



HEAD TEACHER WELCOME



Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we move into the winter months.

Our School Improvement Plan for this session sets out our change to literacy pedagogy, with this term a focus on reading strategies and skills. All teachers attend training and are supported in planning by Mrs Longstaff, our Literacy Champion. On our in-service day, we received training in reading pedagogical approaches from the West Partnership who are our Regional Improvement Collaborative. All teaching staff have visited other schools to gather good practice examples and shared these at staff meetings. We have created new planning documents and agreed a whole school approach to teaching reading to increase pupil attainment. We will continue to build on this great start to improve literacy further at Twechar PS.

During November the management team will engage in further quality assurance. We will do this through classroom visits to observe learning and teaching, taking part in learning walks to discuss learning with pupils, and capture their evaluations of this new way of learning through teaching and mentoring meetings to discuss each child's progress. We look forward to showcasing our great work with you next term.

This year we are delighted to have all our usual Christmas celebrations underway. Primary 1-3 children will prepare and present a nativity called 'Busy, Busy, Bethlehem'. P5-P7 children will perform our Christmas show 'The Wizard of Oz'. We look forward to welcoming you to our school events.

Our excellent, hardworking Parent Council must be congratulated for their fantastic Hallowe'en Discos – what great fun! The Parent Council will man a stall at Parents' Evening to ask families what improvements they would like to see in our school playground and ask for ideas for events you would like to see in school for our children and families.

All events require helpers beyond the Parent Council in order to run safely. Without helpers we will be unable to run large events outwith school time, so please let them know if you can volunteer to help at school events and support them to bring fun, memorable activities for our children.



HEAD TEACHER WELCOME



I would like to thank you all for supporting your child to learn their Hallowe'en poem and it was wonderful to see so many of you enjoy their performance on Hallowe'en. Thank you for coming along and supporting the school, it really was a special afternoon and a great way to start Hallowe'en celebrations.

I am saddened to report that our children are coming to school with unhealthy snacks. After a good start in August the number of healthy snacks have dropped. We need parental support with this. Children only need one small snack and snacks should be low sugar, salt and fat. Fruit, breadsticks, cheese and sandwiches make a healthy alternative with so many benefits for your child. Please try to provide a healthy alternative for your child's snack.

This week we will launch our school committees. All children in P4-7 will be a member of a school committee. Our children are excellent ambassadors for the school and have many great ideas on how to improve. It is important that we gather pupil voice and use their ideas to improve the school and make it a place in which they feel included and involved. We would like to have parents involved in the committees to support the children to make real change for the school. If you think you would be able to come along to a monthly meeting with a committee and support children to make a real difference, please let me know. There will be an opportunity to sign up at Parents' Evening or please contact me directly.

I look forward to meeting you this week at parents' evenings.

Take care,
Marie-Louise

KEY DATES

- Fri 17th Nov - Children in Need.
- Fri 17th Nov - Bookbug/Read, Write, Count Parent Session at 9:30am.
- Fri 24th Nov - Library visit.
- Mon 4th Dec - EDC Christmas Concert in Glasgow.
- Wed 13th Dec - Christmas Shows at 1.15pm.
- Thurs 14th Dec - Christmas shows at 6.30pm.
- Thurs 21st Dec - Christmas Parties.
- Fri 22nd Dec - School Closes at 2.30pm for Christmas holidays.



FAMILY LEARNING UPDATE



Family Learning encourages family members to learn together as and within a family, with a focus on Intergenerational learning. Family learning activities can also be specifically designed to enable parents to learn how to support their children's learning. 'Family learning is a powerful method of engagement and learning which can foster positive attitudes towards lifelong learning, promote socio-economic resilience and challenge educational disadvantage'.

(Scottish Family Learning Network, 2016)

Who leads Family Learning and who is it for? My name is Denise McMunn and I am the Family Learning Assistant for Twechar Primary School. Family Learning is open to all families. I would encourage families to become involved because of the positive impact it can have on all children. Family Learning enhances learning for your child and improves outcomes. It's that simple! A joined up approach is important. We can help!

Our Primary 3 children were given the opportunity to participate in weekly gardening sessions where they planted and tended to fruit and vegetables at the garden area within the grounds of the Twechar HLEC next to the school. The vegetables that were grown and harvested were subsequently on display at the HLEC annual Harvest Fayre in September and were available at the event for members of the community to take home.

As we teach our children about the importance of sustainable living, we have a supply of good quality items of preloved school uniform available. With the temperature dropping daily, Twechar Primary School also has a small number of good quality, pre-loved winter coats and jackets on offer to those who may need them. Please ask!

We understand that the current economic climate has had an impact on many families' income due to reduced hours, job loss or other circumstances. Please, if you are struggling to get by don't feel stuck – we are here to help. We now have a confidential electronic referral system to the foodbank. There will be a letter sent out to all families with further information.

If you wish to enrol your child for the new school session in August 2024, they must have reached the age of 5 years between 1st March 2024 and 28th February 2025. You can register your child by completing the online registration form available on the EDC website between 1-30 November 2023. Please don't hesitate to ask if you require any help with this.



