Parent Information Booklet – S1 Curriculum Autumn Term 2 2026

English – Mrs Thompson

S1 pupils will be working on activities around the theme of 'Learning and Discovery' this term. We will be reading and analysing the play 'The Demon Headmaster,' and exploring characterisation, themes, setting and use of stage directions. Pupils will also learn drama terminology. They will be taught how to write a critical essay on the play using PEEL paragraphs and will write an imaginative response.

Pupils will continue to develop their skills in close reading (RUAE), grammar and punctuation. RUAE skills are developed as they are embedded in the study of literature.

Pupils will be encouraged to read fiction and non-fiction for pleasure and will spend one lesson per week reading a book of their choice. Fortnightly homework is based on the book they are reading for pleasure.

Parents can help their child at home by asking them about the texts they are reading, the RUAE skills they have learnt and by encouraging them to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction.

Homework will be shared via TEAMS and written on the class whiteboard, and pupils may given handouts. Please encourage your child to check TEAMS/ASSIGNMENTS and to let me know if they are having any problems accessing TEAMS.

Parents can help their child at home by talking to them about the texts we are reading in class and their own choice of novel for homework activities.

English – Mr Jones

The key text this term will be the novel, 'Skellig.' Pupils will be taught how to understand the writer's craft: plot development, character establishment and development, setting, language, themes and literary devices. We will also focus on how to infer from the text, a skill that is transferable to other aspects of the English curriculum and across the curriculum.

We will introduce and revise key aspects of their analytical writing skills so that they can create a literary essay response to the text. This includes being able to devise effective topic sentences, the selection of relevant quotations, ways to analyse the use of techniques from selected quotes and how to evaluate the writer's purpose, message and meaning.

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation skills will be developed throughout the term. The class will continue to learn how to recognise the expectations of different question types and the approaches needed to successfully show their comprehension of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Reading for pleasure will be promoted and pupils will have the opportunity to access the library. However, access to the library will be limited for at least the next six months while refurbishments are taking place in the school. Where possible, we encourage appropriate texts to be brought from home.

You can support your child at home by encouraging them to read for pleasure and discuss their reading with you. You may also like to research the novel Skellig and discuss their progress with this in class.

Maths

Students this term will be working on rounding, integers (negative numbers) and coordinates. They will also be working on fractions, decimals and percentages followed by angles. The students will also be working on their numeracy skills with the Numeracy Ninjas. Students will receive regular homework.

Parents can help their students by asking them to talk about the maths that they are covering each week. Students can also use the following websites for help:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

https://www.national5maths.co.uk/s1-s2-courses/

https://mathsrevision.com/

RME

This term we begin a new topic on winter festivals. Pupils will learn about festivals celebrated across a range of faiths including Samhain, Dia de los Muertos, Diwali, Chanukkah and Christmas. This unit of work will help pupils understand the social and spiritual benefits of festivals and celebrations in society and give them a deeper understanding of rituals that different communities value. Please discuss your young person's learning with them and support them to investigate further through books, films and news articles.

Social Subjects

Both Mrs Archibald's and Miss Walker's classes are currently working on their Geography topic of 'Earth Science'. Pupils will be looking at Scotland's physical landscape, the history of the earth and the ice age. During this term we will also begin our first Modern Studies topic 'Democracy'.

You can support your child at home by watching and discussing the news regularly, and by watching high quality programmes about current affairs, such as Panorama. Pupils should also try to read current news articles on areas linked to what we are studying in class.

Art

S1 Artists and Designers will explore origami and other paper construction techniques to create a collaborative indoor wall garden, featuring paper flowers, leaves and plant forms. Techniques explored are origami, pleating, concertina folding, curling, rolling, cutting, layering and joining paper to create three-dimensional plant forms. These will all help to improve fine motor control, accuracy, spatial awareness, creativity, problem-solving, concentration, resilience and teamwork.

At home, pupils can practise folding paper flowers and leaves using scrap paper, old magazines or wrapping paper. They can follow simple origami instructions and experiment with pleating, curling and layering. Looking closely at plants in the garden or on a walk will provide inspiration for different shapes, colours and textures.

Physical Education

S1 pupils will be undertaking blocks in the following activities:

Football and Volleyball, where pupils will learn basic skills and begin to develop an understanding of rules and scoring systems.

Social Dance, where pupils will learn and practice a variety of traditional Scottish Country dances accompanied by both Ceilidh music and pop music.

Please encourage your child to be as active a possible outside of school. This will help develop fitness levels that can be applied to many sporting activities. Also, encouraging you child to engage with local sports clubs helps develop skills, confidence and determination all of which will help them succeed in Physical Education

Personal Support Programme

S1 – Sexual health/social media/substance misuse – This term S1 pupils will have the opportunity to learn about relationships and consent, appropriate social media usage, and substance misuse with a focus on vaping and smoking.

