



# NEWSLETTER



## Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the first term in Miss Mackenzie's Primary 7 class! I am thrilled to be working with your children during their final year at Halfmerke Primary School. We have an exciting term of learning ahead, and I look forward to working closely with you to support your child's progress and achievements.

The class has already made a fantastic start to the school year, and I'm excited to share some early highlights as well as upcoming events. My main goal this year is to ensure the children build a strong foundation of skills that will support them as they move on to High School and beyond.

## Classroom Highlights

### Learning Adventures:

This term, we will be exploring chemical changes, focusing on the difference between reversible and irreversible reactions. The children will take part in a range of hands-on investigations, giving them the opportunity to see these processes in action and to develop a deeper understanding of how and why they happen. The activities are designed to spark curiosity and help pupils develop a strong scientific vocabulary, as well as the skills to explain their thinking. In addition, we will be exploring the South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) Skills Framework, developing a foundational understanding of key skills needed to perform tasks, learn new skills, and begin thinking about future careers. This will support the development of important life and employability skills.

The children have taken ownership of their topic learning by choosing to investigate roller coasters, with the big question: "how do roller coasters work?". We will explore the materials used to build them and the forces like gravity and friction that make the rides move. Through hands-on activities and research, the children will develop both their scientific knowledge and problem-solving skills.

### Literacy

In your child's homework jotter, you will find their weekly spelling words, which we will be practising daily in class. Our writing focus this term is developing descriptive language through narrative writing, so regular reading at home each evening is essential to support their progress.

For our class novel study, we will be reading *The Thief Lord*. Through this, the children will practise a range of skills, including comprehension, inference, prediction, summarising, and metalinguistics, helping to deepen their understanding and enjoyment of the text.

### Numeracy

This term, we will be focusing on developing estimation, rounding, number and number processes to support number sense and problem-solving.

- Children will learn to round whole numbers to the nearest 100 and 1000, using this skill routinely to estimate and check the reasonableness of answers. We will also advance onto ordering decimal fractions.
- We will be practising how to read, write, order, and recite whole numbers up to 6 digits, starting from any number in the sequence.
- Pupils will also be learning to identify the value of each digit in a 4- or 5-digit number with decimal fractions. For example:  $867.32 = 800 + 60 + 7 + 0.3 + 0.02$

## Homework

- Homework will be handed out every Monday and should be returned by Thursday.
- Each week, homework will include...
  - Spelling practice: Children will work on their weekly spelling words using a variety of activities.
  - Times tables practice: Regular practice at home will help strengthen these core facts and support more complex maths learning in class.
- All homework tasks will also be available on Google Classroom, where I will post weekly reminders.
- In addition, children are encouraged to use *Nessy* and *IDL* regularly at home to further support their learning throughout the year.

## Reminder

Our class PE days are on a Monday and Friday. Please make sure your child has indoor shoes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me through the school office. I'm always happy to help!