

Friday 1st September, 2017

Good afternoon all, and welcome to Primary 2!

I cannot believe that we are already into September and this is only the second week back into school! I do hope that you all had a lovely summer and I can tell that the children are all back refreshed and ready to work hard and learn. Everyone seems to have settled into P2 very well and the routines are now embedded with just little things to sort out!

Our current time-table is taking shape and we have the following throughout term one:

 Monday - ICT – using the computers to work for us – accessing, using and closing

 down …

– Music/Drama/Health and Well-being - Confidence-boosting and caring for each other

 Assembly

Tuesday - Science with Mrs Middleton – Magnetism and Forces – making things move

Wednesday - PE in the Hall – ball skills and teamwork

Thursday - Story-writing – using “Big Talk” homework

- RME (Bible stories and world religions)

Friday - Library

- Golden Time

It is important that the children come to school ready to work. I suggest that they always bring their pencil cases, with 3 sharp pencils, a ruler, eraser and colouring pencils. To cater for PE within school, I suggest that the PE kit – black shorts, white aertex with white/grey socks – comes in to school in a PE bag every Monday and goes home every Friday to allow washing and checking the kit and indoor shoes.

Library books should come into school every Friday and a new book should be ‘borrowed’ which should come home every Friday for reading at home. Any homework issued will be on a weekly basis e.g. Spelling on Monday for the following Monday. The spelling words should be practised as much as possible at home and I have offered guidelines for activities in the spelling jotter, but these do not **have** to be completed, they are purely guidelines if your son or daughter wanted something a little different – this can be done on any paper or, if you wish, in the blank spelling jotter provided – please look after the jotter as it will be the point of reference for spellings when I undertake any assessments with the children. Spelling will also be practised within school. Reading, however, should be undertaken every night where practical – either the reading book or an alternative. It is important to have the children “used” to reading and discussing what they read.

The children are attempting to read and select their lunches independently. With this in mind, it may be helpful if you discuss your child’s choice with him/her and they are more prepared for the options. We enjoy taking this reading opportunity, and the children are able to sound, or read, the options.

The children are now enjoying being the Class Messenger, and having Hamish McHaggis, the ‘Class Bear’ home to share with us on his return. The children are encouraged to write about Hamish’s adventures and include photographs if possible. The children read their own input to the class and this is offering them the opportunity to further develop some presentation skills, such as delivery and projection. Additional items in Hamish’s bag have been presents from previous children. Our topic over this term, and some of next, is Scotland and its Islands through the books of “Katie Morag” – we hope to enjoy this topic and learn loads – we are already establishing Scotland as part of Great Britain and discussing villages, towns, cities and capital cities.

Now some “**dates for diaries**”:

Monday 4th September – ALEC BUS visit – Our Healthy Bodies

 - Parent Staff Association AGM 7pm - staff room

Wednesday 14th September – Parent Council AGM 7pm – staff room

Wednesday 27th September – Parent/Teacher Consultations – 6 – 8.30pm

Thursday 28th September – Parent/Teacher Consultations – 3.45 – 6.15pm

\*note – Curriculum Evening Thursday 2nd November 6 – 7pm

Friday 13th October – Last day of Term 1

We continue to ensure literacy and numeracy practice every day with the opportunity for the children to make some personal choices within their activities. Currently, we continue to focus on phonics to aid decoding and encoding skills, handwriting and addition and subtraction within 10, extending beyond to 20. Our current focus is on quantitative number encouraging the children to link quantity with number name and actual amount. Number lines have been introduced to 10 and this will extend as appropriate. Children also have some “free choice” time where activities are geared towards fine motor skill development and social skill development. Although there is no fixed Art time this term, the children will be offered ample opportunities to draw and create.

I am very excited about working with you all and your children and look forward to seeing the progress we can achieve. If you have any queries, or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me either in the mornings or afternoons in the playgrounds, or by telephone or by Homework Diary – I am very aware that you know your child best, and your input is invaluable to me. Always grateful for your support!

Regards.

Shona Bloice