

NEWSLETTER P4-7: TERM 4

Literacy

Phonics and Spelling – We have now changed to a weekly spelling program and children will have lots of opportunities to practice their words in class. Words will also be sent home in the small blue spelling jotter and the weekly spell check can be seen in the back of this jotter.

Writing – This term, we will be exploring poetry and playscripts. We will learn to recognise different types of poetry and then have a go at writing our own. We will be looking at the features of playscripts and changing some stories into plays and vice versa.

Listening & Talking

French / Spanish – We are revising numbers 0-60, seasons, months of the year and days of the week. New learning will be around mini beasts and wildlife in conjunction with the John Muir award.

Numeracy

Circles: Children in this group are currently learning how to add and subtract decimal numbers to hundredths using mental and formal written methods.

Octagons: Children will be learning about fractions – fractions of a shape, of a number and on a number line. We will be comparing and ordering fractions.

Pentagons: Children in this group are learning algebra – how to collect like terms and work out the value of an unknown letter.

Triangles: Children are learning about fractions. We will learn how to find the fraction of a shape and how to compare fractions using a fraction wall.

All groups will take part in outdoor maths games. Children will be told which times table we will concentrate on and are asked to practice this for homework.

Reading

This term in class, we will be reading plays and poems. Most children will be introduced to Shakespeare through reading books adapted for children in the form of short stories. We will use drama techniques to turn these stories back into scenes of a play.

Younger children will be introduced to reading playscripts, taking on the roles of characters within the story and speaking their lines.

Children should also read their own personal reading book at home, for at least 15 minutes per day.

Learning Across the Curriculum

Expressive Arts.

This term, we will continue to develop our skills in Music on a Monday with Mr Small.

PE

PE will focus on athletics and highland dance in preparation for our Highland Games in June.

Learning across the curriculum

In partnership with the Bennachie Ranger, we will be taking part in the John Muir Award. We will spend days with the ranger out at Bennachie learning about the biodiversity of the area through various fieldwork techniques, as well as playing our part in the conservation of this area. We will supplement this work with activities based in our own school grounds.

Science

We will continue to learn about Forces this term and how they affect the movement of objects in the air, in water and on the ground. We will be developing our investigative skills as we learn, by measuring, hypothesising, drawing tables and graphs and controlling variables.

Homework

Our expectations are that children should be reading their personal reading books for at least 15 mins per night and as always we would encourage parents to get involved in this by asking questions about the book and reading some pages together in order to model reading aloud. Children also have their spelling words to revise each week and they should choose how they do this at home, there are lots of ways to do this and children should try a number of different activities to see what works best for them. As mentioned above, we will brainstorm ideas for writing and then we ask that children develop their ideas at home through discussion before beginning to write the piece in class. If children can say it – they can write it and often the time to talk through their final piece is limited in class, resulting in less fluid writing, therefore it would be very useful if this can be done at home. We will also send incomplete work home if we feel that it should have been finished in class and from time to time if extra revision is required, we may send additional work home.

Children are also asked to practise times tables in order to prepare for outdoor mental maths activities.

Things to Remember

- Please ensure your child has a pair of indoor shoes to change into when they come inside.
- Please ensure your child has a water bottle every day. Bottles should be taken home each day to clean.
- We will take every opportunity to do outdoor learning so please come to school with a waterproof jacket, jumper, and appropriate footwear or sun hat and sun block for the better weather.

PE kits should now be brought to school in a bag on a Monday and left all week so that we can have some flexibility in when we have our PE lessons to get the most from the weather. Can children please always have outdoor trainers that you do not mind getting a bit muddy! Kits will be taken home on a Friday for washing.