LITERACY CHAMPION UPDATE



BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND

We are delighted to be welcoming parents into school on such a busy and vibrant week! From our book cover door displays, to our outdoor book scavenger hunt, our literary pairs to our P1-3 'Come Read with Me' sessions on Friday, you will find books and stories at the heart of everything in our school community this week. Please follow us on X (Twitter) to access regular photos and updates. We're @twecharps and could do with an extra follower or two!

TALK TO ME ABOUT

- Getting involved in our library development.
- The best book cover door display!
- What you're reading at the moment.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

We now have a library area within the school that all children can access! Our dedicated P6/7 librarians and I are creating a wish-list to enhance the space, thanks to the Parent Council applying for funding. A huge thank you and shout out goes to a fantastic parent helper who collected a sofa and chair and hand delivered this to us in his van!

DID YOU KNOW?

Reading - sharing books and stories at home is one of the most effective ways of fostering a lifelong love of reading and writing. If you would like help or support with this, please don't be shy in asking for help.

PARTNERSHIP WITH WILLIAM PATRICK LIBRARY

We continue to work closely with Helen from our local library in Kirkintilloch. Helen visits us one Friday every month to deliver books based on the children's recommendations. Now that Mrs Longstaff has had her minibus training, we've pencilled in dates to take each class to visit the library in January. Helen has also supported us on our library journey, training up our two P6/7 librarians on how to categorise books and create inviting reading areas.



PRIMARY 1/2

NEWSLETTER



LITERACY

PI/2 have been very busy learning new sounds. They are super at remembering the action and song to go with each sound. PI have been looking for things around the class and outside that begin with their sound of the week. P2 have been looking for their phonemes in their reading books. PI/2 have produced some fabulous writing this term and know that a sentence should have a capital letter and full stop. They have been listening to stories about Percy the Park Keeper and have written lots about him!

ASK ME ABOUT

- Our new 'Target Tasks'.
- Our good morning song.
- Percy the park keeper.

MATHS

PI/2 have been trying hard with their numeracy. PI know numbers before and after, up to 10. They use their rhymes to help form these numbers. P2 have been working on numbers to 100 and are making great progress. PI/2 love to play number games as part of their 'Target Tasks' during play, which helps to consolidate what they have learned.

KEY DATES

- Fri 17th Nov - Children in Need.
- Fri 17th Nov - Bookbug Gifting.
- Wed 22nd Nov - Outdoor Learning (Bring Wellies!)
- Fri 24th Nov - Library visit.

OTHER AREAS

PI/2 enjoyed learning about Under the Sea creatures through literacy. We read stories such as 'The Rainbow Fish', 'The Snail and The Whale' and 'Sharing a Shell'. We learned lots about sharing and being kind. We made a display about how we would like our class to be. Primary 1/2 have taken an interest in Castles and have decided they'd like to find out lots more about them this term.



PRIMARY 1/2

IN ACTION



Check out Seesaw and Twitter for regular picture updates!



PRIMARY 2/3

NEWSLETTER



LITERACY

Writing – this term we have been focusing on suspense stories, through the model text Funny Bones. We are working towards writing suspense stories of our own.

Reading – We have been learning about summarising, using the 5 finger approach to pull out key information. We have used this across a range of media including story books, films such as Shrek, and poems.

Grammar – we are focusing on all different types of punctuation including full stops, capital letters, question marks and speech marks. We are understanding what each of these are and when these are used. We are starting to incorporate these into our own writing.

ASK ME ABOUT

- The Five Finger approach.
- Greater and less than crocodiles.
- Gymnastics - balances and rolls.
- The largest rainforest in the world.

OTHER AREAS

P2/3 have been looking at the Rainforest this term. We have located rainforests on a map and how their location impacts the climate to create the hot and wet weather. We have designed posters on the different layers of the rainforest and have created our own rainforest on the wall in our classroom. We will be focusing on different animals of the rainforest and how they have adapted to survive there and will go on to understand the dangers the rainforests are facing currently.

KEY DATES

- Wed 15th Nov - Outdoor Learning (Bring Wellies!)
- Fri 17th Nov - Children in Need.
- Fri 17th Nov - Read, Write, Count Gifting.
- Fri 24th Nov - Library visit.

