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Be the best we
can be!



Primary 5 Newsletter 3

March 2022

Be the best we can be!

Welcome to Newsletter 3 from Mr Wood!



Welcome to the third newsletter for Primary 5. We are well into Term 3 now and the hard work and effort of P5 since August is really coming to fruition. We have seen improvement across the board with pupils consistently attaining well in numeracy; increasing their reading ages significantly through their literacy learning; and



better able to regulate their emotions, adopting growth mind-sets and more mature attitudes. This was reflected in the excellent personal goals they set themselves back in January. I am very proud of my class as they continue to be the best they can be.

General Information and Routines

P5 are well aware we have high standards in school and are regularly meeting these in the classroom. We continue to use our positive behaviour chart and you will be made aware of daily successes through positive calls home or certificates. If your child is placed on consequence, I will call you to inform you as to why so we can resolve any issues together.

Please be reminded that pupils are allowed to wear PE kit on Tuesdays and Thursdays, however, on non-PE days, all pupils should be trying as much as possible to wear their school uniform. Our school uniform is a school sweatshirt and polo shirt, navy or black trousers or skirt, navy or black shorts, school dresses and black school shoes. We have a range of good quality recycled school uniform which is available for our families too so please ask. Please note, no items of clothing associated with football teams should be worn. Finally, remember to write your child's name on any items of clothing. There are a number of items in lost property in class with no names and going unclaimed.

The only change to our routine is that P5 will now have PE with Mr Peacock indoors on a Tuesday afternoon and outdoors with myself on a Thursday afternoon. Mr Peacock will now also teach Maths on a Friday after break rather than a Thursday morning as previously.

Health and Wellbeing (cont'd)

We have had blocks of learning on healthy foods and hygiene with pupil confidently able to describe food groups, the eat-well guide and what a healthy meal is. Their scores on their cookincastle.com learning showed they are able to choose balanced meals and ensure that health and hygiene protocols are followed.

We took part in a number of lessons on internet safety, gaming responsibly and being a respectful digital citizen. These lessons will continue with a focus on children learning about preventing and dealing with cyberbullying; how to use search engines efficiently; how to avoid plagiarism online; and how to be a good digital citizen. These lessons coincide with each pupil receiving their own Chromebook from Midlothian council. Please ensure you have returned the necessary forms so your child is able to receive a device.

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

In keeping with the good digital citizen theme, P5 have been taking part in an exciting opportunity offered virtually from the Social Enterprise Academy. Every Wednesday we take part in a Live Lesson along with another Scottish primary school, Friockheim PS. P5 are being supported to make a Social Enterprise which can have a positive effect locally, nationally or globally. The empathetic and good nature of P5 has shone through with their ideas for a social enterprise. We eventually decided on trying to prevent animal cruelty and pupils have come up with excellent ideas in order to raise awareness, educate others and try to make a lasting change. We are half way through the programme and will now put our ideas into actions, with support from the Enterprise Academy. These sessions have been building the skills needed for learning, life and work and the responsibility of representing Mayfield PS has been taken seriously. I am very excited for it all to come together.



Thank you

Thanks to you all for your support and encouraging your children to be the best they can be when in school. It is a pleasure to be their Teacher. Mr Wood.

Literacy (cont'd)

Pupils taking part in the Fresh Start programme have been making their teacher's proud. It is excellent to see those pupils returning to class with smiles, stickers and work they are proud of. Mrs Nelson's group has been receiving excellent feedback on their efforts during her lessons and Miss Hackett's group are becoming more and more confident as each week passes by.

We are now at the stage of VCOP where there is a big push on improving the punctuation in our writing. I can see great efforts to do this when reading P5's free writing pieces and through the recounts, information reports and explanation texts we have been practising in class. It is brilliant to see pupils using more sophisticated punctuation in their writing with the proper use of speech marks, colons, semi-colons and ellipses.

The learning I am most impressed with is the up-levelled vocabulary P5 are now using on a daily basis, both in their writing or in conversation. We take part in Word Boost everyday and since August, P5 have been introduced to well over 100 new words. It is excellent to hear these words being used correctly in everyday situations and written down in jotters as it shows an expanding vocabulary and excellent memory. New words are introduced through our topical spelling list and through our class novel, "The Night Bus Hero" by Onjali Q Rauf.

Health and Wellbeing

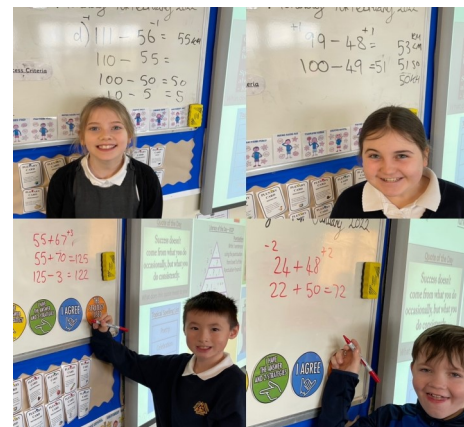
PE is very popular in P5 and we continue to ensure that 2 full hours of PE take place every week. Since returning to school in January, we had a block of lessons on Touch Rugby outdoors and Basketball indoors. P5 were energetic and enthusiastic as always in these lessons. We have come a long way since Term 1 where emotions are being controlled and performance is enhancing as a result. We are kinder and more empathetic team mates who encourage and build one another up. It has been brilliant to hear that through being introduced to new sporting experiences, some pupils have found new hobbies or even new aspirations to join a team.



Mr Peacock will now teach Badminton indoors on Tuesdays and I will be teaching athletics outdoors on Thursdays.

Learning Information: Maths and Numeracy

P5 continue to cover a different area of numeracy each day both through their morning Smart Start and their main numeracy lesson. We have made great improvements in solving problems using formal algorithms for all four of the operations, neatly showing our working. We take part in choral counting everyday where we revisit times table facts and have now started to count in fractions and decimal fractions. We have become more confident in using our knowledge of division and multiplication facts to find fractions of amounts and to convert between fractions, decimal fractions and percentages. We are now enjoying the challenge of using all our strategies to solve multi-step worded problems.



This term there will be a big focus on improving the mental agility of P5 and I will be using a daily Number Talk to do this. As we know, children learn differently, some are visual learners; others learn kinaesthetically. The aim of Number Talk sessions is to provide the children with an array of mental strategies that they can choose from, with the aim of finding their most efficient strategy. So far we have covered the addition strategies of friendly numbers and compensation; the subtraction strategies of keeping a constant difference, removal/counting back and adding up; and the division strategies of multiplying up and repeated subtraction. The pupils are enjoying sharing their strategies and answers, noticing any mistakes and explaining to their classmates more efficient ways.

Literacy

As I previously mentioned, I was very proud to see a significant improvement in the reading ages of some of our P5 pupils. You can really see the progression of those pupils taking part in the Reading Comprehension Programme through the responses to tasks set in their jotters and through termly assessment data.

