



Mid Calder Primary School – P4 Class Newsletter

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to Term 1 of Primary 4!

We hope you all had a relaxing summer break. In school we are looking forward to a busy and exciting term. Over the first few weeks, we have been working hard to establish a positive and effective classroom ethos. This has included getting to know each other, reviewing our school rules and values and co-creating our P4 class charter with our UNCRC children's rights at its core. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via the school office if you have any queries or concerns.

Miss Sherlow (Monday, Tuesday & alternate Fridays) & Mrs Walker (Wednesday, Thursday and alternate Fridays).



English & Literacy Learning:

- Spelling** – We will continue to follow a spelling progression, using our whole school Phonics International programme, where differentiated activities will be planned with new spelling words and sounds issued each week.
- Writing** – We will continue to use our whole school 'PM Writing' programme to implement writing. Our initial focus will be 'narrative writing'. Some of our writing will also link closely to our IDL work and reading for writing tasks. There will also be opportunities provided for free writing activities, such as during soft start where children can choose to respond freely to a writing stimulus or posed question.
- Reading** – We will be continuing to use guided reading sessions to explore key reading skills, such as summarising, predicting, clarifying, questioning and inferencing. We will also continue to develop our reading comprehension and higher order thinking skills through differentiated tasks. This term we will initially be reading "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" as our chosen class novel and IDL focus.
- Listening and Talking** – We will continue to build upon our skill builder skill lessons and provide daily opportunities for small group and whole class discussions. We will also be introducing "Visualizing and Verbalising" which uses 12 key structure words for pupils to describe a previously unseen image to a partner, starting off at a picture-to-picture level, where their partner draws the image, they describe and provide effective feedback.

We are a **Reading School**



Numeracy and Maths Learning:

Numeracy – The focus this term will be on number process, place value, rounding and estimation. We will continue to focus on developing mental agility and mathematical strategies through "Number Talks" discussions. This approach encourages children to find the most efficient way to reach and answer a given problem and encourages learning from others.

- Maths** – The focus for this term will begin with information handling (Mrs Redmond).



Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

After consultation with the children, our context will initially begin this term with a literacy-based focus through the Roald Dahl novel, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". Through classroom discussions, we have established some questions we'd like to explore.

Who is Willy Wonka? What do the characters look like? Who wins the golden tickets? How many chocolates are made in the factory each day? What is Willy Wonka's favourite sweet? Why did Willy Wonka start making chocolates and sweets?

P.E. days – Tuesday (Mrs Redmond) & Wednesday (Mrs Walker). Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing and footwear which is labelled with your child's name.

Homework – Homework will be issued on a Tuesday and will be due on the following Monday. We are regularly using digital technology to support homework. If you have any issue with digital logins, please get in touch and we will do our best to resolve them quickly.

Adults helping us: Mrs Redmond will be teaching P.E. on Tuesday and Maths on Thursday this term. We will also be supported by Mrs Grainger (support for learning), Mrs Combe (PSW) and Mrs Agarwal (PSW).

United Nations Rights of a Child: In December 2024 we successfully achieved our Silver Rights Respecting School Award. As a school we are currently working towards our Gold Award and are engaging in lots of activities to develop our children's understanding of their rights. If you'd like to learn more, then you can use the following link from Parents Club: <https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/childrens-rights>.