Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. We hope you all had a lovely October break. The children are all getting back into the swing of things. They seem happy, animated and eager to learn.

This newsletter contains some details of the learning which will be taking place this term, as well as some requests and reminders. Our timetable is very similar to last term. Mrs Storey teaches on a Monday and I teach Tuesday to Friday. During my non class teaching time on a Tuesday, Mrs Storey will take the children for PE and Mrs Muir will cover Wednesday afternoons every second week (beginning this Wednesday afternoon). Sadly Miss MacBean will no longer be with us. We are all sorry to see Miss MacBean go as the children loved their drama session with her especially, but I am sure they will have just as much fun and learning with Mrs Muir.

**Spelling** will be more of a priority this term with an extra session being devoted to it. As I discussed with many of you during our parent consultations, the majority of children will recap some spelling sounds that need to be consolidated. Each child’s words have been added to their diaries so please encourage and support your child to both read AND spell these by the following Monday. It’s best if this is done frequently as opposed to one session on a Sunday night. We will of course, be covering this in school too, but the repetition they receive at home does support their learning. Thank you so much for your help with this.

As mentioned above, **PE** takes place on Tuesday and Thursday and will continue outdoors due to the COVID guidance that we must follow. Please provide warm clothing and suitable footwear. Removable layers such as jogging bottoms and waterproof jackets are acceptable, indeed advisable. Please be guided by the weather and provide what is suitable for that day’s conditions. Our focus this term is Orienteering so we will be learning map skills as well as keeping fit.

On the subject of Scottish weather and COVID, you will be aware that ventilation is another rule we must adhere to. This means the **classroom windows are open**. Please provide warm clothing for your child. A warm vest would be advisable. Thank you.

Our **Light and Sound topic** will continue. We have already begun by look at reflection and the best materials to reflect light. This links nicely with our **class novel** Hodgeheg where road safety is the main theme, as we follow the adventures of Max the hedgehog as he observes how humans safely cross the road.

**Maths**

We will begin multiplication and division very soon. This builds on the recent work of counting in twos, threes, fours and fives. If your child wishes to practice more maths at home, the website Topmarks (<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>) is worth a visit. The Hit the Button game allows various options including Number Bonds and Times Tables. With Number Bonds, work up to and within 10 until your child is very confident before moving onto ‘Up to 20’. With the Times Tables, begin with the two times table then move onto the 5 then 10 times tables. Sometimes children find ticking noises stressful. If so turn off the sound. (Can I stress that this is not homework but purely optional.) Mrs Storey will cover time with the children on a Monday covering ‘half past’ in digital and analogue, days of the week and months of the year.

**Literacy**

‘Big Writing’ strategies will continue to be used to build the children’s writing skills with a focus on on VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation). We are off to a great start this session. During the children’s art session they made a fantastic haunted house which has inspired some great descriptive writing with the use of many very interesting adjectives.

On the 10th of November we will have a **Curricular Evening** within Google Classroom. Your child will be able to talk to you about their learning via question prompts and a video of the classroom. We are setting Google Classroom up at the moment for your child. Details will follow soon on how to access this. If anyone does not have the equipment to allow internet access at home, please let us know.

**Reminders/Requests:**

**Water Bottles**. Please ensure your child has a fresh water bottle every day.

**Art overalls**. Please provide an apron or suitable alternative such as an old shirt so we can keep the children’s school uniforms clean.

**Shoe box appeal**. The deadline for these is this Friday.

**Poppies**. This week, your child can receive a poppy if you wish to give a donation.

**PSA Christmas Card Fundraiser.** Artwork should be back to school for the 12th of Nov. (See the email sent out 5/10 for details.)

As you can see, it’s a busy term ahead!

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

Kind regards,

Adele Kevan and Jenny Storey.