

# P3/4/5 Newsletter

# 2020

Can you believe that's the end of our first term? It's been quite a different term, but I think you'll agree everyone has adapted well and risen to all the new challenges, showing their Baldernock resilience.

It's been lovely to be in P3/4/5 this term with new faces and familiar faces from last year. The class have gelled well and have fitted together like the jigsaw pieces on our wall.

We've enjoyed, as always, the opportunities to be outdoors and learning in the lovely environment at Baldernock PS.

As we haven't been able to meet this year, this is just a little snapshot of some of the things we have been doing



We fit together like pieces of a jigsaw.

## Numeracy

We have covered many aspects of numeracy in this term. We've looked at number processes and place value, equations, shape, time, data handling and probability. We have worked on mental tasks outdoors and in, and have used Sumdog weekly to boost our mental maths skills. We are all on different stages of our numeracy journey, for example some are just starting to learn times tables and some are fluent in all. However, we try to work on similar topics at the same time.

### **Literacy**

We have a weekly reading programme reading a variety of texts –short stories, chapter books, plays, poetry, non fiction, novel studies and complete comprehension and language tasks based on these. We also enjoy ERIC time (indoors and out).

We have worked on a number of genres of writing including letters, instructions, poetry and imaginative. We have focussed on news writing this term based on our Social Studies topic and have written reports ranging from personal news re-counts to newspaper writing frames to setting out our own newspaper articles.

We continue to work on our spelling and grammar.



*Enjoying reading in the garden..*

### **Expressive Arts**

In Art we have done some observational drawings outdoors and built these into a street scene exploring colour.

For Music Mr Barclay has been virtually visiting us and we have learned all about rhythm and musical alternatives to instruments and singing.

As part of our Newspaper topic we produced a TV news programme for Drama.



*Learning new dances.*

### **HWB**

Health and Wellbeing has been an important part of our return to school and we enjoyed working on Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers exploring the world and our feelings and strengths.

We have also been outdoors a lot for PE doing walking, ball skills, rounders, skipping archery, and of course lots of dancing! If you don't know The Slosh just ask your child for a lesson!

### **Social studies**

As previously mentioned, our Social Studies topic this term has been Local Newspapers.. This has covered many areas of the curriculum but especially literacy. Pupils have written letters to apply for jobs, have been interviewed and were interviewers for positions (everyone was successful in their applications!). They have worked in groups to produce articles for a class newspaper (which can be found on Teams) and have produced a TV programme.

They can all name and talk about the different roles in newspapers and TV news.

## Science

In Science this term we have been exploring materials and their properties and have looked at man made and natural materials in and around the school environment. We have walked down through the golf course to the wooded area to build dens using a variety of materials and discussed their suitability.



Round the campfire.

## ICT

We have spent a lot of time making sure everyone is familiar with Teams. We have spent time in class ensuring we can login and find all Files and Assignments. Teams is now becoming an extension of our classroom and we are able to complete work set on there.

We have also spent some time discussing internet safety, and as part of our outdoor classroom day we used an animation app.

## Outdoor Learning

Our environment, and using the outdoor space is always of great importance to us, and we have used this as much as possible in our return to school.

As well as taking every day learning outdoors we have had two Outdoor Classroom Days. The first in November followed a normal teaching day and the class covered Literacy, Numeracy, PE and ICT.

It was such a success we decided to make it a regular feature and in December we had a Science focussed Outdoor Day. We wrote a report on an ice experiment, explored probability, described properties of materials and labelled them on a walk, and had a campfire in the garden.

We're looking forward to more!

It's been a busy first term, with new ways of working and new routines. But also a term of new friendships and some new adventures.

I'm really looking forward to what next term brings and I'm sure all the children are too.

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday with your families.

Jenny MacDonald

