October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot believe that we are already at the end of October. It was lovely to meet you all at our Parent consultations and be able to place children with parents/grandparents, although some of you were “kent faces” as I have had the pleasure of teaching your elder children. I am sure you were impressed with how hard your child has been working, as I am. Our new reporting format includes a termly report on behaviour and effort and Term 1’s report is in the diary for you and your child to comment on. This again will be a very hectic term and the last week will be particularly busy with our cinema visit, our school Christmas lunch and our party.

Our reading will continue to be taught twice a week, either on Monday/ Thursday or Tuesday/Friday and will always be accompanied by a book detective task. The book detective tasks can be found at the start of the class diary if you are unsure what is required. Spelling for the primary six pupils will be given out on a Monday for the next Monday. Primary sevens will also get spelling that day but they will work on their words in class. Other homework will also be given out on Monday for the following Monday. Children are responsible for making sure homework is completed and handed in on time but I would appreciate if you would encourage them to do so. 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 research aspects of their class topic, 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. They all have a log on for Sumdog, which is a maths programme testing all concepts that have been taught in class. They could log into this and test their maths skills which are all aimed at their level of ability and they could win prizes for their Sumdog house. We have entered two competitions last term on Sumdog and will be doing so again this term. I have added different activities at the end of this letter for your child to try if you feel they need an extra challenge or you are looking for something different to do with them.

For our project this term we are continuing The Desperate Journey, which is one family’s journey from the Highlands of Scotland to Canada during the time of the Highland Clearances. This topic will continue to be the catalyst for researching the history of this time, the geography of their journey, a look at the Scots language, cooking skills as we recreate some of their food, team work as we work together to investigate aspects of our topic as well as being the stimulus for our language, art, music dance and drama.

PE this term will be on Monday and Thursday mornings. We will be looking at hockey skills, creative dance and then traditional Scottish dance. All pupils will need shorts and shoes on those days.

Our maths this term will be covering lots of different concepts. Primary 7 will be looking at area of a rectangle and triangle and formulae used, revising multiplication and division using 10, 100 and 1000, then multiplying with decimals. We will also be revising 3 dimensional shapes and methods of identification using vertices and sides.

Primary 6 will be looking at area and perimeter, parallel and perpendicular lines, shape, fractions and their comparison to decimals and problem-solving activities.

Our written work will link largely to our topic but we will also focus on aspects of punctuation. For P6 we will be looking at direct speech and beginning to look at the apostrophe. For P7 we will be learning about apostrophes and their different uses.

Please encourage your child to always have indoor shoes, a sharp pencil and a rubber.

I look forward to welcoming you at our Show and Tell evening on the 2nd of November. Of course if you wish to contact me at any time please either, pop a note in the home/ school diary or call the school office and I will get back to you at the earliest convenience.

Kind Regards

Yvonne Sayer

 Extra Home Activity Ideas

* **Plan a lesson** to teach your classmates about one aspect of your current topic. You can use any resources that you would usually use in the classroom.
* **Spend time learning your times tables** that you feel less confident in.
* **Make up some tricky word maths problems for your friends to try**.
* **Visit the maths website below**.
* **Make a snowflake that tessellates.** Can you create some art using your tessellations?
* **Create a leaflet about how to stay safe in the dark, in the snow, using your bike or walking to school using prior knowledge.**
* **Write a newspaper article** about impact that the weather is having in Aberdeenshire.
* **Write an acrostic poem** about any subject to share with your class.
* **Read two more chapters of your reading book** or any novel you are reading for The First Minister’s reading challenge.
* **Make up a recipe for a super healthy snow smoothie and give it a name.**
* **Create a word search using topic vocabulary.** Use a dictionary and/or Thesaurus to helpyou find new words.
* **Take a photo of a scene** and bring to share with your class mates. Be prepared to talk about it.
* Play hangman or make a wordsearch using your spelling words.

**Possible websites to visit**

[http://nrich.maths.org](http://nrich.maths.org/)

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

<http://www.murddogerousmaths.co.uk/>

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



www.fuelthebrain.com