Primary 3 Fishermoss January 2017

Dear Parents,

Hopefully everyone has enjoyed a relaxing break and made the most of precious time with family and friends and that the coming year brings health and happiness for all. We have a busy term ahead of us as outlined below.

Literacy will continue as before with spelling patterns and sounds being taught weekly for home revision and consolidation. Please take the opportunity to discuss the sound being revised and alternative spellings of the sound, for example ‘ph’ for photo is the same **sound** as ‘f’ for fish as well as encouraging spotting these sounds and spellings in their reading books too. Assessment of spelling and these sounds will be ongoing and informal.

In numeracy, we will be covering place value and distinguishing between units, tens etc and investigating the importance of zero as a place-holder. In time we will be introducing half past the hour and comparing analogue (traditional 12 hour clock) times with digital 12 hour displays. Please support your child’s learning by encouraging them to compare these two ways of displaying time around the home and when out and about as well as recognising the time on the hour and half past the hour. We will also be re-visiting calendar work and grouping months in seasons. Later in the term we will also be doing some shape work and direction in terms of North, South, East and West. Any opportunity to discuss these topics as they arise in everyday life will help consolidate understanding.

We will also continue multiplication and ongoing consolidation of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Despite the fact I have previously stressed the significance of times tables, I feel compelled to once again emphasise the importance of learning multiplication facts and developing **speed and accuracy** in recalling them as this knowledge will undoubtedly lay firm foundations for your child’s understanding of much of the number work they will encounter in Primary School and beyond.

Topic this term will be investigating Ancient Egypt which will provide an enjoyable context for learning historical information as well as the opportunity to develop research skills in addition to enhancing skills and learning in other curricular areas including learning cooperatively. This approach allows children the opportunity to work in small groups on activities which will benefit their social development and learning as individuals and as a class.

Homework, as last term, will reflect children’s progress through the term and your support in practising these number facts, as we learn them in class, will be greatly appreciated. Reading will continue to be taught on alternative days of the week and, as ever, your support in spending time hearing your child reading, supporting them in sounding out words and engaging them in questioning and discussion of the book, is most beneficial. Please note that across all P3 classes, children will continue reading a wider variety of books and genres from different reading schemes. As previously explained, the purpose of this is to further develop comprehension skills, to enrich and extend children’s vocabulary by exposing them to less familiar words which will frequently, particularly so in factual books, necessitate your support in sounding out words. Children will also benefit in the variation of genres, such as factual books, poems and plays, in terms of stimulating individual interests in reading and inspiring their writing.

**Golden Time**

As requested last term, in order to further support children’s social and cooperative working skills, please continue to encourage your child to bring along a simple board game or activity suitable for sharing as opposed to electronic devices. Your continued support in this and in promoting appropriate, positive behaviour, in both the class and playground, is invaluable and very much appreciated.

**Term 3:**

Science - Monday (Mrs Middleton)

PE – Tuesday (Mr Waz) and Thursday -please remember indoor shoes and gym kit.

Art - Thursday fortnightly (Miss Thomson) – please bring in tunic or old t-shirt/shirt.

Library- P3 Friday weekly (please remember to return library books).

Please note on 12th and 26th of January Aberdeen Football Club will be delivering activities to P3. On the 19th Jan, 2nd and 16th February our P.E. will be on a Friday.

Please feel free to catch me in the playground or keep in touch via diaries as necessary.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Muir