



ORPHIR P4-7 2024 NEWSLETTER

Introduction

Hello and a huge welcome to you all. Every year at Orphir Primary School is an exciting one and this year is no different. We felt sharing a newsletter with you would be a great way to set everyone up for the school year with information on; our learning environment, curriculum, strategies and organisation we use to support your child(ren), Topics we will be doing this year, assessment and levelling in P4-7, general housekeeping we use and opportunities to volunteer to help us.

Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing

Our class is a dynamic environment that strives to support lots of different leaning styles and ensure each child is feeling confident and challenged by their tasks and expectations. We encourage a range of different formats for discussion and work in a variety of ways. We are set up in small groups format now but often change the table plan to suit the type of work we are doing at any given time. We also utilise our library, middle area and outdoor spaces if another space will support the children best.

Our Literacy program uses: Sounds Write Extended Code as the spelling program, Talk for Writing and the Orkney Writing guidelines for Writing lessons, Class Novels, novel packs, Wolf Hill, Project X and Project X Code for reading and guided reading and Philosophy for Children to support our teaching of Talking and Listening.

We endeavor to continually make relevant and memorable links to every part of the Literacy program as we work through it. Setting targets, developing a feeling of purpose and playing with texts supports the children in their learning. A great deal of our Literacy work is done through rotations, each group getting three medium tasks. Groups working at the end of Second Level or above will usually get one teacher guided reading session a week, as the target is developing independent readers while other groups will have at least three.

In Numeracy we also, at times, use rotations due to the wide range of levels the class are working on but also do differentiated whole class sessions. We do daily mental Maths and love to use whiteboards, they seem to remove the pressure of getting things right every time and encourage the children to give things a go. Then in the group Maths work we use Scottish Heinemann Maths and TJ Maths. Each group working at a challenging but progressive level. Health and Wellbeing is taught through using Jigsaw materials as well as the Scottish RSHP resource. A great deal of the work we have done on Rights Respecting Schools and Zones of Regulation encompass' core Health and Wellbeing outcomes. This theme will continue as we set our sights on the Gold RRS award this year.

Creativity

Kindness

Respect

Teamwork

Topics

Our School development plan this year is targeted at pupil led learning where the children have more choice in what and how they learn. Following a number of planning workshops where they gather all the ideas of subjects they would like to learn and how they want to do it they voted for... Drum roll...

Term 1 Coding and circuits

Term 2 Baking, developing and performing a play

Term 3 Harry Potter, Myths and Legends

Term 4 Orphir Olympics

These will all be taught using Inter Disciplinary Learning, giving the children a wide range of experiences through which they can develop a wide range of skills and subject knowledge.

Assessment and Levelling

We use a range of assessment techniques to ensure your child is working at the correct level. We also use them diagnostically so we can target areas they have less understanding of with interventions or additional group teaching. As your child works through the Curriculum for Excellence we will share with them, and you, their progress through a level. The levels will usually take three years to complete. In our class we are working predominantly on the second level with some on the first level with our goal to have completed the second level across all areas by the end of P7 when they will then predominantly work on third level in secondary school. If you would like to understand more about your child's curriculum level please don't hesitate to get in touch. They will be marked on their learning log reflection sheets which we will be using in terms 2 and 3 and this will hopefully help both you and your child understand how they are progressing.

Our Learning Environment



P4-7 Housekeeping

We have all the pencils and pens the children need, obviously if they want to take their own things in that is fine. If the children could take a water bottle in each day it is best for hygiene and I always allow them to fill it up through the day if empty it so it doesn't even need to be that big. If they forget their bottle or don't have one please encourage them to ask me for a cup on those days.

The children also need a PE kit and if they enjoy football or our class games like stamp on the flag it is a good idea to have an extra old pair of trainers and spare socks to avoid soggy feet following breaktimes.

In terms two and three we have learning log review sheets going home that should only take a couple of minutes to review with your child but have always proved to be very beneficial to their learning in the past.

Finally, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me with any questions or concerns through the year.

Thank you

Mr Dearness

