

**St Cyrus School – Term 1, 2023-24**

**Primary 3/4 Newsletter**

Hello, it is lovely to have everyone back and settled into new classes and routines. Here is a summary of everything that we will be covering this term.  
Keep an eye on our TEAMS page for progress updates throughout the term.

**Literacy & Language (including French)**

Spelling: The class will be working through stages 2 and 3 of the North Lanarkshire Active literacy programme (modified).

Each child will be allotted a spelling group. Each spelling group will have its own section on the class TEAMS page, where spelling words will be posted weekly for you to support at home.

Our writing this term will be linked to our class topic – The Picts. This will be in the form of letters, recipes, imaginative stories and personal opinions, all with the emphasis on the correct use of capital letters and full stops. We will be learning to look over our work to ensure that it makes sense i.e. no missing words, handwriting is legible and phonics strategies have been used.

Reading will be carried out in class initially, while we ensure each child is reading confidently within their group. Books will begin to come home in the second half of the term. We will initially be focussing on applying knowledge of spelling and phonics to read familiar and unfamiliar words and the ability to read every day common words with accuracy.

French in Term 1 will be embedded within our daily learning. We will be working on routine questions and answers i.e., name, greetings, how are you, etc. We will learn and use basic classroom instructions as well as practising our numbers to 20 and revising body parts and weather.

Grammar: Some members of the class will be working on parts of speech (nouns and proper nouns), using capital letters and full stops whilst others will be extending their knowledge to further understand the use of verbs and adjectives.

In our handwriting lessons we will revise the correct shape and size of uppercase and lowercase letters ensuring we start at the correct starting point and some of us will continue to develop our joined-up handwriting.

**Preview Homework / Ways to support your child at home this term in literacy**

- Sound out words with our given weekly sounds.
- Try finding words in the environment around you with your spelling pattern and create a poster showcasing everything that you have found. Why not combine it with handwriting practise and think carefully about how you form your letters and the starting point of each letter!
- Look for everyday opportunities for reading such as labels, signs, instruction sheets and encourage your child to read them with you.
- Can you share with a friend the 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes' song in French?

## **Numeracy & Maths**

In Numeracy this term, some pupils will be looking at Place Value and consolidating our knowledge of numbers to 20 and 50 and then moving onto working within 100. Whilst others will be able to extend their knowledge further and begin working within 1000. This will be done using practical materials, whole class inputs and small group work.

Our practical Maths work will be based upon 'Shape'. Some of us will be learning to identify 2d shapes and use specific vocabulary to describe them. Others will be identifying the composition of 3D objects using their knowledge of 2D shapes, identify pentagons, hexagons and octagons, as well as name and identify triangular prisms and square based pyramids.

### **Preview Homework/ways to support your child at home this term in numeracy**

- Practise counting everywhere you go, stairs, clouds, signs etc. – backwards and forwards.
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/ordering-and-sequencing>
- Draw and label a street scene using 2D shapes.
- Go on a 'Shape Hunt!' Look around the house to see how many 2d shapes & 3D objects you can find.
- Create a 'Shape Board' game.

## **Our Topic – The Picts**

We will be starting the year by looking back into our Scottish heritage by discovering what life was like in the Pictish era. Our class novel - The Beast on the Broch – will help guide us through that period through the eyes of a child.

### **Preview Homework/ Ways to support your child at home in Topic work**

- There are several Pictish stones which can be found near to our local area, go on an adventure and see how many you can find:
  - <https://canmore.org.uk/site/36379/stone-of-morphie>
  - <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/aberlemno-sculptured-stones/>
  - <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-culture/archaeology/sites-to-visit/pictish-symbol-stones/>

## **Health and Wellbeing**

In P.E., we will be working on the athletics skills with Mrs McMillan. In the classroom we will be talking about 'Growth Mindset', 'Learning Pit', and the rights of children.

### **Preview Homework/ Ways to support your child at home in Health and Wellbeing**

- Have a chat with your family about children rights. Make a T- chart with a list of things a child NEEDS to grow happy, healthy and safe; and a list of things a child might WANT but can grow happy , healthy and safe without them.

### **Classroom Staffing**

Mrs Jamieson will be in class on a Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Mrs Greig will be in class on a Thursday and Friday. Ms Miller will be providing some Drama on a Monday, Mrs McMillan will be with us on a Wednesday for P.E. and Mrs Gatherum will join the class for some artwork on Fridays. Ms Critton and Mrs McCombie will support the classroom learning throughout the week.

### **General Information**

- Please ensure that all clothing is **named**.
- PE will be on a Wednesday– **Please ensure that your child attends school wearing clothes appropriate for outdoor sports.**
- Water bottles should be brought to school filled with water for drinking in class.
- Toys should not be brought into school or the classroom due to risk of damage or being lost.

If at any point you wish to get in touch, please use the e-mail addresses below:

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