

Primary 2 Newsletter - January 2020

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. The children have been eager to share what they got up to over the holidays. 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 3, as well as some extra pieces of important information.

Literacy



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

Our **writing** focus will continue to be recount writing, where the children will write about 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 of creative writing through our Talk for Writing programme. The children will have opportunities to explore different characters, settings and vocabulary. At the end the children will have the opportunity to create their own journey story.

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

Our **spelling and phonics** work will take a greater 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:

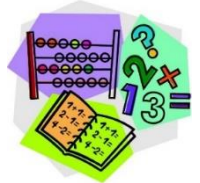
- Place value to 2-digit numbers.
- Developing addition and subtraction strategies (compensation strategy e.g. $17+8 = 20+5$, inverse operations e.g. $15+4=19$, $19-4=15$)
- Multiplication - can use practical materials to combine and count equal groups to calculate how many altogether, e.g. how many altogether if I have 3 groups of six?
- Division - use practical materials to partition a collection equally and count the number of groups or number in each group, e.g. If I have 12 sweets and share them equally between 3 children how many sweets would they get each?
- Money -use coins to pay for items up to 50p, work out change up to 20p.
- 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.

IDL

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

Other curricular areas

- In science, we will be finishing off our topic on the human body and starting electric transport.
- For technologies, we will be learning to log onto the internet using an iPad, and using apps to support our learning.



- Expressive arts will be delivered through opportunities e.g. topic work.
- For R.M.E. we will be learning about Hinduism and Easter Traditions.
- Our main Health and Wellbeing focuses are medicines and emotions. 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.

Homework

Each week, your child will continue to receive a reading book to read with you at home. Please ensure your child brings these

to school every day as there will be tasks throughout the week involving these books.

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

P.E. kit and days

Our P.E. days will be **Monday** and **Wednesday**. Just a friendly reminder that if gym kit goes home then it should be returned before our next P.E. slot. This will allow your child to participate fully in the lesson. 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.

Class Resources

Just a note to ask if you could ensure your child is coming to school every day with the following resources; pencil, rubber, ruler, glue stick and whiteboard pen. Of course, we will supply spare stationery where needed, however having these resources will allow your child to be more independent in their learning.

Website Links

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

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

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

I am looking forward to working with the children throughout this term and I am eager to see the wonderful work they are going to produce.

Miss Fraser

