January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a lovely break at Christmas and were able to enjoy some rest and relaxation amongst all the festivities. I cannot believe that all the planning and preparation seems to last for ages and then it is all over and we are watching for the first signs of Spring. This is a very busy term as usual and hopefully will not be interrupted by the dreaded snow.

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 have the choice to take their spelling home or use time in class to work on their words. 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 however I would appreciate if you would encourage them to do this. 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. 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. These can also be used by pupils should school have to close due to inclement weather. We do have a class Glow page where they can also access this letter and activities suggested.

At the start of this term we will be preparing for the annual Burns Supper. Pupils will have songs and words to learn as homework and I appreciate your help in encouraging them to learn these. They will have the opportunity to perform this to you on Monday 22nd January at 2.45pm in the PE hall. I look forward to seeing you all then if you can manage along.

For our project this term we are looking at Japan. This topic will have us researching the geography of the country in comparison to Scotland, the weather patterns that it exhibits, Japanese cartoon characters and this growing industry and other industries. We will also be trying out our cooking skills and looking at the history of Japan, with a particular reference to Pearl Harbour and World War 2. Aspects of our topic will also be the stimulus for our language, art and drama.

Our Primary sixes will also be working alongside the other sixes to prepare for Euroquiz. They will each have an individual country that they will be researching with a team from the other class and this will involve researching at home as well as research time in school.

PE this term will be on Monday and Thursday mornings. We will be looking at raquet skills involving different raquet games such as badminton and tennis. 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 percentages and relating them to previous learning of fractions and decimals. They will also focus on uncertainty and chance, time durations using both analogue and digital clocks and reading of timetables in relation to journey times, negative numbers and patterns and sequence.

Primary 6 will be looking at multiplication and division, multiply 3 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers, also patterns of multiplying by 10s, 100s and 1000s in relation to all numbers including decimals. They will be using the terminology of factors, multiples and products. They will also be using the terminology of measure and practical activities related to that. Angle names and using a protractor to measure angle will feature here.

Our written work will link largely to our topic but we will also focus on aspects of writing such as paragraphing and sub-heading. Our grammar will focus on commas and varying tenses.

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

I look forward to welcoming you to our Assembly which will be held on Monday 22nd January. 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