff.
- **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.

Interdisciplinary Learning

P7 Fundraiser/House Captain Campaigns/Camp

These events will take up a lot of time over the next term and will become a focus for P7 to develop along with their literacy & numeracy task maps. A huge amount of skills will be developed during this time as the children are responsible for the organising of our fundraising event, campaigning for their house captain role (or on the campaign team of a friend) and building up their readiness for camp.

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

- Collaboration & effective teamwork
- Organisation skills and working between teams
- Time management and working to deadlines
- Professionalism when communicating with businesses and adults outside of school (i.e. emailing local businesses)
- Resilience

STEM

In STEM this term we will be taking part in a project relating to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. This topic provides a real-life context where we can use engineering and problem-solving skills to tackle issues such as world hunger, the energy crisis, water sanitation, fast fashion/over-consumption and economic growth.

Through this project, pupils will work on developing the following Meta-Skills for lifelong learning:

- Resilience
- Collaborating
- Communicating
- Critical Thinking

Discrete Learning

Digital Technology – Use of Microsoft 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.

Expressive Arts – Opportunities to engage in pupils own personal projects will be provided moving forward for when the pupils complete their 'must do' tasks. Once these tasks are complete, pupils will be encouraged to work on skill-building activities of their choice that will be provided by the school. These could be:

- Playing the keyboard
- Playing the guitar
- Jewellery making
- Crocheting/sewing/knitting
- Comic book writing
- Story writing
- Digital skills – movie making/stop motion/coding projects

These will be chosen and influenced by pupils' passions and champions will do our best to accommodate any skills pupils feel they want to build in school.

Other information

P.E. Days:

Ben Lomond – Wednesday (indoors) and Thursday (outdoors)

Ben Lawers – Monday (outdoors) and Wednesday (indoors)

Non-contact time:

Ben Lomond – Monday PM (Mrs Curtin)

Ben Lawers – Tuesday AM (Mrs Curtin)