

Westhill Primary School 2023-2024

Term 3 Newsletter

Kindness

Respect

Responsibility

Togetherness

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We hope all families have enjoyed the Christmas holidays and that the children are ready for another busy term.

As usual, class teachers have written a couple of paragraphs to give you a flavour of what will be happening in class this term. P.E. times have been included in some, but these are also in the school weekly Bulletin.

Primary 1A and 1B



Happy New Year and a big welcome back to a fun filled new term!

This term we will have lots of new activities to explore in the learning zones as we explore Scottish Castle and Burns celebrations. We will investigate the time of the dinosaurs and the life of plants. We will also become scientists as we explore space, energy and forces!

In Literacy this term, we are looking forward to extending our knowledge of sounds and will continue to learn two new sounds a week. Please continue to bring your green bag to school every day and keep practising your sounds. As we continue to enhance our knowledge of the letters and sounds, the children will be encouraged to sound out words to read and write them independently.

Within Numeracy, we continue to extend our knowledge of numbers to 30. We will continue to practise number formation and develop our knowledge of ordering and identifying numbers and begin learning addition strategies. We will also be learning about symmetry and 2D and 3D shape.

We will continue to focus on kindness and friendship.

We are looking forward to another exciting term together 😊

Mrs Garden, Mrs Hillman and Miss Thomson

Primary 2A and 2B

Hello and welcome back to Primary 2! We hope you enjoyed your Winter holidays and are ready for the New Year. It is great to see all the children back to school ready for new and exciting learning.



We will start this term with a focus on Scotland, where we will be learning about Scottish Geography, famous Scottish people and Scottish foods. Our Scots and Doric Poetry Competition will be held on Friday 26th January 2024. All children in P2 will have a choice of 4 poems to practise and recite.

Our topics for the rest of the term will focus on World History. We are looking forward to letting the children help decide the focus on this. We will also be learning about Food Technology; learning to grate, peel and cut safely.

Towards the end of this term, we will have a focus on Religious and Moral Education and will be learning about Easter.

Literacy

Each week the children will continue to learn a new phonics sound, which will be sent home to practise, in their red spelling jotter. In writing lessons, we will continue to gain confidence writing independently and sounding out accurately. All children are now encouraged to use classroom aids to support spelling of key words. We will be developing our reading skills through phonological awareness and small reading groups. The children will read two books a week. One book will be read in class and one book will be sent home each week for extra practice. We are continuing to have a focus on handwriting and letter formation.

Numeracy and Maths

In Numeracy, we will be extending our knowledge and understanding of number. We will continue to work on number formation, place value and number bonds to 10, 20 and 100. This term will have a focus on addition, but we will also be practising counting backwards to prepare us for subtraction. In Topic Maths, we will be learning about Time, which will include reading o'clock and half past times on a digital and analogue clock, Shape and Fractions.

The children will continue to develop their Digital Technology skills using iPads and Indis. We have had lots of fun playing different maths games such as Sumdog and using Kaligo to work on our handwriting.

Reminders:

- PE days: both classes will have PE on a Wednesday and a Thursday.
- Outdoor learning days: P2A: Tuesday
P2B: Wednesday
- Please ensure your child comes to school with their waterproof clothing in their bag for Outdoor Learning days.
- Please ensure your child brings a waterproof jacket every day to school, a water bottle and indoor shoes.

Thank you for your continued support and we are looking forward to a fantastic term with P2!

Mrs Shiham and Miss Garden

Primary 3A and 3B

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope that everyone has had an enjoyable holiday.

This term we will be learning about World History. We spoke to the children about what they would like to find out about so, Primary 3A will be learning about the Vikings and Primary 3B will be learning about Ancient Egypt.

This is very exciting, as the two classes will share what they have learned with each other. We will be comparing modern life with life in the past and researching famous people from the past to discover why they are famous. We will also be looking at historical sources to find out if they are reliable and putting events on a timeline.

