August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to you and your child to Primary 3.

Mrs Storey and I have been getting to know the children, building positive relationships with them and ensuring they feel at ease in their new classroom (Room 8). With such a long period out of school, we were prepared for the possibility that the children would be anxious beyond the expected ‘back to school’ worries most children experience. I’m pleased to report however that we are really happy with how well the children have settled in.

\*WELCOME\*

 TO PRIMARY 3!

As always, the children’s health and wellbeing is a priority and the first few days were used to talk about lockdown, and to allow the children to express any worries they may have had. They were shown how other children spent this time via the website Shine a Light on Lockdown in Aberdeenshire. (Well worth a visit if you have not already done so.) They also loved making their very own ‘Worry Doll’ with Mrs Storey. Emotions and feelings will continue as a focus within **Health and Wellbeing** this term. Each ‘bubble’ of children also produced their ideas of what expectations we should have of each other in class, to help us work to the best of our abilities and to respect one another. I was pleased with how well the children communicated their ideas especially considering they were still getting to know their teacher. Talk of manners, property, and “not talking” were all aired and discussed. These ideas were shared and agreed on this week and our Class Charter produced and signed via the children’s handprints. (Please see the Class Charter document to see what the children agreed on.)

As you know, Mrs Storey teaches on a Monday and I teach Tuesday to Friday. During my non class teaching time Mrs Storey will take the children for PE on a Tuesday and Miss MacBean will cover my non class teaching time every second week (beginning next Wednesday 26/08) where she plans to teach the children drama and have them take part in circle time.

**P.E**

P.E is taking place outside. Appropriate, comfortable footwear should be provided. Pupils are still wearing their outdoor shoes within school, but shoes may be changed for P.E. P.E takes place on Mondays and Thursdays. In addition to this, we have and will continue to do “The Daily Mile” to further enhance the children’s health and well being.

**Diaries and homework**

The diary is now going to and from school every day to enable communication. Could you please encourage your child to bring the diary to us if it contains a message from you. The children’s reading books will be distributed soon. It is possible your child may be on a different level than before Summer, however we hope that repetition will build confidence and consolidate their learning.

We are currently revising the phonics and spelling words from last term before commencing with the P3 programme. From Monday the 7th of September, Mrs Storey will issue spelling words and an activity related to a new phoneme as homework. It would benefit your child greatly if they could practise these words over the week and return this homework to Mrs Storey the following Monday when a spelling check will take place.

Now and again, we may request that you discuss a topic/memory etc with your child so they are ready to put their ideas to paper during ‘Big Writing’. We will put a Talk Homework Slip in the diaries, telling you what your child is going to be writing about. We hope you will have a short discussion, no longer than 10 minutes, to help generate ideas about what your child could write about.

If you have any questions re homework, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

It is the time of year for you and your child to read and discuss the Golden Rules together (located on the first page of the diary). Please sign below the Golden Rules to indicate you have read and agree to them.

**Water Bottles**

Thank you for providing your child with water via their water bottles. It is important that we do not empty out yesterdays old water at our sinks. Please ensure you wash the bottle daily and fill with fresh water for your child’s use at school. (Water only please.) Remind your child that they need to remember to take their bottle home. Please label your child’s bottle.

**Learning Celebration Books**

Now and again these may be taken home with examples of work the children are proud of, or with a certificate from their teacher when your child has done something we feel warrants our appreciation and attention. Once you have enjoyed the book together, could you please leave some feedback for your child and then return it to school to allow for further communication of this kind.

**Covid-19**

Thank you for talking to your child about the importance of hand washing and for washing children’s hands before coming to school. The children have taken this in their stride and are adjusting well to this new routine.

We’d be grateful if you could encourage your child to not bring toys or other unnecessary personal items to school. It is really hard for the children NOT to share their items, or bring these items into class, but due to Covid-19 these items cannot be shared. Thank you.

**Footwear**

As you know, pupils no longer change into indoor footwear.  They will only require a change of shoes for days they have PE. However, pupils can bring a change of footwear with them if wellies or heavy boots have had to be worn due to adverse weather. Changes of footwear will need to go home at the end of each day to ensure cloakrooms are clear for cleaning purposes.

**Maths**

We are currently recapping addition and subtraction to 20. We are working on the children’s abilities to use different strategies to arrive at an answer as well as expressing their thinking via ‘number talks’ before we move on to numbers to 100. On a Monday the children will also cover money with Mrs Storey.

**Topic**

This terms we will be learning about Light and Sound. I’m sure this topic will be an exciting one and will allow both science to be learned and the children’s creativity to shine.

**Literacy**

As mentioned above the children are introduced to phonemes and spelling words on a Monday and these are revisited over the week. ‘Big Writing’ strategies will be used to build their writing skills by looking at VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation) alongside studying familiar stories to model what good writing looks like.

Please don’t hesitate to get in contact if you have any concerns and we will get in touch as soon as we can.

Yours Sincerely,

Adele Kevan and Jenny Storey.

