**P7 Newsletter and Introduction to Home Learning for January**

Well, it is not the start to the New Year and New Term that we hoped for but nevertheless I am delighted to welcome pupils back and I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays and had some family fun despite the restrictions. I am writing to you to give you a flavour of what P7 will be learning this term and share information outlining how Home Learning will be provided and what to expect on Google Classroom each day. As class teachers we have each created a suggested ‘Typical week’ timetable for those families who may which to recreate a school day at home and also to provide extra ideas and activities if required.

I will start with literacy, we will be following our usual schedule of activities including spelling, grammar, comprehension and writing and building on note taking skills as we focus on reading for meaning, facts and opinions and learning about using sources and then citing them in pieces of writing. Much of this will be through the context of our topic for this term. In grammar we will be revisiting similes initially. With technology being used more during this period it will naturally help with using ICT skills in writing and up-levelling work in response to feedback. We will also be writing instructions, factual pieces including reports and looking at poetry.

Maths this term will encompass some revision of skills already taught but also introducing new areas. We will begin with multiples, primes and factors as well as area and perimeter where the pupils will be able to do some practical measuring at home. We will move on with our study of decimals with the introduction of multiplying and dividing numbers up to 2 decimal places (as appropriate for your child). We will also consider decimal fractions and percentages such as 0.1 being 10% as well as revising previous P6 work on fractions and fractions of quantities for example 1/5 of 50 being 10. Negative numbers will be introduced (with the weather being so chilly the children will already be aware of temperatures in the negative numbers!) and I am also hoping to cover some shape work.

Our Topic this term will be Japan although we will also spend some time studying the life and works of Robert Burns. The children will have a chance to share their ideas to fully plan our Topic work but we will start with some map work and look at the geography of Japan so if you have an Atlas at home it would be helpful to look it out.

The teachers that the class would normally have at other times in the week will be providing online assignments, Ms. Ruxton with French on a Monday and Miss Mellis with PE on a Tuesday so that will give the children variety alongside what I will provide.

I would encourage your children to keep reading, it is hard to provide physical books as the library is currently closed and it is not possible to visit bookshops but there are a variety of online resources you can use. Epic Reading is available but I would also encourage you to make use of the Aberdeenshire Library service as it is very simple to download apps where you can read eBooks, magazines and newspapers all for free.

As always I am here to help and support where I can and you can contact me through my GLOW email which is gw15middletoncatheri@glow.sch.uk or through the comments on Google classroom. I will always respond but I would ask for patience if I cannot do so straight away, as like the majority of you I will also be juggling my job with homeschooling my children!

That concludes my Term 3 Newsletter but I will now go on to explain the links and timetable I referred to.

I have created the following timetable to help, if needed, to structure a typical ‘school day’. As before, there will be three assigned tasks every day, how long they take to complete will vary from child to child but I have suggested roughly an hour. If your child completes tasks more quickly then there is a wealth of other activities and websites available (detailed below but not exhaustive of course!). Also, if a particular task requires longer to complete then please remember the other activities are merely suggestions. If your child is completing the three assigned tasks each day and reading a book each week that is plenty and there is NO pressure to do any more. The attached timetable is merely provided to help if parents would like a ‘typical school day’ at home or if your child is eager to do more on a given day. I am not asking, nor expecting families to follow this timetable each day as I am very aware of how challenging home learning is and please be assured that I am here to support in any way I can.

Please make sure that your child can log into Glow to access Google classroom, has their Sumdog login details, can access Epic Reading (class code tiw4410) and Education City. All log in details should be in diaries but can be resent if needed. All class work will be set on Google Classroom and available from 9am each day. Feedback and marking will be returned within 24 hours of the assignment being due in, please be patient if comments and queries are not answered straight away but rest assured that all communication will be responded to in a timely manner. Can I also remind you about Children’s University as this may be an ideal time to sign up and get some credits! Miss Anderson had previously emailed information to you but just let me know if it has gone astray!

**Resource List – this is a lengthy list but will have a variety of links that can be used. I will also add simple science experiment, puzzles and colouring activities weekly to our online classroom.**

**General Resources**

The BBC are providing three hours of lessons on the CBBC channel from 9am daily, also available on the Red Button and iplayer. The BBC also has a fantastic website to support learning <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

The school website has links for home learning <https://fishermoss.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/home-learning-links/>

Education Scotland Home learning website <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/>

Twinkl Parent Hub <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>

**Numeracy Resources**

Sumdog <https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign_in> please note that when you Log in you have the ability to select skills so you can use Sumdog to focus on key areas of maths.

Education City (also for Literacy) <https://www.educationcity.com/>

Top Marks <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

Crick Numeracy <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy.html>

Oxford Owl (good for revision of key areas) <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/maths/primary-maths-age-9-10-year-5/>

Khan Academy (can adjust level within website) <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-fifth-grade-math>

Every School <https://www.everyschool.co.uk/maths.html>

Maths Zone <https://mathszone.co.uk/>

**Literacy Resources**

Get Epic! <https://www.getepic.com/> and use class code

The Aberdeenshire Library service has many online services, free to get a library card if you do not have one and it is very simple to download eBooks which can be read on tablets/phones <https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries>

Oxford Owl <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Spelling <https://spellingframe.co.uk/>

Every School <https://www.everyschool.co.uk/english.html>

Crick Literacy <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html>

10-minute Author Challenges (this is a FAB website) <https://authorfy.com/10minutechallenges/>

English Games <https://www.funenglishgames.com/readinggames.html>

Literacy Zone <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/literacy/>

**Science and Technology**

Maddie and Greg Let’s go Live- a collection of 60videos <https://www.youtube.com/user/maddiemoate?reload=9>

Scratch Coding <https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Hour of Code <https://hourofcode.com/uk>

NASA Kid’s Club <https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>

National Geographic <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

**Art**

Draw with Rob <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpgrJijMpk_pyp9uTbxLdg>

**Puzzles and Games**

<https://www.puzzles-to-print.com/word-searches-for-kids/>

Boggle <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/games/wordshake>

***Here follows (if needed) a suggested Timetable, please feel free to use the above links to access maths games, online reading and other activities.***

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| Day | 9.00 - 10.00am | 10.00- 10.30am | 11.00 am to 12.20 pm | 1.20 - 2. 20 pm | 2.20 - 3.20 pm |
| Monday | Literacy Task | Reading | Numeracy Task and Maths Revision/Games | Other Curricular Area Task | Time Outside! If weather poor, then play a board game or do a puzzle.  |
| Tuesday | Numeracy Task | Maths Games | Literacy Task and go over spelling words | Other Curricular Area task | 2.20-3.00 pm Reading Time3.00-3.20pm Book detective task of your choosing |
| Wednesday | Literacy Task | Reading | Numeracy Task | Get crafty! Draw a picture or use any craft materials you have to create a masterpiece. You could do mindful colouring if you enjoy that.  | Other Curricular Area task |
| Thursday | Numeracy Task | Puzzle time! Do a wordsearch or some Boggle. | Literacy Task and reading. | 1.20 Class Catch up on Meet | Other Curricular Area task |
| Friday | Literacy Task | Reading | Numeracy Task and finish off tasks | Other Curricular Area task | Science/Technology timeYou could code, try a simple experiment or you can use this time to do some extra reading. |