



This is the Primary 4/5 newsletter for January to March 2017. You will find lots of information about the learning which will be undertaken this term. I hope that you find the information useful and that it will help you to support your child's learning at home.



Literacy - Listening, Talking, Reading and Writing

This term the children are going to be taking responsibility for their spelling. On Mondays they will choose eight words that follow a spelling rule. The words the children choose will be ones they think are challenging. We will practise these words throughout the week at school and at home. During our reading time children will be practising various Book Detectives roles such as Character Cop, Question Master and Summariser. We will be learning how to write persuasively through analysing and creating adverts. We will also be consolidating our knowledge of VCOP through writing stories, letters and poetry.

Maths and Numeracy

In Numeracy we are continuing to ensure all children have a solid understanding of number by focussing on the Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning (SEAL) which helps us to develop our Mental Agility. To support our learning in numeracy and maths we will be practising our 3, 4, 6 and 8 times tables and looking how times tables can help with division strategies and our understanding of fractions. The children will continue to revise knowledge of time, money and data analysis in maths. We will also be having regular sessions in the computer suite in which we can practise our mental maths strategies and improve our skills on Sumdog. Periodically Sumdog challenges will be set for home learning and over weekends.

Other Curricular Areas

Our topic this term is Scottish Innovations - through this context the children will be creating their own design business, inventing a new product, as well as marketing and advertising their product. Children will be practising their cooperative team working skills as well as their speaking skills when they present their product in a pitch, Dragon's Den-style!

Health & Wellbeing

This term, our Building Resilience programme is focused on the tools of Keep Connected and Respect Yourself. Children will learn that having people to talk to and being kind to yourself are important. The units aim to instil friendship skills and self-esteem in children through a variety of fun and engaging activities.

Home Learning

When practising their spelling, children should think about what kinds of words they find tricky and what they need more practise with. They are encouraged to spend more time on those and practise them in an active way at home. In reading, children should be focusing on decoding unknown words using strategies like splitting words into syllables or reading the rest of the sentence for context. We are also practising using good expression in our reading by looking at punctuation and thinking about the sound of our voice as we read. Children can practise their numeracy and maths skills on www.sumdog.com.

Ethos & Wider Life of the School

Primary 5 are continuing to attend the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop every Thursday afternoon. They have been learning about different art techniques and the work of a variety of artists. This term they will be working closely with several different artists to create something exciting. On Thursday afternoons Primary 4 will also be increasing their experience with Expressive Arts as we will be looking at printing techniques and the artists associated with printmaking. P4/5 have also been very fortunate to be part of Scottish Opera's production of Tam O'Shanter. The children have loved learning the songs and performing with the other classes in the upper school. We are also lucky to be having ukulele lessons on a Monday morning up until the February break.

P4/5's class assembly will be on the 10th March at 9.40am.