



St. Catherine's P.S. & Nursery School Curriculum Newsletter

Key Stage 1- P4A Term 1 2020 Miss B Kelly

Dear Parent,

We hope your child is having a good year so far. Things are really exciting in our school for our Key Stage 1 children. As you know we have a planned highly structured curriculum for your child. We want to involve you in your child's education so this newsletter is to inform you of what your child will be studying in school this term. You can support your child by also discussing these curriculum areas at home.

Literacy

Phonics

Your child will be covering the sounds oa, ow, er, ee, oo, ay, i_e, aw, oy, u u_e, e ea, i y, u, air this term. The Grammar focus for this term is compound words, nouns, adjectives and verbs.

Reading

Your child will read through the different stages of the Oxford Reading tree Scheme started in P1. Reading will be heard regularly each week and a record is kept in school of each child's progress. Your child will continue to develop their comprehension skills. You can support this at home by asking them questions about what they have read in their reading books. It is always a good idea to enrol your child in the local town library and borrow/ read books with them regularly. All children are also enrolled on MYON –an online library where they can access and read many books free of charge. MYON usernames and passwords were sent home before the Halloween break.

As you will be aware, pupils participate in the Accelerated Reading Programme within school. This helps to develop their interest in reading and is beneficial for their overall literacy. It can now also be accessed from home and usernames and passwords for this went home before Halloween.

Speaking and Listening

Listening skills are vital in order to help your child learn. Children will continue to develop their listening skills through a variety of activities in the classroom. This could be supported at home by playing listening games with your child such as recalling shopping lists etc. Children will further develop their confidence in sharing ideas within the bubble group and participating in role play and other speaking activities.

Writing

Every day we focus on a different area of Literacy such as; comprehension, grammar and punctuation, Linguistic Phonics, development of vocabulary and creative writing. In Writing we will explore, feelings, descriptions, parts of speech, information, postcards, recounts, recipes, poems, myths, newspaper and instructional writing. We will have a particular emphasis this term on writing Explanations.

In Grammar we will focus on compound words, nouns, adjectives and verbs. Also capital letters, full stops and questions marks. New areas for investigation will include contractions, thesaurus and dictionary work.

Handwriting

Children will continue to develop their handwriting skills using the Tom Gourdie style of writing. Please encourage your child to pay attention to their handwriting when completing homework activities.

Numeracy

Processes in Maths are embedded in each area of Maths and Numeracy.

Number

Your child will have the opportunity to develop their Numeracy skills and will be covering Numbers to 100 with opportunities for extension to 1000. The children will explore sequencing, more/less than and

Hundreds, Tens and Units, addition and subtraction. We will work on counting in 2, 3,4,5s, and 10s and begin to know the relevant times tables.

Shape and Space

The children will explore 2D/3D shapes and their properties. This includes all regular 2D Shapes, including semi-circle and quadrilateral. 3D Shapes include the cube, cuboid, sphere, hemi-sphere, prism and cone. We will investigate 1 line of symmetry and symmetrical images.

Measure

The children will also explore time through o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. There will be opportunities for the children to extend to 5 minute intervals as well. We will investigate capacity by looking at millilitres and litres and length through kilometres, metres and centimetres.

Data Handling

Your child will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge of Venn Diagrams, Tree Diagrams, Frequency tables, Bar Charts and Pie Charts. We will explore Carroll Diagrams by sorting for up to two criteria.

ICT

In ICT your child will be revising how to log on, save and access their work. They will be creating and editing a Microsoft Word document that is linked to our Topic, **Weather Watchers**. The children will copy, paste, change font size, colour and style. If you have access to a computer at home your child would benefit from practise in Microsoft Word. In addition, all children will learn how to access MYON and Microsoft Teams independently. This is important preparation in the event that remote or blended learning becomes necessary. Children took home their C2k usernames and passwords before Halloween to enable them to access Teams from home in the event of a self-isolation situation or bubble lockdown.

Topics this term (cover Geography, History, Science, Personal Developing & Mutual understanding)

Weather Watchers

Through this topic we will be exploring the areas of

- Seasonal weather
- Weather forecasting and its uses.
- The water cycle
- How do we protect ourselves against the weather?
- What is extreme weather and its effects?
- Local history: Strabane Flood
- Weather and climate in different countries.

Seasonal topics: Autumn, Halloween and Christmas

PATHS and PDMU

In PATHS this term we are exploring and recognising a range of feelings to further develop children's emotional vocabulary - happy, sad, private, scared, safe, angry, fine, excited, disappointed, tired and frustrated. We will be exploring behavioural self-control and strategies to achieve this and further developing themes of friendship, fair play, being a good winner / loser, problem solving situations and looking at different points of view. The PATHS child of the day will continue /compliments given and compliment lists displayed in the children's own classrooms for now.

An integral part of PDMU this term involves coping with returning to school after the extended break and learning the rules for keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe and healthy during the COVID pandemic.

Religion

There will be daily morning prayers in the classroom, due to **Social distancing** restrictions.

Your child will be completing activities from the Grow In Love programme for P4. This term we will be covering 'Called and Chosen', 'Jesus' 'Advent and Christmas'.

During this term we will be exploring various prayers. Act of Sorrow, The Confiteor, Morning Prayer, Hail Mary, Angel of God, Our Father, Glory be to the Father.

The children will also shortly commence their preparation for receiving the sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion.

It would be lovely if you took your child to Mass or watched it on the webcam from home every week and on other occasions to help with their study of Prayer and preparation for their Holy Communion.

P.E

Your child will have PE every week. In the current circumstances we are asking children to come to school dressed in their full P.E. uniform on their allocated day. They will not be required to bring a change of clothes. The PE uniform consists of a white polo shirt, navy bottoms and dark trainers. Please ensure earrings are removed before school on these days.

Homework

Reminder: there is a Homework Folder A & a Homework Folder B which will operate on an alternate week basis containing your child's homework exercise book and reading book. Written homeworks for both Literacy and Numeracy have been clearly noted in the homework books and all homeworks should be completed between Monday-Thursday evenings.

Your child has previously taken home two textbooks from which weekly homeworks are drawn:

Collins Grammar and Punctuation Book 1

Schofield and Simms Mental Arithmetic Introductory Book

And booklets containing spellings, keywords and number facts for 6 weeks at a time.

Please return homework folders containing exercise book and reading book on Friday morning. Children will take home the next week's folder on the following Monday.

Please remember to sign your child's homework books.

On Fridays your child will have a weekly assessment based on the spellings and number facts of the week, Assessment book will be sent home the following Monday to be signed and returned on Friday.

General Reminders

PE day- Tuesday

Golden time- Friday

Praise Day-Friday-Pupil of the week!

Friday is Treat Day where the children can bring a small treat to school for their snack.

Monthly Newsletter. This newsletter is uploaded to our website www.stcatherinesps.co.uk or you can download our FREE APP to your phone and you will also find all the information there **St Catherine's PS, Strabane**

We will continue to have temperature checks and regular handwashing/sanitising throughout the day.

Children will be provided with soap, hand sanitiser and tissues at school. If your child has any allergies, please let us know.

If you have any concerns, please contact your child's teacher. (bkelly633@c2kni.net)

If you have not already given your email address, please submit this to Miss Doherty

(jdoherty742@c2kni.net) at your earliest convenience. it is very important to ensure the school has this as we proceed through this year.