

August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all managed to enjoy some family time together over the summer break. It was lovely to finally welcome the children into primary one at Fishermoss, although it was definitely not the start that any of us anticipated. They all looked very smart and grown up in their new uniforms and it has been great getting to know them all. The children are already learning about the routines of school and are enjoying their experiences both within and beyond classroom. The start time for P1 will remain as 9.10am, with children being collected at 3.10pm.

The children are looking forward to spending more time in school next week, especially staying for lunch! Each morning the children will select their lunch choice from the menu, your support with helping to make sure your child is aware of their school lunch choice or whether they are home or packed lunch is very much appreciated. If you wish to take your child home for lunch, they can be collected at 12.20pm, this will be from the basketball court area where they line up in the morning.

The children have already taken home their green folders and school diaries, please try to remind children to take this to school each day and to check for any homework or letters that may have been issued. We will check the school diaries each day for correspondence from yourselves, however, this may not always be first thing in the morning, therefore if your message is urgent please either ask your child to ensure they pass their diary to us or email the school office.

The school golden rules have been discussed with the children and a copy can be found in the homework diary, please take time to discuss these with your child and sign the page. The children will be trying hard to follow the school's Golden Rules and classroom rules to ensure they receive all their Golden Time. They have come up with their own rules for our class. These are:

- Be good listeners.
- Listen to other people and put your hand up if you want to say something.
- Use quiet voices.
- Look after everyone's things and don't touch your friend's property without asking.
- Be nice to each other and don't hurt anyone.
- Help tidy up.
- Don't run in school.
- Remember to tell an adult if you need to leave the classroom.
- Line up nicely.
- Wash your hands.

The children will have PE on Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon. All PE sessions will be taking place outdoors. Due to current circumstances, we will not be changing for our PE sessions, therefore you may wish for your child to wear something appropriate for outdoor gym on those days, such as joggers, leggings and trainers. Weather

permitting, we will be also be taking the children outside for outdoor learning opportunities as much as possible, therefore please ensure they have a jacket to accommodate for cooler days and the ever-changing Scottish weather. It may also be beneficial for children to wear welly boots on wet or muddy days, as we may even use these days for learning experiences outdoors too!

We will be supported in class by Mrs Bragg, our wonderful PSA, at various points throughout the week. Mrs Bragg will also be a familiar face in the lunch hall and in the school playground. This term the children will also be working with the following teachers:

Tuesday	RME	Mrs Storey
Wednesday	Drama	Miss MacBean (This will be every second week)

### Literacy

We will soon start having fun learning our Jolly Phonics sounds through songs, crafts and outdoor activities. Children will begin to develop their knowledge and understanding of the initial sounds, starting with the letters s,a,t,p,i and n. Each of the sounds are accompanied with an action, which you will all soon become familiar with. We will also focus on detecting and creating rhyme, identifying word boundaries and the number of syllables within a word. Children will also begin to practise forming letters correctly using a variety of resources. Children will have homework every week to help them revise the sounds and support the formation of the letter. Your support at this stage is so important and very much appreciated. When pupils are using pens or pencils, we will encourage them to use a correct, secure pencil grip. Where pupils have not yet developed an effective grip, they will complete fun, engaging fine motor activities to help them to increase their fine motor strength and control.

In school the children are beginning to learn about the characters they will find within their reading books, which they may begin to take home towards the end of term. They will also take home their first word wall, to support them in learning the characters names and begin learning some of the common words. A short time spent discussing the books, exploring the pictures within them and learning the words each day will really help your child. Through questioning, the picture books they are taking home will help to develop vital comprehension skills before they move on to books containing words. The example questions within the support leaflets, which are sent home with each book, will help you support your child with this at home. Please remember that your child is an individual and not all children will be ready to learn to read at the same time. As a result, pupils will progress through reading books and the sets of common words at their own pace.



## Numeracy

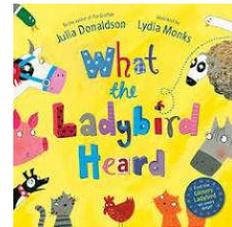
We will begin by working with numbers to 10 and developing their skills at reciting, recognising, ordering and counting to 10. They will also practise correctly forming the numerals 0-10 using a variety of different media, for example, finger paints, sand or shaving foam. We will also be looking at days of the week and investigating patterns.



To support your child with this you could make patterns with Lego or look for simple patterns in everyday items such as clothes, wall or wrapping paper and items in the outdoor environment. Your child's numeracy development can be encouraged through discussion during visits to the supermarket, counting cars on journeys to and from school, baking, playing games with a dice, dominoes or other fun learning games.

## Topic

This Term we will be sharing some of the wonderful stories written by Julia Donaldson and using these as a stimulus to explore a variety of themes including starting school, our family, friendships, homes and the local environment. By listening to these stories, pupils will have opportunities to pick out and discuss interesting vocabulary, identify rhyming words and practise sequencing a familiar story. We will create a variety of art and craft pieces linked to the books and use some of the stories as a basis for our own story writing.



## Helpful Tips

It would be helpful if you could ensure that all your child's belongings are named, to make it easier to find out who missing items belong to.

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle into school to help keep them hydrated throughout the day, often we have many similar bottles so please ensure that these are also clearly labelled.

We are unable to use school aprons as this moment in time, therefore you may wish for your child to bring their own apron or an old t-shirt, which can be kept in their tray, to use for our messy or wet activities.

If you have any worries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch by either putting a note in the homework diary, contacting the school office or e-mailing me at [gw14mcdonaldjanelle@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14mcdonaldjanelle@glow.sch.uk). I may not be able to respond straight away but I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you all this year.

Best Wishes,

Mrs McDonald