



# Primary 3/2T Newsletter Term 1



**Grow ... Respect ... Experience ... Achieve ... Together**

## **Welcome by Mr Thornley**

Hello Parents/Carers, welcome to my first class newsletter. I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little about me as the children got to see my 'all about me' talk at the start of term but you did not! Whilst relatively new to teaching, I have had a varied career and bring lots of life experience to the profession. After leaving school, I was an Electrician before joining the Police, serving as a Police Officer for nearly twenty years. I then moved into project management, responsible for the delivery of civil and educational projects across Scotland. More recently, I have completed two degrees and passed other academical courses to achieve my life-long ambition to become a teacher. In my spare time, I am an officer in the Royal Air Force Reserve, responsible for the protection and security of RAF establishments/assets within the UK.

## **Life and Ethos of the School**

We are slowly returning to some sort of normality – our first whole school assembly was held last week and we are now able to have visits to the school. Our first being next week when P3/2T will spend time with the countryside classroom on wheels. During French (taken by Ms Rees), the class will be revisiting colours, numbers, and basic greetings before learning to say your name and age and ask someone else theirs. We will also be learning some basic topic-related words this term. Whenever possible, we will put our learning into context and experience the joy of learning outdoors. The class will be learning throughout the year to build, create, discover and play in the outdoor environment. Our new outdoor classroom will provide us with further opportunities to remain outside even in more challenging weather.

## **Interdisciplinary Learning**

Our focus for this term is Potato Potential - to grow our understanding of the wonderful seasonal possibilities presented by the humble 'tattie'! Intergenerational approaches and sector leading experts will share their spud experience and inspire everyone to buy local/plant, harvest and get creative cooking this wonderous global tuber. We will also investigate how the potato is grown and produced as well as discovering important social aspects relating to food poverty. This topic will provide further opportunity to learn across the curriculum such as counting, measuring and estimating potatoes, whilst also broadening our vocabulary and inquisitive minds such as creating characters/stories involving all sorts of vegetables!

## **Health and Wellbeing**

PE lessons will be held by Mrs Flockton every Tuesday afternoon, the focus being the introduction of racket sports (tennis). A further session with me on a Thursday will focus on fitness and wellbeing. Please ensure your child comes to school equipped with a PE kit, a water bottle and suncream if it is likely to be a sunny day. We will also have opportunities for the class to experience wellbeing interventions such as yoga and meditation and include regular circle time to work on class cohesion, social skills and developing relationships with our peers.

## **Literacy**



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### **Reading**

This term I will be holding group reading sessions throughout the week. For homework, I will be sending home one book to read together each week. You should also look for a reading record book as this will contain the reading completed in class each day. Please ensure your child brings their reading book and reading record to school each day, as it may be necessary to hold the sessions on different days due to other commitments.

### **Writing**

This term we will be focusing on personal writing such as weekend/holiday news, diaries, etc. We will also try our hand at prediction – looking at the cover of books to predict what happens to the main characters.

### **Listening & Talking**

Our Listening and Talking activities will take the form of class discussions on a variety of subjects including our class topic, sharing weekend news, Health and Wellbeing, RME etc. Our fireside Friday's will also provide an opportunity for the class to practise their listening and talking skills.

### **Handwriting**

I will be holding weekly handwriting lessons throughout the year with an initial focus on correct letter formation. We will then go on to look at positioning the letters correctly, ensuring that ascenders and descenders are the correct height/length for example.

### **Spelling**

Spelling lists will be issued on Mondays and sent home inside spelling jotters. These jotters will also be used for dictation in class to enable the children to practise writing their spelling words during the week. Spelling check-ups will take place every Friday.

### **Grammar**

This term, P3 will focus mainly on different parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. They will also look at alphabetical order, plurals and opposites. P2 will be learning about capital letters, sentence structure, common nouns, alphabetical order and the use of 'a' or 'an'.

### **Numeracy**

For this term, our focus will be place value, addition, estimation/measurement, shape and mental maths strategies. We will revisit what has already been learned before moving onto larger numbers. I will also introduce [Sumdog](#) to support independent learning both at home and within the classroom.

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**And finally ...** should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education or any other issue with me, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the office staff who will pass on your details. Thank you! 😊

**Many thanks,**

**Mr Thornley**

## Class Timetable

	9 am – 10.30 am		10.45 am – 12.15 pm		1.15 pm – 3.15 pm
<b>Monday</b>	Numeracy and mathematics	<b>BREAK</b>	Literacy	<b>LUNCH</b>	Expressive Arts/Topic Focus then HWB
<b>Tuesday</b>	Numeracy and mathematics		Literacy		PE with Mrs Flockton/STEM
<b>Wednesday</b>	Numeracy and mathematics		Literacy then French.		French then Topic/HWB
<b>Thursday</b>	Numeracy and mathematics		Literacy		PE with Mr T then RME/Topic
<b>Friday</b>	Numeracy and mathematics		Literacy		Fireside Friday HWB