**P1/2 Newsletter - November 2023**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are well into a very busy term at Fishermoss. We have already had the excitement of Halloween discos and our Children in Need Day, which was a fantastic experience for all the children, who thoroughly enjoyed going around all the stalls and spending their pennies.

Preparations for our nativity performance are already underway. Some of you may have already heard snippets of the songs we have been learning, if not then don’t worry you will soon become familiar with them. Our nativity will be taking place on Friday 15th December and further details will be sent home in the coming weeks.

**Weekly Timetable**

There are no significant changes to our timetable this term. However, here is a reminder just for reference.

Assembly Wednesday afternoon

Gym Sessions Tuesday and Thursday

This term we will also continue to work with the following teachers:

Thursdays Music Mrs Rennie

Friday RME/Health & Wellbeing Miss Anderson

Throughout the week we will also try and get outside for outdoor learning, it would be great if children could bring suitable footwear (such as wellies) and a warm jacket to help accommodate for the ever-changing Scottish weather. If there are new winter items coming into school, such as wellies, gloves hats etc. it would be helpful if you could also ensure that these items are named if possible. This will help to ensure that any stray items are returned.

We will also be supported by our wonderful PSA’s for short periods of time throughout the week. This term the children will have the opportunity to work alongside Mrs Bragg, Mrs Gibb, Mrs Dixson, Mrs Robertson and Mrs Shepherd.

**Literacy**

In P1 we are continuing to work on our Jolly Phonics and our ability to recognise a range of sounds. A short time working on these daily, alongside any new sounds, will really help your child progress.

It has been great to hear how much the children have enjoyed taking home their first reading books. We are continuing with wordless books and will be sending home books with words as children are ready. It would be appreciated if you could also continue to support your child to learn the words on the word walls that have been sent home, this will really help their progressing throughout the reading scheme.

Regardless of whether your child has wordless books or books with words, asking them questions will really help them begin to question what they read and develop their own storytelling skills, for example - What can you see? Why do you think that happened? I can see the trees are bent over and have swirly lines near them, what do you think that means? Asking your child to predict what they think will happen next, before turning the page, and asking them to re-tell the story afterwards will also help to develop vital comprehension skills.

This term P2 pupils will continue to develop their knowledge of sounds and blending sounds together. They will begin to learn about joined sounds such as sh and ch. During writing sessions they will be encouraged to apply what they are learning in grammar and phonics lessons and will be encouraged to write as independently as possible.

The children will continue to visit the school library every Friday. They will have the opportunity to browse and select a book of their choice to share at home. Please help to remind children to return their books every Friday, this will ensure that they are able to select another one.

**Homework**

Reading, for both P1 & P2, will continue to be sent home twice per week.

P1 will continue to have weekly phonics homework to support the learning of each new sound.

Spelling homework for our P2’s will be sent home in their spelling jotter every Monday. I have also started uploading this to our Google Classroom alongside a short video for each new sound.

**Numeracy**

This term Primary 1 will continue to focus on numbers within 10, working on formation and developing/extending their understanding of number bonds. Some children will also begin work on addition. We will also continue to look at, and identify, 2D and 3D shape. 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 P2 we will be consolidating and extending the pupils’ understanding of number bonds, addition to 20, days of the week and months of the year. We will also be developing our understanding of addition and subtraction. Pupils will also begin to explore numbers beyond 20. Pupils will have a variety of resources available to help them solve mathematical problems, however, they will also be encouraged to develop their ability to recall basic number facts. As always, your help and support with this is appreciated.

[www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) is a great resource to support children in their learning and something that they enjoy using within school too.

**Topic**

This Term we will continue to explore the wonderful stories written by Julia Donaldson and using these as a stimulus to explore a variety of themes. We will also continue to discuss seasons and look at autumn/winter festivals and celebrations.

Preparations for our nativity performance will also be a large focus too and will provide the children with a range of cross-curricular opportunities. Some children may soon come home with words to learn for the nativity and your help in supporting them with this would be appreciated. We are lucky that we have lots of costumes available to us, however, you may be asked to help provide some items from home, such as t-shirts or tights, but please do not feel that you must go out and buy anything special.

**Dates for your Diary**

* Christmas Fayre – Saturday 2nd
* Nativity Performance – Friday 15th – Further details to follow
* Christmas outing to Cinema – Wednesday 20th
* End of term Church Service at Portlethen Parish Church – Thursday 21st
* Last day of term – Friday 22nd

As always if there are ever any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch by contacting the school office or catching us at the end of the school day. Thank you for your continued support, it really is appreciated.

Best Wishes,

Janelle McDonald