In our Maths lessons this term, we will be focusing on subtraction. We will be learning a range of strategies and use these in problem solving contexts. We will also be learning to tell the time, focusing on quarter past, half past and quarter to the hour. Please encourage your child to continue practising their 2, 5 and 10-times tables using Sumdog.

In our Literacy lessons, we will continue to follow the Jolly Spelling and Jolly Grammar scheme. We will be learning about adverbs, question marks, commas and exclamation marks. Our writing lessons will focus on imaginative stories and developing the children's use of descriptive language and punctuation to structure their sentences.

We hope everyone is ready for an exciting term!

Miss Grant and Miss Kinniburgh

Primary 4A

Happy New Year to P4A and their families! I hope that you had a lovely break, despite the rather grim weather. The pupils have returned to school with a keen, hardworking attitude and are ready to learn so we will hit the ground running.

In Maths, we will continue our work on learning mental multiplication and division strategies before moving onto more formal, written methods. These strategies will allow the children to become faster, more efficient mathematicians. We will be learning our times tables and use this learning when dividing. We will also be learning about shape and angles.

In Literacy, we will continue with our weekly 'Jolly Spelling and Grammar' programme which focusses on a new sound or spelling pattern each week. The spelling homework will continue to be posted on the 'Homework' tab on our class team.

In our writing, we will be looking at settings description in our imaginative writing and various forms of functional writing in connection with our topic. We have a new timetable for this term and so the reading days for each group may change slightly, please keep an eye on Reading Records for more information on this.

In other curricular areas, our next topic, 'Our Community,' will provide lots of opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning and skills development. We will be looking at our Westhill Community, charities and planning some enterprise work

around this. The children will also be asked to share another presentation linked to our topic, further information on this will be shared next week on our class Team.

Our PE days remain Monday and Tuesday so please come to school in school PE kit on those days.

I am really looking forward to seeing what the children achieve this term! They have been working so hard and trying their very best.

Miss Michie

Primary 4B

Happy New Year to P4B and their families! We hope that you had a lovely break despite the rather grim weather. Our pupils have returned to school with a keen, hardworking attitude and are ready to learn so we will hit the ground running.

In Maths, we will continue our work on learning mental addition and subtraction strategies before moving onto more formal, written methods. These strategies will allow the children to become faster, more efficient mathematicians. We will then learn our times tables and use this learning when dividing. We will also be learning about shape and angles.

In Literacy, we will continue with our weekly 'Jolly Spelling and Grammar' programme which focusses on a new sound or spelling pattern each week. The spelling homework will continue to be posted on the 'Homework' tab on our class team. Over the next few weeks the children will practise different forms of functional writing and will use them to present their learning in other curricular areas. Later in the term we will be focusing on the use of connectives to create more complex, interesting sentences.

In other curricular areas, we will complete our learning about 'The Body' by investigating our five senses. The next topic, 'Our community,' will provide lots of opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning and skills development. We are also focusing on Art this term which we are sure will delight some of our learners. We will learn to develop our sketching techniques and try out some different media too.

Our PE days remain Monday and Thursday, so please come to school in school PE kit on those days.

This promises to be another jam-packed term. We are confident that the children will rise to the challenges we have in store and look forward to seeing their progress.

Mrs Macdonald and Mrs Hamer

Primary 5A

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! It is lovely to see everyone back and settling into our school routine again.

In Numeracy and Maths, we will be working on '*Multiplication and Division*' and '*Fractions, Decimals and Percentages*'. Later, we will also look at '*properties of 2D and 3D shapes*'.

In Literacy, our writing focus this term, is persuasive writing and balanced arguments. We will also begin looking at reports in functional writing. Whilst always conscious of improving our vocabulary, we are going to place more focus on using connectives to extend sentences and on using a more varied range of punctuation. New spelling patterns continue to be taught each week and these should also be practised at home in pupils' personal spelling jotter and on Spelling City. Reading tasks will include group reading sessions with follow up activities, whole-class reading and reading comprehension.

