



Class news for Term 1 from Primary 7 2018-2019

We are pleased to welcome your child to P7 this year and are looking forward to the activities and learning experiences we will share. Already the P7 pupils have been getting to know their P1 buddies and supporting them in the playground. The Active Schools' Rep has organised an activity where the P7s and the P1s will work together on playing ball games. Once the P1s are into school for full days the P7s will support them in the dining room.

We have just returned from a very successful and enjoyable week at Loch Insh Water Sports Centre. The weather this year was very kind and allowed us to make the most of the opportunities on offer. The children took part in lots of exciting activities, learned new skills and developed their ability to work together in a team. Throughout the year we will build on the skills of this experience.

This term, our **context for learning** will be biology-based. The children will have opportunities to develop their planning and investigative skills within scientific contexts. We will focus on making predictions, fair testing, making observations and recording results through learning about the characteristics of plants and animals. These skills will be further developed as we prepare for the Science Fair later in the year.

In **Numeracy**, having done some initial assessments, we will be focusing this term on extending our understanding of whole numbers to one million and beyond and revising the four number processes.

Within shape, position and movement we will focus on the properties of 2 dimensional shapes. Problem solving tasks will be undertaken to build on learning within these mathematical topics. Pupils must continue to learn multiplication tables, now including 11x and 12x tables, so that they can recall instantly. We would very much encourage pupils to make regular use of online resources and Espresso Education to support their learning and to consolidate areas that they are perhaps not so strong in.

In **Literacy** our emphasis will be on developing vocabulary, grammar and punctuation in writing. The children's writing skills will shortly be assessed using the "Big Writing" Criterion Scale, with the core elements of VCOP still being at the centre of written activities. This will inform the children's next steps in writing. Reading focus will be looking in detail at texts and exploring themes within texts either through use of a whole class novel or guided reading texts. Reading for enjoyment will be the main focus for reading homework with pupils being encouraged to read a variety of genres at home. Library books can be changed in school each week and all pupils will have regular opportunities to read material of their own choice in class.

The children's spelling ability has been assessed and we shall shortly start on our spelling programme. P7 pupils are encouraged to develop their own strategies for tackling tricky and unfamiliar words based on the Active Spelling approach. An

important spelling focus in P7 is vocabulary development and investigation of where our words come from i.e. word origins, root words, foreign influences etc.

Each week, your child will have:

- P.E. on a Tuesday and Friday – please remember PE kit.
- Library on a Tuesday – please remember your book
- Music on a Wednesday (Term 1 and Term 2)

Homework – this term we will send home tasks for the week on a Friday to be returned the following Thursday (unless notified otherwise). Homework will usually consist of some spelling tasks and additional class related tasks. The homework given will always reflect the learning going on in class and will never contain concepts not already covered. We would appreciate if you could discuss the homework activities with your child and sign the homework jotter. Throughout the year, homework time will regularly be given over to completing JASS-related activities. (More information about JASS will be coming soon.)

In P7, all pupils are given opportunities to take on roles and responsibilities throughout the school. We have already asked the children which role they would like to undertake and will shortly be asking them to apply for their preferred “job.” They will be given an application form to complete before being interviewed.

We shall continue to use Class Dojo as a means of promoting positive behaviour. The children will also be encouraged to use Class Dojo to share their learning. Could we remind parents that Class Dojo should not be used to advise of children’s absence or appointments as the school office needs to be informed in the first instance.

Finally, should any parent need to get in touch, please don’t hesitate to phone or put a note into the homework jotter. We are happy to support the children in any way we can.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Hampton