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Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Term 3 in Primary 3. We are looking forward to a busy and fun term. The highlights of last term included our Mini Mid Calder Main Street sharing the learning afternoon and our IDL context based on The Creakers. We also loved learning and performing Tom Fletcher’s Afraid of Heights for the West Lothian YouTube channel. We have now begun our new IDL context for learning, Homeward Bound, and are excited about helping Gamba the Giraffe to make his way home to Africa.

Miss Sherlow

January 2018

**Maths & Numeracy**

This term, our numeracy work will focus on Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning (SEAL) strategies, fractions and multiplication and division. We will also continue to develop our mental agility through Number Talks, mental maths games and verbal recall. In our wider maths this term, the focus will be on shape and time.

You can support your child’s maths development at home by number bond revision and links to maths in real life contexts. Please encourage your child to find examples of fractions in everyday life e.g. half a pizza for dinner, half price sales, 15 minutes being a quarter of an hour etc.

Sumdog challenges for maths, reading and spelling are set up regularly and are linked to the contexts that the children are learning about in class.

**English & Literacy**

Through the IDL context of Homeward Bound, our writing will focus on a variety of genres including emails, imaginative stories and fact files. This term, we will continue to develop our knowledge of Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation (VCOP), as well as building on our handwriting and spelling abilities.

Our reading in term 3 we will be focusing on developing skimming and scanning and reading for information using digital tools, as well as notetaking skills. We will be learning how to select and organise relevant facts and information about different countries around the world.

We offer regular opportunities for reading a range of texts for enjoyment at Mid Calder, and we would appreciate if you could continue to encourage a love for reading at home as well.

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**Interdisciplinary Learning: Homeward Bound**

This term our context for learning is Homeward Bound. We will be exploring this through the curriculum areas of social studies, literacy and technologies. The key questions we will look at are:

1. What is a climate?

2. What climates can be found in different places around the world?

3. How does climate affect living things?

4. How are living things suited to their climate and landscape?

5. How do people travel across different landscapes around the world?

**Homework**

Spelling and maths homework will be given every Monday and should be completed and handed in on Friday. Reading will be given on a Monday and Wednesday and will be noted in your child’s reading record.

Homework should be completed in your child’s homework jotter with an emphasis on neat presentation and accuracy.

**Scots Poetry Celebration**

On the 1st February, MCPS will hold an assembly to celebrate the poetry of Robert Burns and other Scottish poets. P3 have the choice of 3 poems to learn by Monday 29th January. They will recite these to the class, and 3 children will be chosen to perform them as part of the assembly. We’re sure the performances will be pure dead braw!

**Additional Information**

Enjoyaball for P3 will be on Mondays and we will have class PE on Thursdays. Please ensure your child brings the correct clothing to change into school on P.E. days. This includes clothing suitable for taking part in P.E outdoors (i.e. jogging bottoms and trainers). P3 will also continue to take part in the Roots of Empathy programme in our Health and Wellbeing lessons this term.