August 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to welcome the children into primary one last week. They all looked very smart and grown up in their new uniforms and it has been great getting to know them all. They are already learning about the routines of school and are enjoying their experiences both within and beyond classroom. We really are delighted at how well they are settling in.

Next week the children will be attending full days, starting at 9.00am and finishing at 3.20pm. Many of them are already looking forward to spending more time in school, especially staying for lunch! We have already had a little visit to the lunch hall, to help us learn about the lunchtime routine. When they begin full days, the children will select their lunch choice from the menu every morning, 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 12.50pm, this will be from the same area where they are collected at the end of the day.

Children will soon be taking home their green folders and school diaries, please try to remind children to take them 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 contact the school office.

During this term we will have PE on Tuesday and Friday. We are hoping to have most of our PE sessions outdoors, weather permitting, therefore you may wish for your child to wear something appropriate for outdoor gym on those days, such as joggers, leggings and trainers. They can come to school wearing these on gym days, which will also help to save time with getting changed too. We will also be taking the children outside for outdoor learning opportunities as much as possible, therefore please ensure they have a jacket and appropriate footwear, such as wellies, to accommodate for cooler days and the ever-changing Scottish weather.

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 also in the school playground. This term the children will also be working with the following teachers:

Thursday PE/Music Miss Mellis

Miss Anderson will also support us on a Wednesday morning, working with individuals and small groups of children to both support and extend learning when required.

**Literacy**

We will soon start having fun learning our Phonic 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,n. Each of the sounds are accompanied with an action, which you will all soon become familiar with. 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.

We will also begin to learn about the characters that the children 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, shape 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 exploring the topics of All about me and Our School which will provide us with lots of cross-curricular opportunities as we begin our learning journey in P1. This will enable us to share important information about ourselves and get to know the school and our new classroom environment. We will also get to know the adults within the school and learn about their roles. Throughout the year we will also be looking at how our seasons change, this will include studying the weather, living things in our environment, looking at harvest and other seasonal celebrations.

**Helpful Tips**

* It would be helpful if you could ensure that all your child’s belongings are named, to make it easier to ensure missing items make their way home.
* 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.
* It would be great if your child could bring an apron or an old shirt or t-shirt, which can be kept in their tray, to use for our messy or wet activities.

It was lovely to welcome many of you into school for our P1 curriculum event and let you have a little tour of our classroom area. If you attended the afternoon online session or could not attend the event and wish to have a look at our class area, just catch us at the end of the school day next week. We will happily welcome you in for a little tour after school any day apart from Thursday, due to a staff meeting.

If you have any worries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to catch us at the end of the school day or get in touch by either putting a note in the yellow homework diary or contacting the school office. I may not be able to respond straight away but I will get back to you as soon as I can.

**Dates for your Diary**

5th & 6th October – Parent consultations – Further information to follow.

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

Best Wishes,

Janelle McDonald