

Primary 2 Newsletter - January 2020



We hope you all had a great time over the Christmas holidays and are ready for a very busy time back at Baljaffray. We are also looking forward to getting to know each other very well over the coming terms. We know from Mr Hannah that the children have been working hard so far this year and have lots to look forward to between now and Easter. This newsletter will give you an insight to the content we will be covering throughout term three, as well as some extra pieces of important information.

Literacy

We will be developing a range of literacy skills this term.



As part of writing, the children will have opportunities to consolidate recount writing, where the children will write about familiar things that have happened to them. There will be a big push to ensure letters are written correctly and that we are using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces when writing. We will also be encouraging the children to write longer sentences using joining words like 'and,' 'but' and 'because.' We will also have a focus on story writing through our Talk for Writing programme.

The children will have opportunities to explore the features of an imaginative story and have opportunities to create their own versions of stories.

For reading we will be using different strategies to read tricky words. These include using the picture to help, sounding out the word and reading on. We will also continue to work on sequencing to show the beginning, middle and end of a story and developing our comprehension skills.

Our spelling and phonics work will continue to focus on trickier diagraphs (e.g. a-e, u-e and e-e) as well as consolidating previous sounds. As part of this, we will be practising to read and write the first 100 common words. A quick search on the internet can help you locate these if you wish to revise them with your child at home.

Numeracy and Maths

This term we will be focusing on:



- **Time:** To identify the time to o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. This includes looking at days of the week and months of the year.
- **Multiplication and Division:** To use practical materials to calculate how many altogether, (e.g. how many altogether if I have 3 groups of six?) and to partition equally (e.g. If I have 12 sweets and share them equally between 3 children how many sweets would they get each?)
- **Data Analysis:** To conduct simple surveys, using tally marks and creating pictographs and bar graphs. This will include asking and answering questions about information.
- **Volume:** To estimate and measure using litres to read the volume of a container

We will also be revisiting content that we have covered already this year.

IDL

Our topic this term will focus around STEM (Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths), which links into toys and electronics.



Other Curricular Areas

- In science, we will be exploring different forces and learning how to make simple electronic circuits.
- For technologies, we will be learning to use laptops and iPads to support our learning.

- Expressive arts will be delivered through different contexts e.g. RME or IDL work.
- For RM.E. we will be focusing on celebrations around the world and Easter traditions.
- Our Health and Wellbeing focuses are medicines and keeping our bodies healthy. In P.E. we will be focusing on gymnastics.
- In French we will be learning more colour words, the alphabet and phrases about the weather.

Growth Mindset

We continue to develop a Growth Mindset and further improve our learning culture in Baljaffray. Your support in this development is crucial to our work. You may find the following questions useful when discussing your child's learning with them.

1. What did you learn today that surprised you?
2. Did you make any good mistakes today?
3. How did you learn from them?
4. What did you do today that made your brain grow?
5. How did you help someone else stretch their brain power?

A crucial component of the learning culture in our classrooms is to continually talk with pupils about how the brain grows, how we can grow our abilities by practising and through input and of being able to learn from one another and so tapping into all our different strengths.

We continue to emphasise the words "time", "effort" and "practice" as the keys to success. Please support us by using them to encourage your child. "Yet" is another helpful word! If you hear your child saying "I'm no good at....." just add the word "yet" to the end of the sentence to promote a growth mindset.

Recognition Boards

We will be continuing the use of our 'Recognition Board' within our class. The children worked hard in term one and two to check their own progress and to encourage peers to achieve our class targets.

Homework

Each week, your child will continue to receive a reading book to read with you at home. New books will be given out every Wednesday to support the use of a new reading scheme, where other tasks are completed before children see their new book. Please ensure your child brings these to school every day as there will be tasks throughout the week involving these books.

Children can also use Bug Club online to access a range of books at home to further develop their reading skills.

Where appropriate, some children will receive written homework to support their learning. Please encourage your child to return homework weekly on a Friday.

P.E. Kit and Days

Our P.E. days will continue to be Tuesday and Thursday. Your child should bring a white t-shirt, dark shorts and a change of shoes for their kit. Where possible, please label your child's bag and clothing to ensure items are returned to the children if misplaced. Please also ensure your child does not wear any jewellery on P.E. days. Children with long hair should have their hair tied back or at least bring a hair band to do so.

Class Resources

Just a note to ask you to ensure your child is coming to school every day with the following resources:

- ✓ pencil
- ✓ rubber
- ✓ ruler
- ✓ glue stick
- ✓ whiteboard pen

Of course, we will supply spare stationery where needed however having these resources will allow your child to get started with their work quickly as everything they need will be at their tables.

Website Links

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<http://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/kids-activities/games--1/>

Bug Club:

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>

Username:

Password: cat

School Code: 6wg6

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Miss Stevenson and Mrs Vassie

