August 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a fantastic summer break; it was lovely to welcome all the children back into school last week and hear what they have been up to. Our P1’s looked very smart and grown up in their new uniforms and it has been great getting to know them all a little bit more too. We have been learning about our new routines in school and I am delighted at how well they are settling in together.

Next week our primary one 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 12.20pm, this will be from the same area where they are collected at the end of the day.

Green folders and school diaries have been sent home and our P1 children have been getting used to this being part of our routine at school, 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.

During this term we will have PE on Tuesday and Friday. We may have some 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 and Mrs Gibb, our wonderful PSAs, for short periods throughout the week. They will also be a familiar face in the lunch hall and in the school playground for our new P1’s. This term the children will also work with Mrs Rennie and Miss Anderson for the curriculum areas shown in our class timetable below:

**Tuesday** PE

**Wednesday** Assembly

**Thursday** Music (Mrs Rennie)

 PE

**Friday** RME/Health & Well-being (Miss Anderson)

 Library

**Literacy**

Our primary ones will soon start having fun learning phonic sounds through songs, crafts and outdoor activities. They 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. They will also begin to practise forming letters correctly using a variety of resources. Homework will be sent home 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.

Our P1 pupils will also begin to learn about the characters that they 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. 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.

Primary Two pupils will begin by revising initial sounds to ensure they are secure, before moving on to learning about joined sounds. Again, pupils will be encouraged to form all sounds accurately whilst using a correct, secure pencil grip. P2’s will also be encouraged to write as independently as possible using capital letters, full stops, finger spaces, however if they are not yet at the stage for independent writing their ideas will continue to be scribed or they will be encouraged to copy over/under the teachers writing.

Our P2’s have already started reading and are loving some of the new books we now have in school. Reading will be heard in school at least twice per week and sent home for children to share with you. Ideas for supporting discussion at home can be found inside the covers of our new books.

Spelling homework for our P2’s will be sent home in their spelling jotter every Monday. This will also be uploaded onto our Google Classroom page for reference, more information about this will follow shortly.

The children have already had a visit to our school library where they met our lovely librarians and had the opportunity to browse and choose the book they wanted to share with you at home. It would be great if you could help to remind children to return their books every Friday, this will ensure that they are able to select another one.

**Numeracy**

Our P1’s 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.

Primary Two pupils will begin by revising previous learning in numeracy to ascertain which topics require further consolidation after the summer break. Pupils will be working with numbers to 20 and revising and extending their understanding of addition and subtraction.

All pupils will be exploring days of the week, months of the year, shape and investigating patterns.

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. In school children also enjoy using the Topmarks website which has a variety of fun games to support your childs learning [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)

**Topic**



This Term we will be sharing some of the wonderful stories written by Julia Donaldson and using these as a stimulus to explore a variety of themes including starting school, our family, friendships, homes and the local environment. By listening to these stories, pupils will have opportunities to pick out and discuss interesting vocabulary, identify rhyming words and practise sequencing a familiar story. We will create a variety of art and craft pieces linked to the books and use some of the stories as a basis for our own story writing.

**Learning Celebration Folders**

Our P1 and P2 children will be encouraged to share the learning that they are proud of, at various points throughout the year, by taking home some pieces of work in their learning celebration folders. It would be great if you could find some time to share this with your child and add a little comment on the sheets provided before returning them to school.

**Class Charter**

Over the last few weeks we have been learning all about The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We explored the different articles and the roles of children and adults to help us create our class charter below:

* Look after toys and other people’s property (Article 31 – The right to play).
* Be kind and don’t call people silly names (Article 7 – The right to a name).
* Listen when someone is talking (Article 29 – The right to an education).
* Persevere and work hard (Article 29 – The right to an education).

We felt that adults as duty bearers should:

* Provide toys for us to play with (Article 31 – The right to play).
* Help us learn everyone’s name (Article 7 – The right to a name).
* Make learning fun and help/encourage us if we find something difficult (Article 29 – The right to an education).

**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.

If you have any worries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to catch me at the end of the school day or get in touch by e-mailing the school office who will pass your message to me. 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**

29th September - Sponsored Walk – Further information to follow.

4th & 5th October – Parent consultations – Further information to follow.

6th October – Crazy Hair Day – Further information to follow.

13th October – Last day of term (Term 2 begins - 30th October)

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

Best Wishes,

Janelle McDonald