August 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new school year. It has been so lovely to see all the pupils enjoying being back in school together and settling easily into school routines. This newsletter will provide some key information and dates about the term ahead, including an insight to some of your child’s learning this term.

In **Maths**, pupils will be learning about multiplication and division by grouping objects into sets eg “Show me 2 sets with 4 in each set. How many are there altogether?” They will be encouraged to learn the two times table off by heart and we will continue to build up the other tables too. Pupils will also be introduced to numbers to 1000, including sequencing, counting in tens, hundreds and counting back. Pupils will also be revising previous learning in telling the time and learning quarter past/to the hour.

**Spelling** homework will be posted weekly in our Google classroom. Details of when and how to access this will be advised shortly. The list of words (focussing on a specific sound, combined with common words often with irregular spelling patterns) will be taught in class on a Monday and reinforced in school with other spelling activities during the week. For homework, pupils will be encouraged to revise the words and see if they can find other words with that sound/spelling pattern.

To help reinforce spelling at home and take a close look at the sounds, the pupils can try writing out the words in different ways. Here are some suggestions;

* Rainbow Writing is when pupils write each letter in a different colour or the special sound is in a different colour to the rest of the word
* Bubble Writing is when the letters are written out double and then coloured in
* Pyramid Writing is where the word is written out in a pyramid shape, adding a letter each time

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These will be needed to log into Glow and to accept the invitation to join our Google classroom.

**Reading:** Pupils will have reading homework every second school night meaning over a 2 week period there will be 3 x reading homework on one week and 2 x reading on the following week. This will be noted in your child’s diary. My ongoing advice to greatly support your child’s reading, writing and impact their overall literacy is to hear your child read regularly. As the volume of reading increases, sharing the reading with your child (i.e taking turns reading pages) can be helpful to make evening reading less of a chore. Please encourage children to track words with their finger whilst they, or you, are reading. This will support focus and attention, word recognition whilst minimising guessing or continual reliance on picture clues. Your support in this regard will, as ever, be most beneficial and greatly appreciated. We are very fortunate to have lots of lovely new books in our reading resources this term. I’ve discussed with the children the importance of taking care handling these books at school and at home so we can keep these great new resources in good condition for all children.

**Comprehension activities** will be carried out based on some of the reading books. Grammar will also be taught weekly.

**PE** will be on **Tuesdays and Fridays** and, weather dependant, may be indoors or outdoors.

**Monday -** **RME & P.E** (Mrs Storey)

**Tuesday - French** (Miss Ruxton)

Our **Social Studies** **Topic** over the next 2 terms will be the **Egyptians.** Our class assembly is scheduled for **Tuesday the 20th of February 2024.**

Pupils will periodically bring home **their Learning Celebration Books** to share and tell you of their achievements and learning. Please add any additional achievements and feel free to comment on their progress to further encourage children in their efforts and accomplishments.

**General ‘housekeeping’ information**

To minimise lost time and potential unnecessary expense to families, please ensure all school clothing is **named**, including jackets, water bottles and sweatshirts.

Pupils should leave, in school, a pair of **named shorts**, **suitable gym footwear** and, if possible, **jogging bottoms** for **P.E.** This would also be helpful for outdoor learning such as courtyard gardening, in order to protect school uniforms. These will be sent home for laundering as necessary and at the end of term. In addition to timetabled PE, to boost health and well-being, pupils will participate in regular mile runs or walks around the park on various days.

**Lunches.** Please familiarise yourself with the weekly lunch menu (link below) and discuss with your child the daily options. Frequently we have issues with children rejecting all menu options. This can lead to younger children not having the best start to their day and lead to additional staff time spent trying to contact home for alternative arrangements. Again we appreciate your support in this.

 [spring to autumn 2023 primary school menus (PDF 182KB)](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/27393/primaryschoolmenu.pdf).

To protect clothing during class **Art** lessons, children should bring to school their own named **painting overall**. An old large adult shirt or T-shirt is perfectly suitable to protect clothing.

As a reward for following the **Golden Rules** all week, pupils receive 30 minutes Golden Time where they can choose an activity they enjoy. If in the course of the week any rules have been broken, then individual pupils may lose 5 minutes Golden Time, or more, depending on the misdemeanour.

As well as the Golden Rules, pupils have their own **Class Charter,** linked to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**. A copy of our charter is attached, and it would be helpful if you could discuss this with your child, as well as the Golden Rules Agreement at the front of the Homework Diary that you and your child should sign.

**Dates for your diary**

**Sponsored Walk:** Friday 29th September

**Parent Consultations**: Wednesday 4th October 6-8:30 and Thursday 5th October 3:45-6:15. Further details to follow.

**Last day of term 1**: Friday 13th October.

**First day of term 2**: Monday 30th October

Should you have any concerns or need to contact me, please email or message me via the school office and I will respond as soon as I can. Alternatively, you can catch me, as usual, in the playground if that’s more suitable.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to a happy and successful year.

Kind regards

Pauline Muir