**August 2021 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are so pleased to welcome everyone back to Fishermoss!  We look forward to getting everyone settled into the routines of our class and appreciate, that after the long summer break, some pupils may take longer to settle in than others.  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. You can also email the school and your query will be forwarded to us.  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 **Wednesday and a Friday**each week and **PE sessions will take place outside.**  Please ensure pupils 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.
* **Mrs Storey** will be in the class on a **Tuesday** morning and will be teaching **RME**.
* **Miss Kevan** will be in the class first thing on a **Wednesday morning** and will be teaching **P.E**.  Please note, Miss Kevan will collect the line on a Wednesday morning to bring the children into school.
* **Mrs Gibb**will support our class as a PSA for periods of time throughout the week as well as supporting the other Primary 2 class.
* **Golden Time**will be on a**Friday.  We would ask that pupils do not bring toys in from home for Golden Time or on other school days.**

**Curriculum**

Over the first few weeks we will be assessing our children to see where they are in their learning and which learning gaps need to be addressed now that 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 and reading books will go home.  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.  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.  Some 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.

**Topic**

Our topic this Term will be My Home and we will examine different house types and develop our map skills.  We will also explore Transport and Travel and compare travel and transport in the past with the present day.

**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 kind.
* Listen carefully.
* Don’t talk over others. Wait your turn.
* Be patient.
* Follow the golden rules.
* Use your manners.
* Look after each other.

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.

**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 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, at the moment.
* 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.  As we are a health promoting school, 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