

Primary 7 Newsletter - Term 1

2019-2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a good break over the summer. We are delighted to be working with P7 this year and we have a very busy year ahead of us. This newsletter will hopefully give you an insight into what your child will be learning during this coming term. We are delighted that most children have come equipped with a full pencil case. Can you ensure that children have the essentials for school listed in the letter that will be given out at 'Meet the Teacher'?

Reading: In Primary 7 children are expected to be reading for 15-20 minutes each evening. You can help with their understanding by using HOT questions examples of these can be found in the useful website handout. The benchmarks in reading we will be focusing on are:

1. Uses strategies and resources to read and understand unfamiliar vocabulary.
2. Makes appropriate predictions about texts with supporting evidence.

Some children during this term will be given a reading book to read and sign at home. All children have been given reading homework on BugClub.

E-Mail : In Primary 7 we will predominantly communicate with the children through e-mail. Children should be encouraged to access their e-mails regularly at home.

Homework : This will be given as and when it is needed on an individual basis. The children all have a 'notebook' that they will record reminders, passwords, any work to be completed at home.

Topics for the first term

- **IDL** – This learning will encompass Science, Social Studies & Technologies along with and including Art, Music & Drama. Our First topic is 'People and Events that Changed the World'.
- **HWB:** PAtHs will focus on Making Good Decisions and Behaviour Management.
- **Literacy:** Our approach to writing is based on interactive learning with a focus on four core targets – Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation (known as VCOP). We will follow a holistic approach to writing, in line with Pie Corbitt's Talk 4 Writing, which we will be developing in Term 2. We will use a variety of texts to gain more knowledge about how we can improve our writing. Through this we will encompass Grammar, Listening & Talking and Reading and Comprehension.
- **Numeracy & Maths** – Along with mental maths and problem solving our focus will be on:
 1. Whole number processes involving addition, subtraction, multiplication & division.
 2. Estimating and rounding,
 3. Negative numbers,
 4. Multiples, factors and prime numbers.

Mental Maths topics covered are in the handout given at 'Meet the Teacher'

In Primary 7 children are given the opportunity to take ownership of their learning and throughout various subjects will be able to choose either the 'Awesome', 'Fantastic' or 'Incredible' challenge. This allows them to look at the level of work and select an appropriate challenge for their ability.

P.E.: Our P.E. days are Monday (p7a), Friday (P7b) & Thursday with Miss Barrett our P.E. specialist. Please ensure that your child brings a gym kit consisting of a white T-shirt, black shorts and appropriate gym shoes on these days. It would be most helpful if all items are named. Girls with long hair should have their hair tied back and should bring socks for P.E. if they are wearing tights on a gym day. Please encourage your child to leave jewellery at home on gym days.

In our classroom we are developing 'Recognition Boards'. The Recognition Board will foster positive interdependence in the classroom. There is no prize, no material reward. The Recognition Board is a collaborative strategy which will target learning attitudes and not just functional behaviour. The target chosen will raise the expectation for all the children. The Recognition Board will emphasise peer responsibility where pupils are rewarded for effort.

As part of rights respecting schools initiative, we aim to promote positive behaviour through creating our own class charter. We have chosen the following rights to focus on:

Article 2 All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Article 6 You have the right to be alive.

Article 15 You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Kind regards,

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