



Banchory-Devenick School

Spring Term Newsletter 2024

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We hope you had an enjoyable festive season and a nice break. The staff would like to thank the Parent Council for the gift cards we received for Christmas.

Dates for your Diaries:

Please read carefully and make a note. Any additional dates will be communicated as soon as possible.

Thursday 11th January - P7 Transition Meeting at Portlethen Academy

Friday 12th January - Folios Out

Tuesday 23rd January - Parent Council Meeting (6.30pm)

Thursday 1st February - UNICEF Day for Change

Monday 5th February - Children's Mental Health Week

Wednesday 7th February - P1 & P7 Dental Checks (rescheduled from Monday 15th January)

Thursday 8th / Friday 9th February - Occasional Days

Monday 12th February - Mid-Term Break

Tuesday 13th / Wednesday 14th February - INSET

Friday 16th February - Lunar New Year Celebrations (Year of the Dragon)

Thursday 22nd February - P1-P4 Bricks and Blocks Workshop (STEM)

Monday 4th March - Coram Life Education Health and Wellbeing Workshops

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day Celebrations / Scholastic Book Fair

Wednesday 20th March - P5-P7 Electric Explorers Workshop (STEM)

Friday 22nd March - School Reports Issued

Thursday 28th March - Easter Assembly (staff and pupils only) / Break Up



School Lunches

Please be aware that, should the school have a delayed start due to adverse weather, children will need to bring a packed lunch. This is because our school lunches are made at Portlethen Primary School and are taxied up.

Active Schools

P.E. lessons - Each class will receive 3 boccia sessions run by Active Schools as part of their P.E. lessons (Thursday 18th January, Thursday 25th January, Thursday 1st February).



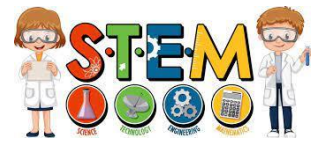
Multi-Sports Club - The Active Schools P4-P7 Multisports Club will run after school on Tuesdays. The club will start on Tuesday 9th January and will run until the Easter holidays.

Code Club

In response to a request from the Pupil Voice Groups, Ben Bamford has kindly agreed to run a Code Club for the children on alternate Wednesday lunchtimes. Currently the club is open to children in P4-P7, however it is anticipated that the younger children will have their turn after the February break.

Generation Science

Each class will receive a STEM based workshop from Generation Science. These workshops will support Science and Technologies work being done in class.



Parking

Due to a change in working hours, Venetta (our cleaner) has asked that parents don't block parking spaces at the end of the school day as she needs access at 3pm.

Rights Respecting Schools

At the end of last session, the Rights Respecting Schools Group expressed an interest in finding out more about Dyslexia, Autism and Aspergers. As such we will be organising a series of themed assemblies for Children's Mental Health Week.



We are pleased to announce that the school was successful in achieving status as a Gold Rights Respecting School. Thanks to the staff and pupils for all their hard work and to the parents who came to speak to the assessor.

Social Enterprise

Thank you to everyone who supported the Fabulous Fairtrade Feasts Christmas enterprise. We raised £280. This time, the children have decided that they want to donate the money to World Vision with a view to sponsoring a child.

Primary 1 - Primary 4

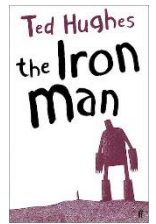
Context for Learning

- Light and Electricity through 'The Iron Man.'

- Main Focuses - Science, Technologies, Language and Literacy.

Reading

- Class Novel: 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes...differentiated comprehension and grammar activities using the Super Sleuths and Reflective Reading schemes.
- Weekly Drop Everything and Read sessions: Aimed at promoting reading for enjoyment.
- Fortnightly Book Buddy sessions with our buddies in the P5-P7 class.
- Continuing our phonics progression and tricky word inputs.
- Continuing banded reading books each week. It is essential you note in your child's reading record when they have practiced. Please provide any feedback in the box within the reading diary - this is for me to read, not your child.



Writing

- Descriptive Writing: Linked to 'The Iron Man' (including similes).
- Instruction Writing: Linked to Science and Technologies.
- Uplevelling sentences to contain connectives, adjectives and adverbs.
- Creating a fact file about a key figure from the past: Link to electricity and/or light.

Talking and listening

- Book Recommendations: Homework activity to prepare a short speech for the class...more information to follow after the February break.
- Following instructions to build or draw objects.
- Group tasks and teamwork challenges.

Numeracy and Maths

- Subtraction: Through a variety of practical and written activities.
- 2D and 3D Shape: Naming, classifying and describing.
- Angles, Symmetry and Transformation: Link with Technology for coding robots.
- Time: Digital and analogue clocks to include timetables and links to the school day.
- Fractions: Writing and finding fractions of shapes. Extension - Finding fractions of numbers.
- Mental Maths: Addition and times tables.