Our Topics and Science in the early part of the term, include racism and prejudice, microbes and Scottish poetry and language. Additionally, as part of our P5 leadership role, healthy eating and lunch time expectations will be investigated. After the mid-term break, we will study our local area.

PE is on Monday and Friday so please come to school in school P.E. kit on those days.

Ms Daphne Hyndman

Primary 5/6

Hello everyone! Welcome back from the Winter holidays.

In Numeracy, we will cover fractions and decimal fractions, we will also continue working on the four operations building on previous knowledge. These topics will be investigated using practical resources and various approaches to ensure understanding. Other areas of focus will include area and perimeter, data analysis, ideas of measurement and coordinates and scale.

In Literacy, we will focus on reports in functional writing and persuasive writing in imaginative writing. Handwriting skills will be enhanced each week as well as comprehension and reading skills. The children will also be presented with various opportunities to practise talking and listening (presentations, debates, poems, etc.).

Over terms 3-4, the class will be exploring a new class novel *All The Things That Could Go Wrong*, to explore health and wellbeing themes and the importance of understanding different perspectives.

In Science, the focus will be put on Microbes and Topical science and we will then be studying our local area.

Miss Deren

Primary 6A

Happy New Year everyone, I hope you all had a wonderful break and managed to relax.

We have an exciting term ahead in Primary 6! We will be kicking-off the term with a topic of *Microbes and Topical Science*, this will focus around areas of Natural Science. We will be moving onto *a Comparative Study* in the second half of term 3, comparing our country with another around the world. As always, we will be embedding our topics into the majority of our other curricular areas.

Our curricular focus areas will be:

Numeracy - Multiplication and Division and Fractions, decimal fractions and percentages.

Measurement: Weight, Maps- grid references, coordinates, scale, compass points, angles

Reading – group focused reading, information texts, comprehension activities (with a particular focus on inference skills), class novel with discussion and Book Detective activities.

Writing - Information writing: biographies/autobiographies, research and report, persuasive and balanced arguments. A focus on handwriting on a weekly basis.

Spelling – continue with Jolly Grammar group work and development, working through personal spelling words.

Expressive Arts - musical composition, use of different digital technology, researching and presenting about different artistic movements – the children will be working as *Tiny Teachers*, creating a presentation and a follow-up activity (developing their communication, teamwork, resilience, organisation and leadership skills).

Ms Symington will be taking P6A for BSL, aspects of Maths and Science this term.

P.E will be on Wednesdays and Fridays this term and we will be attending the library on a Monday.

Primary 6 are due to visit Curl Aberdeen this term for 2 taster sessions over a two-week period.

Miss Black

Primary 7A and 7B

We have an exciting term ahead!

Mrs Legaz and Mr Tait will be exploring our local area with the classes, looking at land use, environment and mapping. We'll be comparing our location to other parts of the world and investigating the impacts of climate change. With Mrs Alnasser and Mr Northcroft we will be studying Earth Sciences, including Geology and Chemistry. There will be lots of opportunities for experiments!

In Health and Wellbeing, we'll look into substance misuse as well as exploring different careers.

Our focuses in Maths and Numeracy, will be fractions, percentages, 2D and 3D shape and information handling. We are looking forward to using technology to support our learning, particularly Excel and Sumdog at home. We'll continue to embed Problem Solving and Mental Maths in our daily maths learning.

In Literacy, we'll be challenging the children to write with greater independence and deadlines, beginning with imaginative writing. This will develop the skills needed for S1 and beyond. Additionally, the children will become familiar with procedural writing, with a focus on scientific reports. We are looking forward to celebrating the works of Robert Burns during our poetry recitals this month.

We are all looking forward to a busy and interesting term!

Mrs Legaz, Mr Northcroft, Mr Tait and Mrs Alnasser