Science

Cells and Digestion Topic

In this topic we will be looking at basic cell structure found in animal and plant cells, gaining confidence in using a microscope to examine and sketch cells. Pupils will also practise the skill of making a stained microscope slide, before moving on to look at specialised cells and the organs involved in the digestive system. We will also look at the function of the heart and lungs.

Towards the end of the term we will move onto the **Energy** topic, investigating different forms of energy and energy transfers.

How can parents help with science learning

- Acknowledge and encourage your children's interests and natural abilities in science and help them further develop their interests and abilities over time.

- Encourage your children to observe, ask questions, experiment, tinker, and seek their own understandings of natural and human-made phenomena.
- Foster children's creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and resourcefulness through authentic tasks such as cooking, doing household chores, gardening, repairing a bike or other household object, planning a trip, and other everyday activities. Actively engage with your children during mealtime discussions or group games requiring mental or physical skills, or by talking about books they are reading or television programs about science they have watched.
- Provide frequent opportunities for science learning at home and in the community through outdoor play; participation in trips to parks, museums, zoos, nature centres, and other interesting science-rich sites in the community if possible

Business Studies and ICT

This term, your child will continue learning about various software packages. They will explore databases and spreadsheets, gaining an understanding of their practical applications. Pupils will learn the basic principles of using databases and spreadsheets, including how to organise, sort, and filter data effectively. They will also gain hands-on experience creating simple spreadsheets, using formulas, and understanding how data can be structured.

Please support your child by, if possible, encouraging them to complete an IT-related task - such as typing a letter to include in your Christmas cards, or creating a database of names and addresses for the people you send cards to.

Music

Performance Pupils will continue to build their playing skills across a variety of classroom instruments including drum kit, guitar, bass guitar and keyboard. We will be using peer and self-assessment as well as ongoing teacher feedback to improve our practical skills.

Understanding We will continue to work on music literacy to help us when reading music. Pupils will also be introduced to the brass, woodwind and percussion sections of the orchestra and learn about playing techniques, sound production and other relevant concepts.

Creating We are using our knowledge of how sound is produced to invent our own instruments.

To support your young person, please try and instil the concept of improving through practise-getting it wrong is a major part of getting it right in music! If they have access to a musical instrument at home, I encourage them to practise regularly to improve their playing. The music department is also open to all pupils for practise at lunch times. Please encourage your young person to listen to different genres of music and try to pick out instruments they can hear.

Computer Science

S1 pupils receive two 45-minute Computing Science lessons each week and one piece of homework per term.

This term, pupils will develop their programming skills using a Micro:bit. Lessons will include short explanations, demonstrations, guided tasks and independent challenges, with each activity building on previous learning. Pupils will explore sequence, variables, selection, repetition and events, using the micro's LED display, buttons and sensors to create interactive programs. They will learn how programs respond to inputs and produce different outputs, applying these skills to practical projects such as simple games and digital devices. Problem-solving and debugging will be central to this work. Pupils will break tasks into smaller steps, identify and correct errors, and test their solutions. Extension challenges will encourage them to personalise their programs, apply previous learning and work more independently.

Pupils will also complete Bebras challenges to develop their computational thinking, logical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Regular practice using TypingClub will support their digital literacy by improving keyboard familiarity, typing accuracy and fluency.

By the end of the term, pupils will be more confident in programming physical devices, testing and improving solutions, and using digital technology.

Social Subjects

Pupils will be examining Scotland's Landscape focussing on the History of the Earth and rock formations, the process of mass extinctions and the reasons why the ice age began. We will practice note taking, research and team presentation skills as the term develops. Towards the end of the term the classes will begin the Modern Studies unit examining political systems of democracy in Britain.

British Sign Language

Pupils will continue their learning of British Sign Language. This term we will be looking at Looking at **greetings** (engaging in role play conversations with partners), **BSL features** (context, positives & negative signs, facial expressions, lip patterns), **introducing yourself** (engaging in conversations with partners), **places** (UK and international), **Jobs** and **Christmas** signs & songs.

Homework will be online via the sign language course pupils are enrolled in www.british-sign.co.uk. This can be accessed through any device with internet. Pupils will be encouraged to revise material learnt in their lessons or catch up on any work missed. Log in details have been emailed to each pupil's school glow account.

You can support your child at home by encouraging them to log-in to their BSL account and practice what they have been covering in class.

PSP

Pupils will be covering a range of topics. These will include Bullying and Cyberbullying, which pupils will learn about the meaning and impact of bullying and cyberbullying. Substance Misuse -the effects of alcohol abuse, social media- Rise above online stress. There will also be a visit from Shirley Jones (career adviser), discussing different options for learners when they leave school. Police Scotland will also be in school discussing Racism.