Dear Parent/Carer, January 2017

Thank you all for your support and encouragement during a busy second term. 'Alice the Musical' was a great success and I hope that you enjoyed seeing your child participate in it. There is lots to look forward to this term including our new IDL context: The Mid Calder Election. The children are looking forward to learning about how society functions and will hopefully have an interesting and engaging experience when forming their own political parties and voting for a class Prime Minister. Also, we are currently preparing for our class assembly where we will be celebrating National Storytelling Week. I hope you can join us for that.

Mr Renshaw

English & Literacy

This term, we will be continuing to develop our knowledge of Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation (VCOP), handwriting and spelling. The children will be continuing to use up-levelling techniques to improve the standard of their writing. This process also involves self and peer assessment.

Through the IDL context of The Mid Calder Election, our writing will focus on a variety of genres including speeches, leaflets and summaries. Also, linking to our class assembly, we will focus on writing short stories.

Our reading in term 2 will continue to focus on Higher Order Thinking Skills, identifying the key features of different genres and making connections to other areas of the curriculum. We will be particularly be focusing on the author's style within fiction texts.

Maths & Numeracy

Since the start of the new term we have been working in new Maths groups. We have continued focusing on the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and will be moving on to learning about fractions, decimals and percentages.

In mental agility, the children will be continuing to develop their mathematical strategies through Number Talks. This approach encourages the children to find the most efficient way to reach an answer to a given problem.

In addition, we will spend some time learning about number patterns, algebra, area and information handling.

You can support your child's maths development at home by regular number facts revision such as times tables and associated division facts and links to maths in real life contexts. Sumdog is also a good resource to develop children's mental agility and quick recall of maths facts.

Interdisciplinary Learning: The Mid Calder Election

This term our context for learning is The Mid Calder Election. We will be exploring this through the curriculum areas of Social Studies, RME and Technologies. The key questions we will look at are:

- 1. What are some of the diverse cultures and values living in Scotland today?
- 2. How do values and beliefs differ within communities, local and wider?
- 3. Where are examples of sustainable societies around the world and how are they organised?
- 4. What is a democratic society?
- 5. What is involved in the election process?

Additional Information

P.E. will be on Tuesdays (Futsal) and Wednesdays. Please ensure your child brings the correct clothing to change into on P.E. days. This includes clothing suitable for taking part in P.E outdoors (i.e. jogging bottoms and trainers).

Dates to Remember

25th January – Alice Musical Trip

3rd February – P6 Assembly

21st February – Scottish Parliament Trip

Homework

Spelling, Maths and Reading homework will be given every Monday and should be completed and handed in on Friday. Periodically, IDL tasks will be given which will give the children opportunities to use research skills.