**P1/2A - Term 3 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break. We have another busy term ahead of us.

**Weekly Timetable**

There are no significant changes to our timetable this term. However, here is a reminder just for reference.

Assembly Monday afternoon

Gym Sessions Monday and Thursday

Golden Time Friday morning

This term we will also continue to work with the following teachers:

Thursday Outdoor Learning Miss Sang

Friday French/RME Mrs Muir

Please continue to ensure that children have suitable footwear and a warm jacket for their outdoor learning sessions.

**Homework**

Homework tasks will continue to vary from week to week. For some children, reading will still be set as homework two or three times a week. We will continue to monitor and assess the development of every pupil’s reading skills. Please remember that the reading books your child takes home to share are only one small part of the reading “package.”

As well as looking for fluency, expression and accurate tracking when reading, pupils need to develop a number of related skills to become confident and competent readers. These include being able to decode unknown phonetic words through sounding out and blending and being able to sight recognise words that do not spell phonetically. Pupils are also required to transfer these skills when reading pieces of text outwith their class reading book. Finally, the level of verbal and written comprehension each child displays needs to match with the level they are reading at. It is so important that pupils can process and understand what they have read, not just read the words on the page. If you need any further guidance please let us know.

For pupils in primary 2 who receive spelling homework, this will continue to be issued on a Monday to learn and practise for Friday.

**Topic**

This term we will continue to look at items from the past, with a focus on toys. We will also be taking part in activities during Fair Trade fortnight to help the children learn about the meaning of Fair Trade and why it is important.

In addition, we will be taking part in the RSPB bird watch, which will enable us to observe and identify birds in our area and learn how we can help to care for wild birds. As Burns night is fast approaching we will also be exploring Scottish poems, songs, stories and dances. A short Scottish verse will soon be sent home for children to try to learn.

**Literacy**

In P1, we will continue to introduce new sounds and revisit sounds previously covered. Phonics homework will continue to go out on a weekly basis. Please continue to encourage your child to identify sounds that they hear, to help develop their phonological awareness. If your child is keen to write, try to encourage correct letter formation. Some P1 pupils will begin to attempt to write simple sentences independently this Term.

In P2, pupils will continue to develop their writing skills and we will encourage all of the children to work as independently as possible, using more complex vocabulary. They will learn about spelling words containing magic “e” and how to use past and future tense when writing. We will continue to revisit alphabetical order, nouns, adjectives and the spelling of common words and support pupils to transfer their grammar knowledge into written tasks.

The children will visit the school library every Friday. They will have the opportunity to browse and select a book of their choice to share at home. Please help to remind children to return their books every Friday as this will ensure that they are able to select another one.

**Numeracy**

This term most primary 1 pupils will continue to focus on addition and subtraction within 10 whilst exploring number order and value with larger numbers. We will also be revisiting and extending previous learning about 2D and 3D shape.

Most primary 2 pupils will be consolidating and extending their understanding of addition and subtraction to 20, mystery number and number families. Some pupils will also begin to explore numbers beyond 20 and place value. Pupils will have a variety of resources available to help them solve mathematical problems, however, we will still be encouraging them to develop their ability to recall basic number facts. As always, your help and support with this is appreciated. [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) is a great resource to support children in their learning.

**Helpful Reminders**

* Please ensure your child brings their green book bag to school **every day** so that we can send home notes, reading books, homework etc as and when required.
* Please also ensure you sign or initial your child’s yellow homework diary to show that you have listened to your child’s reading.
* Interim pupil reports will be stuck into homework diaries on the week beginning the 27th of January. Please read these and sign and/or leave a comment to acknowledge receipt of the report.

Best Wishes,

Mrs McDonald