Term 2 Primary 5 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all enjoyed your October holidays! We cannot believe how quick they went and that we are back heading quickly towards the festive season (Ho Ho Ho!). The children once again are showing their enthusiasm to learn!

It was lovely to catch up with some of you at our recent ‘Show and Tell’ event and how proud we were watching the children become tour guides around the classroom to share their learning. As Owen’s mum said the only thing that was missing was a chocolate fountain – maybe next time ☺

Reminders

* Named indoor shoes which should be stored in a gym bag to keep our school and cloakroom tidy.
* Named water bottle which should be taken home each night for a freshen up.
* Homework Diary and folder.
* PE kit – Monday and Wednesday (Term 2 focus - Creative and Scottish Country Dancing along with some Circuit training to get our hearts beating!).
* Library book - children can change their book fortnightly on a Wednesday.
* Pencil and rubber for all the hard work! ☺

Homework

As last term - The Blue & Pink **reading** groups will be taken on a Monday and Thursday. The Red, Rainbow & Black groups on a Tuesday and Friday. Please continue to support your child with their reading and Book Detective tasks. **Spelling** - issued on a Monday and practised daily, your child has a list of spelling activities to choose from. **Talk** homework will be given as appropriate to discuss with the family, this helps their thought process for a learning activity e.g. writing, topic discussion, etc. **Maths** homework will be given regularly but most of the class would benefit practising their money skills especially when giving change from £1, £2, £5 & £10.

It is difficult to please everyone when it comes to the amount of homework set, however children can always benefit from revising times tables - trying to beat the clock at how fast they can answer a set times table. They could do an extra Book Detective activity, take an interest in current affairs through watching Newsround or reading the paper or put their maths skills to the test and try some cooking or baking. We have added different activities at the end of this newsletter if you feel they need an extra challenge or you are looking for something different to do with them.

Literacy

Language will continue as of term 1. In writing we will be looking closely to when we need to take a new paragraph and our use of commas. We shall also practise our note taking during our RME research (see below) and watching Newsround. Debates will also be a focus for group work to look at different points of view and having a ‘friendly argument’ with another group! Let’s see if we have any future politicians in P5!

Numeracy

We shall be using problem solving and real life situations to develop our Maths learning from last term (addition, subtraction, estimating and rounding). We are currently looking at money - most children are confidently using coins and notes up to £10, however more practise in giving change needs to be developed. Use the counting on method e.g. What change will I get from £5 when I spend £3.45? £3.45+**5**p = £3.50 then +**50**p = £4 and then +£**1** = £5 giving us the change of £**1.55**.

Measurement will also be investigated by using our estimating and rounding skills. Activities inside and out of the classroom will be used to explore Volume, Weight, Length and Area. This will also include looking at different ways to describe measurement e.g. 130cm is the same as 1m 30cm, 1½ kg is the same as 1500g, etc. Reading scales will also be developed – this can also be done at home through baking and cooking for our budding chefs!

Continue to encourage your child to log on to Sumdog to practise concepts that have been taught in class and they could win prizes for their Sumdog house.

Topic

This term our topic will continue to be Charlie & The Chocolate Factory. Through Technology and Art we shall become designers looking at packaging and creating our own chocolate bar. We will look at ‘real’ chocolate bars so please keep all those sweetie wrappers from Halloween. Through Music, Drama and Dance we will produce an advert to sell our products. We can’t wait to hear/see what the children come up with!

Health & Wellbeing

In contrast to our topic we shall have a focus on healthy eating. This will include exploring how different foods keep us healthy and by designing a healthy menu. We shall also look at food labelling and how media and adverts can influence us as consumers (Topic links).

Religious & Moral Education (RME)

This term we will look at the religion ‘Sikhism’. Using the internet and books we will investigate significant figures, traditions, life events and artefacts that help us understand that other people have different beliefs and that we can show respect towards them. In links with our Health we will explore how food can be influenced by cultures and religions.

Children in Need

We need to think of stall ideas for our class to run on Friday 17th November. Could you all have a family chat for us to consider ideas this next week? This will be an ideal chance for us to practise our money skills as well as how we communicate with our customers.

