



P7S Newsletter

Term 1

2019-2020

Dear Parents,

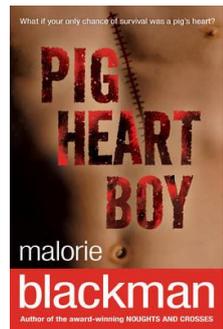
As we rapidly race towards the end of term 1 a belated welcome back to school. I am very much enjoying being back in class and working with P7. I was sorry to have missed Inverclyde but I believe by all accounts the children had a wonderful time!

Our Timetable

Monday	P.E. and I.C.T. with Ms Macdonald
Tuesday	Library every fortnight and Music with Ms Macdonald
Wednesday	German with Frau Kaup
Thursday	RME with Mrs Henderson and French and Coding with Mrs Cordiner
Friday	P.E. with Ms Macdonald

Our Learning

This term we have begun with a novel study based on the book 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman. The story is about Cameron who is thirteen and in need of a heart transplant when a pioneering doctor approaches his family with a startling proposal. He can give Cameron a new heart - but from a pig. The story is a sensitive and informative story that provides a vivid insight into transgenics and xenotransplantation. Despite the serious themes the book still manages to squeeze in the inevitable guinea-pig and piggy in the middle jokes which the children have already been enjoying. We will be exploring the themes within the story including heart transplants, heart structure and function, transgenics as well as the ethics and risks involved in using animals for scientific reasons.



Numeracy

In Numeracy, we will be revisiting the important foundations in maths. In particular we'll be looking at place value (up to millions), ordering numbers with 3 decimal points and building our problem-solving ability regarding the four major operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division). Mental maths will focus on our ability to explain our strategies and thinking processes. Please continue to practise times tables with your child at home as these really are the key to unlocking so much of the Maths curriculum. We will be taking part in Maths Week Scotland from the 30th September. This is a Scottish Government initiative to encourage a positive attitude towards maths and is a celebration of the importance of maths in our daily lives. This will involve taking part in the Deputy First Minister's Maths Challenge and Maths Inside photo competition where the children have to search for the maths around us. This year's themes are in my town, in the wild and complete the pattern. We will also be using Mangahigh which is a maths platform. They will be hosting a free online competition open to all schools in Scotland where pupils can play activities aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence, win points for their school and compete on the Scottish leader board for school/individual prizes, trophies and certificates. We will also continue to be encouraged to play the games on Sumdog to improve their mental agility.

Literacy

In Reading we will be developing our ability to understand and interpret texts by understanding underlying themes, causes and points of view. In Listening and Talking we will be using the Litfest resources to develop our ability to share and respond to poems. We will be developing

our Performance technique: using appropriate intonation, volume, and movement so the meaning is clear. This will link to our Writing where we will be writing poems based on our research, contributing to a collaborative poem, using poetic techniques and editing with a peer. There will also be various opportunities to develop comprehension and grammar skills alongside this. Each week the children's spelling lists will be published on www.spellingcity.com/MsMac18/ so the children can access their spelling lists, play games etc. from home. The children will also be practising their joined script and will be encouraged to ensure they are transferring this knowledge across their writing.

Health and Well-Being

This term we will be introducing 'Decider Skills' which is a whole school initiative aimed at teaching adults and children the skills to understand and manage their own emotions and mental health. Alongside this we have been using Brene Brown's Daring Classrooms resources which help build specific concepts and tools that have the potential to create braver, safer classrooms and build courage skills. More information can be found at: <https://brenebrown.com/classroom-integration-ideas/>. Quite a number of children have volunteered as buddies and in P.E. we will be focussing on co-operative games which will encourage children to work together. We will also be practising, consolidating and refining our skills to improve our performance and to develop and sustain our levels of fitness.



Library

We will visit the school library every fortnight. Dates till the end of term are as follows: 24th September and 8th October.



Homework



Homework will be handed out on a Wednesday and is to be returned on the following Tuesday. Each week there will be three manageable tasks consisting of maths, literacy and topic. Reading will also be issued each week. Reading tasks will be noted in the children's home/school diaries. Thank-you for your continued support with homework.

Dates for your diary

Monday 30 th September	Maths Week
Tuesday 1 st October	Parents' twilight
Thursday 3 rd October	Parents' evening
Friday 6 th December	P7S Assembly (invitations to follow)
Thursday 10 th October	End of term 1

And finally

Here's to an excellent year ahead! I look forward to meeting you next week at our parent/teacher appointments and to our partnership in your child's education. If you have any questions of matters you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me either through your child's home/school diary, before or after school or alternatively by appointment.



Your sincerely

Ms Macdonald

Class Teacher