



Primary 1-4 Newsletter – Term 1 2020/21

A very warm welcome back to the class. We are delighted to have five new Primary 1 children and a big welcome to them also.

We've had a great first few weeks getting used to new routines and having fun with our friends. It has been wonderful to see so many happy faces and there is a real buzz in the classroom and around the school.

During term one, the focus will be very much on re-establishing routines, and on reviewing and implementing procedures to promote pupil and staff safety.

We will be spending considerable time focusing on health and well-being:

- Building our class team and creating a charter of shared values
- Exploring our emotions
- Taking part in growth mind-set activities
- Circle time activities to allow time to talk
- Physical exercise and relaxation
- Art and outdoor play and learning will take place most afternoons. We have already had a lot of fun playing some new socially distanced outdoor games!

The curriculum will not look as normal as we are still not in normal times. We will be focusing on literacy and numeracy. We will spend time assessing children in basic number and literacy skills appropriate to their level to identify the impact of Lockdown on their learning journey. We will then focus on areas which are identified from these assessments.

Older pupils will be involved in putting together their folios of work, including some of the work they did in Lockdown. They will be actively involved in setting targets to close any gaps that may have developed.

Some children indeed may have benefitted from learning in Lockdown.

The children will also spend a lot of time learning outside. There are several reasons for this.

The visual and sensory stimulation children experience when learning in an outdoor environment can be liberating. Exposure and access to large, outdoor space can also have a wide range of social, economic, environmental and health benefits.

Consistent exposure to nature decreases stress and anxiety, helps elevate mood, encourages positive social interaction with peers and helps with emotion.

Outside is also better for playing, and in addition is deemed safer in terms of COVID infection.

P.E will also be held outside.

CCR (Class Contact Reduction Time) will be on a Wednesday and will be delivered by Mrs More.

Indoor shoes – Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes to change into daily.

Gym – At the moment we do not have set gym days. As we are outside most days there is no requirement to change for gym. If your child does wish to wear a gym kit these can be worn under clothes.

Homework (Primary 1, 2 and 3 **Sounds and sight words**)– I will be issuing all of the homework for this term at the same time. I have dated all of the work. Please only complete the homework set for each week. The completed work can then all be returned during the last week of this term please.

The songs and actions to support the sounds we are covering in class I will also post on the virtual learning wall (used during lockdown) weekly for you to revise at home. Please do try to practise the sounds and sight words every day.

P4 –7 – there will be no homework at present.

Class blog – I will update this regularly with photographs and information about what we have been learning in class. You can access this through the link on the school website.

Any queries/concerns can be emailed to the school and these will be passed on to me.

I very much look forward to a fantastic term ahead with your lovely children.

Mrs Bilsland

