

Toronto Primary Curricular Information

**A Year in  
P 7**

With  
Mr Graham

This booklet is designed to provide information about the curriculum your child will experience this year in Primary 7 as well as providing information about classroom routines and expectations.

Curriculum for Excellence establishes clear values, purposes and principles for education from 3-18 in Scotland. It sets out to enable children and young people to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

The key methods by which we will develop these capacities are through:

- ❖ active learning
- ❖ interdisciplinary learning
- ❖ outdoor learning
- ❖ co-operative learning

We will be using a range of Assessment is for Learning techniques including:

- ❖ sharing learning intentions and success criteria
- ❖ high quality interactions and feedback
- ❖ learner involvement in reflection, setting learning goals and next steps
- ❖ self and peer assessment

The curriculum is divided as following:

Curriculum Level	Stage
Early	Pre-school and P1 or later for some
First	To end of P4 but earlier or later for some
Second	To end of P7 but earlier or later for some
Third and Fourth	S1-S3 but earlier for some The fourth level broadly equates to SCQF Level 4
Senior Phase	S4-6 and college or other means of study

## Welcome to Primary 7

I am pleased with the way the pupils have settled in to Primary 7 and they are already enjoying the responsibilities that come with being at the top of the school. I am hoping for an inspiring and successful year that sets them up for a smooth transition to secondary school. In this booklet, I would like to inform you of our plans and expectations for the year.

## Building Learning Power

This school session we will be launching Building Learning Power, a new whole-school project with the aim of helping our pupils become better, more motivated learners who achieve more and are equipped for a lifetime of learning.

Building Learning Power will be present in every classroom and also talked about during dedicated assemblies on Monday afternoons. More information for parents will follow soon.

## English and Literacy

Throughout the year, Primary 7 will be developing their literacy and reading skills through our 'Guided Reading' approach. Guided reading is an experience that encompasses all aspects of English and Literacy: questioning, mind-mapping skills, comprehension, punctuation, dictionary/thesaurus skills, writing, spelling, as well as listening and discussion. During Guided Reading your child's core reader will **remain in school**. Your child will be encouraged to choose a 'reading for enjoyment' book from our class library to bring home, giving them opportunities for greater personalisation and choice. This is also an opportunity for you and your child to share a range of literature.

Your child will experience a wide range of writing activities which at times will be linked to the class topic.

We will be using the Berol Cursive Hand Writing Scheme encouraging children to begin each letter on the 'line'. As your child becomes more fluent with this scheme all written tasks are expected to be completed in this form.

Listening and Talking is embedded throughout the curriculum and children will be given the opportunity to share their knowledge and understanding through group discussions and individual/group presentations. Children will be expected to listen carefully to others and carry out instructions accordingly.

## **Spelling**

We use the SWST programme as a framework for spelling. Pupils will be taught new words on a Monday and will then engage in a number of learning activities throughout the week, including homework activities, to reinforce the new spelling pattern.

## **Numeracy & Mathematics**

In Primary 7 Numeracy and Mathematics is delivered through a variety of learning experiences. We use a number of resources to meet the needs of our pupils, including Heinemann Active Mathematics, which is a progressive programme with continual assessment opportunities built in. We employ an active approach to Mathematics and Numeracy and plan to use ICT (including Sumdog) along with a variety of activities to support your child's progress in all areas. Learning experiences will cover: Number Processes, Time, Measure, Shape, Position & Movement, Information Handling, Problem Solving and Mental Arithmetic.

## **Health & Wellbeing**

The children will have PE on a Monday with Mrs Weatherup and on a Tuesday with me. It is the children's responsibility to ensure that they are fully equipped for P.E. which requires gym kit and indoor shoes. PE will provide a variety of learning experiences to enable the children to further develop their skills in a variety of contexts such as Paralympic sport, circuit training, rugby and athletics. Children will also participate in a variety of class based health projects which include: Living and Growing and "Think U Know" Internet Safety.

Primary 7 will be *trailing* 'The Daily Mile' in term 1 as part of Health & Wellbeing. This means that we'll be out running most days of the week, in most weather, for a 15 minute period. Early research suggests that this has a positive effect on physical, emotional and social wellbeing as well as improving concentration in the classroom.

As a class, we created a Class Charter which acts as a framework for the way we conduct ourselves inside the classroom. This is an important aspect of school and informs all areas of the curriculum.

Golden Time will take place on a Friday morning. This session the children will be given a variety of activities that they can sign up to for Golden Time within the P5-7 area. These will change termly over the course of the session and will include opportunities such as art, dance, sport and construction.

Last session, as a school, we implemented a new positive behaviour policy which is currently being reviewed and refined in order to further encourage positive behaviour.

## Social Studies (Interdisciplinary Learning)

This session our class interdisciplinary topics will be: Livingston, The Universe, World War II and 'Rock Band'.

We recently undertook a small study on an influential person: Sophie Scholl, whom your children should be able to tell you all about.

## Classroom Organisation/Routines

As far as possible, please encourage your child to come to school prepared for the day with the following equipment:

- A pencil case with appropriate writing tools e.g. writing & colouring pencils, rubber & ruler
- Gym shoes: Health and Safety means that rubber soles are essential. **All children should have a pair of indoor shoes**
- Please ensure all items of clothing and personal belongings are labelled/ named
- Water Bottle for hydration in the class – **water only** (not flavoured water or juice)
- P.E. Kit required on **Monday & Tuesday**
- Appropriate shoes for running every day

All members of Primary 7 are encouraged to contribute to the positive working environment of the school and classroom by taking on a range of responsibilities and leadership opportunities throughout the year.

## Communication

- Please contact the school office if your child is going to miss school for any reason.
- Occasionally children will be expected to pass on information from school. This may be in the form of a verbal message or a letter.
- Parents' Evenings are scheduled for terms 1 and 3. However, if you have any concerns, please contact the office to make an appointment.

## Homework

Throughout the year homework will be issued on a Monday to be returned by Thursday (unless otherwise stated) and will include some or all of the following:

- Spelling activities
- Reading for enjoyment
- Maths
- Interdisciplinary learning activities

Please check and sign completed homework tasks.

## **Residential Experience**

P7 children will be offered the opportunity to experience our week-long cluster residential at Belmont Camp in Perthshire. While away, your child will take part in a range of outdoor and team building activities with children from other schools who will be in their S1 tutor group. More information about this will follow in due course.

There will be a number of after-school and lunch-time clubs on offer to the pupils. Information about the clubs is usually issued by letter from the teacher who is running the club.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Graham



Websites that may be of interest:

[www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com)

[www.buildinglearningpower.com](http://www.buildinglearningpower.com)

[www.thedailymile.co.uk](http://www.thedailymile.co.uk)