

Primary 7 Newsletter - Term 3

2019-2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! Term 3 – Wow - and another busy term ahead. We hope that during Term 3 children continue to come equipped with a full pencil case, including pencils, rulers, erasers, sharpeners, glue stick and whiteboard pens. We are already busy planning our Burns Supper, which is always a highlight of our year in P7 along with our residential trip to Ardmay this term. Our newsletter will hopefully give you the information needed to understand what your child will be learning this term.

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

1. Using what I know about the features of different types of texts, I can find, select and sort information from a variety of sources and use this for different purposes.
2. I can make notes, organise them under suitable headings and use them to understand information, develop my thinking, explore problems and create new texts, using my own words as appropriate.

All children have been given reading homework on BugClub. Please make sure your child is regularly engaging with this fantastic resource. Pupils are also reading in book banded groups within school and have their own reading book in their trays.

E-Mail: Could we please ask that you encourage your child to check their e-mails regularly. We will regularly communicate with the children through this, as will their high school teachers, and it will serve them well to get into the habit.

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. A TJ Maths homework book was sent home in Term 1 to all children, and this may be worked on at any time if you or your child feels they need some extra practice. E-mails will be sent weekly to tell the children what pages in the TJ book reinforces the work they are doing in class.

Topics for this term

- **IDL** – This term we are focusing on a STEM topic. **Water and Renewable Energies** This learning will encompass Science, Social Studies & Technologies along with and including Art, Music & Drama. We will be reading the book 'The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind'
- **HWB:** We will be focusing on; Personal Skills and Abilities, Road Safety & Emergency and Food Advertising.
- **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 this term we will be creating a non-fiction persuasion text. Our focus will be:
 - Uses notes and/or other sources to develop thinking and create new texts.*
 - Acknowledges sources making clear where the information came from.*
 - Organises information in a logical way.*
 - Selects relevant ideas and information.*
 - Uses appropriate vocabulary, including subject-specific vocabulary, to suit purpose and audience.*
- **Numeracy & Maths** – Along with mental maths and problem solving our focus will be on:
 1. Measurement – Length, Area, Perimeter, Weight, Volume
 2. Angle, Symmetry and Transformation - Symmetry, Measuring Angles, Scale
 3. Expressions and Equations – Using Formulae, Using Function Machines

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

As in Term 1 and 2, the 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.

We are continuing to develop our Recognition Board in class. The purpose of the board is to foster positive interdependence in the classroom. It is a collaborative strategy which will target learning attitudes and behaviour. The target chosen will raise the expectation for all the children. The board will emphasise peer responsibility where pupils are rewarded for effort.

We are now introducing Positive Notes home. The positive note is sincere recognition for those pupils who go over and above consistently. We want to communicate good news to you at home.

Hot Chocolate Friday with Mrs Rodden– This will be a reward for those children who behave impeccably. Their name will go into the special box and each week six lucky names will be taken from the box and invited to share a Hot Chocolate with Mrs Rodden.

As part of the Rights Respecting Schools initiative, we aim to promote positive behavior. Along with the articles we chose for our class charter we will be focusing on the following right:

Article 25

You have the right to have your living arrangements checked regularly if you have to be looked after away from home.

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

Kind regards,

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