**August 2020 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are so pleased to welcome everyone back to Fishermoss! It has been lovely to see all the children again and to meet the new pupils who have joined us in Primary 2. We look forward to getting everyone settled into the routines of our class and appreciate, that after schools being closed for such a long period of time, some pupils may take longer to settle in than in normal circumstances. We also understand that parents and carers may have questions and anxieties about the return to school. We hope this newsletter might address some of these as it will give you an idea of the routines of our class and the aspects of learning that we will be exploring. If you have other questions, please phone the school and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Please remember that we will not be able to come to the phone when we are teaching the class. Alternatively, you could write a note in your child’s yellow homework diary as the diaries are checked most days for any correspondence.

**Timetable**

* **Mrs Bryson is the class teacher on Monday/ Tuesday** and **Mrs Cameron is the class teacher on Wednesday/ Thursday/ Friday**.
* **PE** is on a **Monday** and a **Thursday** each week and **PE sessions will take place outside.** To save pupils bringing in gym kits and the need for them to change, it might be helpful if pupils just wear something appropriate for outdoor gym to school on those days. For example, they could wear black joggers or leggings and trainers. They would not require a separate t-shirt. Please remember that the advice is that school clothes should be washed daily and, by not taking in a gym kit, this will mean parents would be washing one outfit instead of washing uniform and gym kit items on PE days.
* **Mrs Storey** will be in the class on a **Tuesday** morning and will be teaching **RME**.
* **Mrs Muir** will be in the class first thing on a **Wednesday morning** up to break time and will be teaching **practical maths**. Please note, Mrs Muir will collect the line on a Wednesday morning to bring the children into school.
* **Mrs Bragg** will continue to support our class as a PSA for periods of time throughout the week as well as supporting one of the Primary 1 classes.
* **Golden Time** will be on a **Friday** but due to current restrictions to keep everyone safe and healthy it will not consist of the same activities as last year. **We would also ask that pupils do not bring toys in from home for Golden Time or on other school days.**

**Curriculum**

We appreciate that there will be a wide variation as to the types and number of activities pupils were able to complete during lockdown and the time/ support that was available at home to assist children with tasks. For this reason, it may take us a little longer than normal to assess where each child is in their learning and which learning gaps need to be addressed now we have returned to school. **Our priority is to ensure that the children are happy and settled in the class so that they are ready to learn.**

**Literacy**

* Reading will be heard in class as normal and reading books will go home but once the books are returned to school, they must be quarantined at school for 72 hours before they can be given to another pupil. For this reason, we would really appreciate if reading books could be handed back when they are due, or this may leave us short of books for other reading groups who are waiting on them. For many of the infant books, we only have six books of the same title which are used across the infant stages. Please don’t be alarmed if your child is given books that they have read before as it may be that they need to revisit some books to regain their confidence or because they need to build up particular skills again following lockdown. For example, they may need to build back up their reading fluency, comprehension skills or word attack strategies and revising previous titles can help with this.
* Pupils will continue to develop their knowledge of sounds and blending sounds together to build words. Most pupils will be increasing their knowledge of joined sounds and how to apply this knowledge to spell more complex words.
* The children will be encouraged to write as independently as possible during all written tasks. For those pupils that are not yet ready for independent writing we will continue to scribe their ideas but encourage them to write any shorter, less complex words by themselves or to copy under/ over the teacher’s writing to help them further develop their letter formation and understanding of finger spacing and sentences.

**Numeracy**

* Most pupils will revise and consolidate their knowledge of numbers to 20 before moving on to addition and subtraction within 20. Pupils will complete tasks related to smaller or larger numbers as appropriate to their level of recall, knowledge and confidence on return to school.
* Mrs Muir will complete weekly practical maths tasks linked to topics such as data handling, shape, or money, for example.

**Topic**

Our topic this Term will be Transport and will compare and explore transport and travel in the past with travel and transport in the present day. We will also be learning about Night and Day during science lessons and will some of our learning will be based around the story “The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark” by Jill Tomlinson.

**Homework**

* Spelling/ Phonics homework will be sent home once a week when we have assessed which sounds each child can recall, recognise and form correctly.
* Reading will be sent home and again, once we have grouped the children accordingly, each group will have set reading days. Reading tasks will be set and recorded in the homework diaries. On occasion, because of Bank holidays or Inservice days, your child’s reading days will be different to the normal days, but this will be clearly recorded in your child’s homework diary.
* We will not be sending home written maths homework this Term but would encourage you to continue working with your child to develop their mental maths skills. This would include recalling and reciting the numbers 0-20 in order and in reverse order, progressing to larger numbers when confident. It would also include encouraging your child to answer quick-fire questions about number bonds to 10 (and 20 for those that are ready) such as 6+1, 7+3, 2+5 and the doubles to 10 (and 20 for those that are ready) e.g. 1+1, 2+2, 3+3 and so on. It is also worthwhile spending some time checking that your child can confidently recognise the numbers to 10 (and 20) and form them correctly. This doesn’t have to be done with a pen or pencil but could be done by forming the numbers in play dough and tracing over the shapes with a finger, writing in shaving foam or gloop, writing the number in the air or on someone’s back and asking them to guess what you have written etc.

**Our Class Charter**

We worked together to create our own set of rules for the class. Our class charter is

* Be sensible.
* Be kind to others.
* Listen carefully.
* Don’t disturb other classes.
* Look after your belongings.
* Put you hand up when you need help or want to share something.
* Be patient. Wait your turn.
* Talk in a quiet voice.

We would appreciate it if you would discuss the importance of following the class charter and school’s golden rules. The golden rules can be found on the first page in your child’s homework diary. Please can you and your child sign and date them as soon as possible! Thank you for your co-operation!

**Learning Celebration Books**

In P2 the children will begin to record learning/achievements that they are proud of in Learning Celebration Jotters. They will bring them home for you to look at, add a little comment to and then they must be returned to school. These books will come home as and when your child wishes to share a particular piece of learning with you.

**Parent or Carer/Teacher consultations**

Information about how these will be arranged will follow at a later date.

**Helpful tips**

* We have made up individual packs containing pencils and other day to day resources for every child. For this reason, it is not necessary that pupils bring their own pencil cases to school but if they may choose to do so.
* Children will not be changing shoes and PE will be outdoors so they will not require indoor gym shoes.
* We will be washing hands regularly throughout the day and using hand sanitiser. If you are concerned that you child’s skin may be affected, then please supply sanitiser that you are happy with or hand cream that your child can apply themselves after washing/ sanitising. Please ensure any such items are clearly labelled with your child’s name and class.
* Please supply your child with a freshly filled water bottle each day as this will mean they won’t need to access the water fountain to have a drink. Remember that water is the only drink which can be taken into the classroom and to clearly label your child’s bottle with their name and class.
* Labelling all school clothing and shoes is useful even though pupils won’t be changing for gym. It would amaze you how things can go walk about! Labelling outdoor jackets is also useful as children do accidentally leave jackets outside if they take them off after getting too hot and forget to bring them back in. If they are clearly labelled, it is much easier for the jacket to find its way back to the owner.

If there is anything else we can help you with or something you wish to discuss, please don’t hesitate to get in touch,

Best Regards

Mrs Bryson and Mrs Cameron