Health and Wellbeing (including P.E.)

- Before February Break: Boccia and Parachute Games.
- After February Break: Dance and Dodge Ball.

- Fill the New Year with kindness challenges.

Social Studies

- Using books, videos and Internet to find out more about a figure from the past: Link to electricity or light.
- Looking after the environment: Link to electricity.

Science

- Electricity: Safety; types of energy (light, sound, heat etc); circuits and batteries.
- Magnets: Poles and magnetic materials.



Technologies

- ICT: Logging onto a device with a given username and password; keyboard skills; finding and opening saved documents.
- Internet Safety.
- Computing Science: Coding robots...link with maths.
- Engineering: Constructing models to show a solution to a problem using suitable materials and joins.

Modern Languages

- Spanish: Extending day-to-day vocabulary; learning names of electrical appliances and inventions...link to play activities in the home corner.

Expressive Arts

- **Dance:** Creating and following routines to music.
- **Art:** Drawing with scale and providing constructive feedback to peers using appropriate art vocabulary.

Primary 5 - Primary 7

Context for Learning

- The Victorians and the Industrial Revolution.
- Main Focuses - History, Science, Technologies.



Reading

- Class Novel: Street Child by Berlie Doherty...comprehension and grammar skills developed through Book Detective and Reflective Reading activities.
- Instructions: Model making (link to Technologies)
- Young at Heart/Bedtime Stories with BD: Continuation from last term.
- Half-Termly Book Recommendations: These will be shared with Fishermoss School.
- Weekly Drop Everything and Read Sessions: Aimed at promoting reading for enjoyment.

- Fortnightly Book Buddy Sessions: Aimed at promoting reading across ages/stages.

Writing

- Note Taking: From audio/visual/written sources based on Victorians and the Industrial Revolution.
- Functional: Biographies based on Victorian inventors; instructions based on work developed in STEM.
- Imaginative: Developing characterisation and setting through diary entries and stories.



Talking and Listening

- Oral Book Recommendations/Discussions.
- Group Tasks: Aimed at promoting teamwork and cooperation.
- Dragon's Den Presentations: Homework task based on STEM inventions...more information to follow.

Numeracy and Maths

- Addition and Subtraction: Apply to solving problems, e.g. money, Victorian census etc.
- Multiplication and Division: Focuses x7, x8, x9. Extend knowledge and understanding by, e.g. multiplying and dividing by 70,000/0.7 etc.
- Fractions, Decimals, Percentages, Ratios: Dividing shapes/quantities, simplifying, discounts etc. Apply to shopping/baking etc.
- Shape - Naming and classifying 2D and 3D shapes, nets.
- Symmetry - Reflective and rotational.
- Patterns and Sequences: Key focus...identifying and explaining the rule.

Health and Wellbeing

- Before February Break - Boccia and Fitness Circuits.
- After February Break - Basketball and Racquet Skills.

Social Studies

- Use books, Internet and artefacts to find out more about life in Victorian times. Themes include: the monarchy, the divide between rich and poor, health and wellbeing, leisure, home life, schooling.



Science

- The Birth of Electricity: Batteries, components, circuits.
- Light: Reflection, refraction, distortion, dispersion, filters.
- The Industrial Revolution: Inventors and inventions during Victorian times and how they have changed/developed over time.

Technologies

- Model Making: Applying scientific concepts to making working models, e.g. batteries, electrical circuit quiz boards, lighthouses, lighting for the Victorian Doll's house, pin-hole cameras etc.
- ICT: Generating 2D and 3D shapes using computer technologies (link to the work of artists Mondrian and Kandinsky).
- ICT: Exploring computer modelling and design using Scratch.
- The Industrial Revolution: Researching Victorian inventors and inventions and exploring how inventions have changed/developed over time.

Modern Languages

- French/Spanish: Using bi-lingual dictionaries to name/label different forms of transport; using adjectives to describe, e.g. size, speed, colour; constructing simple sentences.



Religious Education

- Christianity: Compare the importance of religion in Victorian society and in today's society.
- Focus on Christianity...key figures, festivals, places of worship, teachings, symbols.
- Compare Christian religion with Islamic religion (studied last term).

Expressive Arts

Art: Pencil drawings based on Victorian characters. Focus on shading, tone and texture.

- Watercolours: Create and paint wallpaper patterns in the style of William Morris. Use to decorate walls of Victorian doll's house.
- Digital Photography: Edit own photos using coloured filters.

Drama: Work in groups to produce short improvised and scripted sketches using Victorian video clips and 'Street Child' as stimuli. Focuses to include characterisation, voice projection and audience awareness.



Music: Victorian Music Hall songs.

- Reading and composing own recorder music using standard notation.

We hope that this new style of newsletter has given you an indication of what each class's learning will focus on for the term. If anyone would like to discuss the curriculum in more detail, please get in touch.