Fair Trade Tuckshop

Our class will be running the tuckshop on Tuesday 28th November. Last term lots of planning was completed with P4/5 and they completed a very successful tuck. We will start designing and creating our ideas soon to ensure we have the same success. This again is when we can use a real life situation to demonstrate our money skills.

Science

Mrs Middleton will continue to take the class on a Wednesday morning for science. This term they will be investigating the Human Body.

French

In class we will use some French through our daily routines and games. On Friday the class will extend their learning with Mrs Ruxton with a focus on basic conversational phrases and skills.

Class Dojo

We hope you have been enjoying seeing your child’s progress through the Class Dojo app. As more teachers across Aberdeenshire use Class Dojo, the council would like to ensure that parents are aware of the terms and privacy principles of the software (see below). We will be sending home the Aberdeenshire-headed consent form this next week. Please sign and return if you are happy for us to continue to use Class Dojo with your child. Thank you to the parents who have already done this at the ‘Show & Tell’ event.

Links: [www.classdojo.com/terms](http://www.classdojo.com/terms) & [www.classdojo.com/privacy](http://www.classdojo.com/privacy)

Golden Time

Our Golden Time will continue to be on a Wednesday afternoon this term. Rewarding the children for keeping the Golden Rules but it is also a good time to develop our social skills and to mix with the P4 and P4/5 classes. Children can bring a toy or game in to share at Golden Time but no electronic devices are to be taken into school.

Challenge/Extend your Learning

Here are some additional activities at home to encourage your child’s development and progress through learning, especially if your child has been absent or in the eventuality of adverse weather conditions and school is required to close:

* Continue to read for enjoyment any books you have at home or that you have taken out from the library. You could also choose a favourite book you have read. Record this on the **Book Passport** issued at school and then we’ll also record it in class on our very own bookworm!
* Don’t ever forget that practising your spelling words, number bonds and multiplication tables is always a good idea!
* Look around you while you are walking in the street…how many describing words (adjectives) can you list? How many action words (verbs)? etc.
* Help your parents with the shopping. Can you pay with the exact amount? What is the change?
* Keep a diary to write highlights of your weekend, holidays or achievements.
* How many winter words can you think of? Can you write an acrostic poem with them?
* Make a fantastic model with Lego, blocks, K’nex, junk, etc. Then draw or take a photo of it to show to the class.
* Think up your own adventure for the characters in your reading books to have.
* Do some research on an area of interest from our topic/RME.
* Build a den or igloo and take a photo to share with the class.
* Observe the nature outside, different types of trees, insects or birds. Record the data on a table or graph.

There are also lots of websites that are full of great ideas and activities:

* <http://www.sumdog.com>
* <http://www.glow.rmunify.com>
* <http://www.topmarks.co.uk>
* <http://www.crickweb.co.uk>
* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools>
* <http://www.familylearning.org.uk>
* <http://www.spellingcity.com/>
* <http://nrich.maths.org>

Dates for you Diary

Friday 10th November – Rotary Shoe Box Appeal-last day to return boxes to school.

Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th November – Staff In-service Day – school closed to pupils.

Friday 17th November - Children in Need Dress as You Please Day & fundraising class stalls.

Friday 24th November – Christmas Fayre – 6.30-8.30pm.

Week commencing 4th December - Interim Reports in Homework Diaries.

Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December - Portlethen Santa Run.

Week commencing 18th December - Behaviour/Attitude report in Homework Diaries.

Tuesday 19th December - Cinema Day “Ferdinand”.

Wednesday 20th December - School Christmas Lunch.

Thursday 21st December - End of term Christmas Church Service 9:30am at Portlethen Church.

Friday 22nd December - Last day of term - Christmas Holidays! (Back Monday 8th January 2018)

GLOW

We are also in the process of re-designing our P5 GLOW page – this will allow you to see much more of your child’s learning and achievements at school. Watch this space! Children can log on at - <http://www.glow.rmunify.com>

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything with us, please don’t hesitate to contact us via the homework diary, catch us at the door or phone the office to arrange a suitable time. Looking forward to another successful term!

Miss Anderson and Mr Barrow ☺ ☺