**August 2023 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are so pleased to welcome everyone back! Where did the 6 weeks go? We hope you all had a lovely break! It has been lovely to meet all our pupils again and see how much they have grown! We look forward to getting everyone settled into the routines of our class and appreciate, that after the 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.

**Timetable**

* **Mrs Bryson is the class teacher on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday (until break)** and **Mrs Cameron is the class teacher on Wednesday/Thursday/Friday**.
* **PE**is on **a Tuesday and a Friday each** week.   Please could you ensure that your child takes a PE kit with them on these days. (a named pair of shorts)
* **Mrs Gibb**will support our class as a PSA for limited periods of time throughout the week as well as supporting other classes.
* **Golden Time**will be on a**Friday.  We would also ask that pupils do not bring toys in from home for Golden Time.**

**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 on our return 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 as normal 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 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.  Some guidance on how to best help your child at home will follow later in the term.
* Pupils will continue to develop their knowledge of sounds and blending sounds together to build words. P2 pupils will revise any single sounds that they are not yet secure with before moving on to learning about joined sounds. Most P3 pupils will revise any joined sounds that require further consolidation before learning new sounds. They will develop their ability 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 P2 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.
* Pupils who are writing independently will be encouraged to use correct letter formation, to accurately use full stops and capital letters to mark sentences, to use consistently sized finger spaces and apply their knowledge of sounds to help them attempt to spell words they wish to write.  In addition to this most P3 pupils will also be encouraged to correctly use an increasingly complex range of punctuation, to select the best vocabulary they can think of and apply their knowledge of grammar when completing written tasks.

**Numeracy**

* Most P2 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.
* Most P3 pupils will revise their knowledge and understanding of numbers to 100, before moving on and exploring numbers beyond this. Most P3s will developing their understanding of multiplication and division. They will be encouraged to learn the two times table off by heart and we will continue to build up the other tables too.

**Topic**

Our topic this Term will be My Home and we will examine different house types. We will also be looking at houses past and present and how they have changed to suit our needs. We will continue to develop our mapping skills.

**Homework**

* Spelling/Phonics homework will be uploaded to Google Classroom once a week once we have assessed which sounds each child can recognise, recall and form correctly.  More information to follow.
* 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. For most P2 pupils 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.   A good website to help with mental maths is [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/) Further ideas/suggestions to be added to Google Classroom for P2 and P3 pupils in the next few weeks.

For P2 pupils 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 to others.
* Listen when other people are talking.
* Work quietly.
* Persevere and work hard.
* Follow the golden rules.
* Use good manners.
* Look after resources.
* Be honest.
* Walk in school.
* Keep chair legs on the floor.

Our pupils have been learning about The United Nations Convention Rights of the Child. They are developing their awareness of their rights and are learning that they are right holders. They know their adults in school are the duty holders and will always make decisions that are in the best interests of the child/ren. The children created their charter linking it to Articles 12,19,28 and 31.  You can find out more about children’s right at

[UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - UNICEF UK](https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/)

[The Convention on the Rights of the Child: The child-friendly version | UNICEF State of Palestine](https://www.unicef.org/sop/convention-rights-child-child-friendly-version)

We would appreciate it if you would discuss the importance of following the class charter and school’s golden charter.  The golden charter can be found on the first page in your child’s homework diary.

**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.  Our P3 pupils will continue to use their Learning Celebrations book in a similar fashion. These books will come home as and when your child, whether P2 or P3 wishes to share a particular piece of learning with you.  You may also request their book if they wish to share a celebration/achievement that has occurred out with the school e.g. tying shoe laces, riding a bike without stabilisers, being graded in dance etc.

**Helpful tips**

* We will continue to practise good hygiene habits and will be washing hands regularly throughout the day.  If you are concerned about your child using the school soap, please feel free to supply an alternative soap for your child to use.
* Please supply your child with a freshly filled water bottle each day.  **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!    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!
* To protect clothing during Art lessons, pupils should bring to school their own named overall. An old large adult t-shirt is more than good enough. Please do not go to great expense.

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

**Dates for the diary:**

* 29th September – PSC sponsored walk – More information to follow
* 6th of October - Crazy Hair Day- More information to follow
* 5th and 6th of October – Parents Consultations – More information to follow
* 13th of October – Last day of Term 1.
* 30th of October – First day of Term 2.