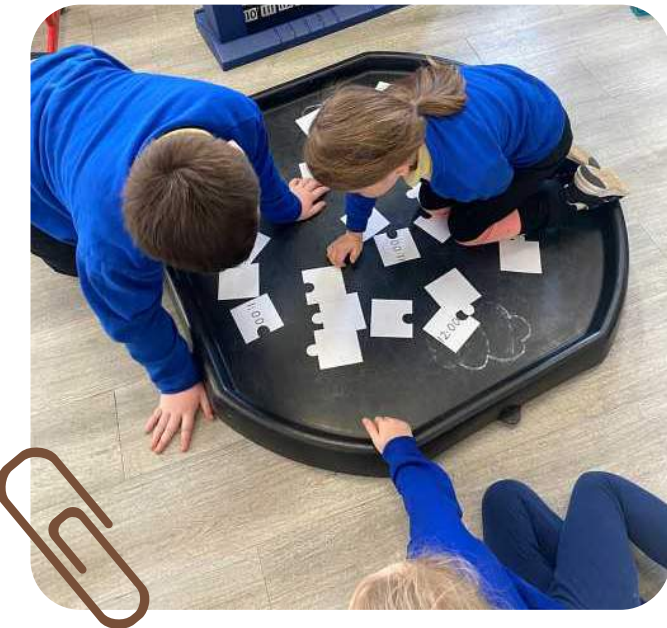
MATHS

Number Processes – we are looking at numbers to 100 and 3 digit numbers to 100. We have been developing an understanding of this using place value strategies, filling in missing numbers and sequencing these.

Time – we have discussed the importance of learning to tell the time and all the things this helps us to do – including catching a bus, and going to see a movie in the cinema. We will look at o'clock, half past and quarter to and past times. We will be able to read and write these times on both digital and analogue clocks.



PRIMARY 2/3 IN ACTION



Check out Seesaw and Twitter for regular picture updates!



PRIMARY 3/4

NEWSLETTER



LITERACY

Spelling - this term has focused a lot on Active Literacy partner work strategies. This involved the children breaking words down into the different sound combinations and studying how sounds can look different across a variety of words. For example, the ee sound in sleep and she.

Reading - we focused on using our reading tools to read aloud with fluency and expression. The children are becoming more and more skilled at skimming and scanning texts, sharing what they imagine stories to look like (visualisation) and summarising key events.

Writing - we have focused on writing suspense stories, full of spooky settings and interesting characters.

ASK ME ABOUT

- The best strategies for when you don't feel 'good to go'.
- What it takes to run a successful business.

MATHS

This term has focused on mental maths strategies children can use to solve addition and subtraction problems. P3/4 have enjoyed game based approaches to complete their learning, using cards, dice and online games. They are consolidating this learning in real life scenarios, through money lessons with Mrs Laidlaw once a week too.

KEY DATES

- Fri 17th Nov - Children in Need.
- Fri 17th Nov - P3 Read, Write, Count Parent Session.
- Fri 24th Nov - Library visit.

OTHER AREAS

We are looking at planning and running a business, focusing on creating our own Toy Shop. The children have enjoyed role playing different jobs, creating their own business proposals, and later they will move on to designing and creating products to sell. Stay tuned for further updates!



PRIMARY 3/4 IN ACTION



Check out Seesaw and Twitter for regular picture updates!



PRIMARY 5/6

NEWSLETTER



LITERACY

In literacy we are using different spelling strategies, such as diacritical marking to help us understand the different sounds that make up a word. We are focusing on nouns and adjectives, adding depth to our understanding when we read. We've been focusing on visualisation and prediction techniques to do this. We are looking at the features of a suspense story and will be writing our own soon!

MATHS

We are focusing on multiplication and division in numeracy, and how we can use different strategies to multiply numbers within 100. We are also focusing on time, continuing to use both analogue and digital clocks when completing time calculations.

ASK ME ABOUT

- John Muir (P5).
- How to multiply by 10 and 100.
- Why people celebrate Diwali.

KEY DATES

- Fri 17th Nov - Children in Need.
- Wed 29th Nov - P6 Outdoor Learning (Bring Wellies!)
- Fri 24th Nov - Library visit.

OTHER AREAS

We have been focusing on different topical celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Halloween and Diwali. We looked at why they are celebrated, how people celebrate them, and created some great art for each festival!



PRIMARY 5/6

IN ACTION



Check out Seesaw and Twitter for regular picture updates!



PRIMARY 6/7

NEWSLETTER



OTHER AREAS

Within Health and Wellbeing, we are continuing to focus on key social skills. In addition, we are exploring the importance of our equitable classroom. Mrs Laidlaw took us 'up the coachie' for outdoor learning. Activities included a blindfolded trust walk, den building, archery, nature hunt, and we finished with roasted marshmallows. Our enquiry learning focus is music and its impact on society. We will be concluding this shortly with a digital music composition.

MATHS

The class did a great job last term consolidating their learning on rounding, estimating and place value. This term we are making sure everyone feels secure then challenged with the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

ASK ME ABOUT

- The first chapter of 'Carrie's War'.
- What is a non-Newtonian fluid?
- 5 different genres of music.

KEY DATES

- Fri 17th Nov - Children in Need.
- Fri 24th Nov - Library visit.
- Mon 4th Dec - EDC Christmas Concert in Glasgow.
- Wed 13th/Thurs 14th Dec - Christmas Show.

LITERACY

This term we are exploring the features of a suspense text. We will continue this for a few weeks until we feel ready to write our own epic suspense stories. Primary 6/7 are enjoying the spine text of 'Varjak Paw' which we will use to help inform and enhance our writing.



PRIMARY 6/7 IN ACTION



Check out Seesaw and Twitter for regular picture updates!