



# Primary 3/2T Newsletter Term 3



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

## **Welcome by Mr Thornley**

Hello parents/carers – Happy New Year.

Last term went very quickly and this one looks set to be even busier with so many fantastic opportunities in store for everyone!

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

This term, the whole school will be taking part in Great Together every Thursday afternoon. It's an opportunity for everyone to experience new and challenging activities as well as learn new skills. The class will have an opportunity to make their own aprons from scratch – designing, cutting fabrics and sewing them together. There will also be a series of STEM inter-house challenges, using Kapla and Makdo (cardboard engineering). Finally, each class will experience fire lighting/making warm drinks, cooking outdoors and erecting simple shelters as well as learning how to tie knots.

This term will also see the class cooking/baking, depending on our current learning context and whenever possible, 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 will be accepting responsibility – keeping live animals in school. Last year I was successful in applying to the Fishkeeper Fry programme, it's a fun and engaging educational programme that teaches children about the science and art of keeping fish. Using a series of weekly online instructional we will follow step-by-step lessons about how to set up an aquarium, add fish and look after those fish day-to-day. We shall also investigate the country of origin of the fish, habitats and what we can do to support our fish thriving in any environment. It is my intention to organise a trip later in the term connected to our responsibility project – more details to follow once organised. Finally, as a class we will be building the school's first permanent weather station whereby we can use our new founded knowledge of data recording to monitor the weather.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

PE lessons will be held by Mrs Flockton every Monday morning, (a change to the previous term) the focus being racket sports. A further session with me on either Wednesday or Thursday afternoon will focus on fitness and wellbeing. Please ensure your child comes to school equipped with a PE kit and a water bottle. 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.



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## **Literacy**

### **Reading**

This term I will continue with our 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**

Our focus this term will be an introduction to the many different styles and approaches to writing. We will also continue to explore story writing, creating interesting characters through pupil's feelings, actions and physical description. To coincide with Robert Burns and world Poetry Day later this term, the class will be writing poems and discover the joy of playing with words to create their own work.

### **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. The class will also be practising to recite their Scots poem with the eventual winners attending the Methlick Burns Supper later this month to recite their poem in front of the audience. Our fireside Fridays 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 continue to focus on different parts of speech such as antonyms, adjectives and questioning. They will also continue to use dictionaries in order to support writing/spelling. P2 will be learning about capital letters, sentence structure, common nouns, verbs and alphabetical order.



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## Numeracy

For this term, our focus will continue to be addition/subtraction, revising what has already been learned before moving onto larger numbers. I will also be introducing time and information handling – graphs/pie charts. We will use this knowledge to record and monitor the weather at school throughout the term. The use of [Sumdog](#) to support independent learning both at home and within the classroom will continue.

## STEM

This term, we will continue to explore coding and sequencing to the class via the Scratch Junior platform. This software is free to use/download onto a tablet/smartphone type device and it's available from the usual places you get your apps. With Scratch Jr, young children can program their own interactive stories and games. In the process, they learn to solve problems, design projects, and express themselves creatively using a computer type device. We will also take advantage of the many new resources in school such as Makedo and Kapla, to complete our own challenges within the classroom.

**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>	PE with Mrs Flockton	<b>LUNCH</b>	Literacy
<b>Tuesday</b>	Numeracy and mathematics		Literacy		Expressive Arts/Topic Focus then HWB
<b>Wednesday</b>	Numeracy and mathematics		French		PE with Mr T or Topic
<b>Thursday</b>	Literacy or Cooking		Numeracy and mathematics		Great Together
<b>Friday</b>	Numeracy and mathematics		Literacy		Fireside Friday