

## Curriculum Corner

### Focus: Literacy—Reading

We would like to introduce a new item to our Newsletters this session called Curriculum Corner. It is intended we use this to provide information, ideas etc. on different areas of the curriculum in parent/carer friendly language. In this Newsletter we are looking at Literacy and in particular Reading. Please let us know if you find this useful.

At Papdale there is a three pronged approach to reading, the 3 I's—Interest, Instructional and Independent.

**Interest**—reading for pleasure with books chosen by the children to look at, read themselves or be read to.

**Instructional**—texts for teaching reading skills and learning to read through Guided Reading/whole class, with the teacher.

**Independent**—reinforcement reading, classically known as the "reading book" to practise their skills.

#### Interest (Free Time)

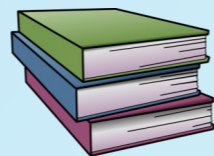
Children should be encouraged to take a book regularly from the class/school library to enjoy. This book will vary and may either be easy or difficult for the child to read themselves. It is for interest and enjoyment and may be something that could be read to them. This is their free book choice.

#### Instructional (School)

Every child regardless of their reading ability will continue to work on learning to read and extending their reading skills. Various texts are used for this from scheme readers such as Oxford Reading Tree, extracts of texts, leaflets etc. or whole books.

#### Independent (Home Reading)

As part of the weekly homework, every child will take home a reading book to reinforce/practise their reading skills and build reading stamina.



### Helpful Tips

- To increase children's confidence, fluency, stamina and understanding, it is helpful for your child to read their reading book regularly, ideally a little every night but several times a week is essential.
- If your child needs support—read the book to them and talk about the story, let your child read half of the story and you the other half or share the reading by either reading a sentence, paragraph or page each in turn.
- If your child is not sure of a word, read it for them and let them continue. Discuss any words you think they may not understand.
- Ask questions about what they have just read by using "wh" question words as a starter e.g. who, when, why, where, what. Ask for character names, something they were surprised at, where and when the story is set and what they liked or disliked about it.
- Have your child ask a question for you to find the answer—this is good practice and draws on lots of reading skills.

### Instrumental Tuition

As some of you will be aware auditions are underway for strings, brass and woodwind tuition at P4, and above P4 for some instruments. The demand is always high and unfortunately outnumbers the number of places available leaving some children disappointed.



## PAPDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### Welcome to our first Newsletter of the new school session 2015-16!

We are at the half way point of Term 1 already and all our classes have been undertaking our whole school topic on *Getting To Know You* - a chance for children and staff to learn a bit about each other especially our new P2 to P5 classes who went through some significant changes in make up at the start of this session. The children all appear to have settled in again to school routines and we are pleased to welcome all our new P1s and all the children who have come in to our Early Learning and Childcare Setting, formerly our Pre-School. We also extend a warm welcome to all the new families who have joined us. Wishing everyone a happy and successful year ahead.



Jane Bruce—Head Teacher

Included with this Newsletter is a copy of 2015-16 holiday dates and our School Improvement Plan 2015-16 Summary.

### Important Dates for your diary

- Parent Council AGM: Monday 21 September at 6pm in the Staffroom
- Parents Evenings: Wednesday 30 September and Thursday 01 October: *Including Health information, Parent Council, Homelink and Support for Learning information stands*
- Book Fair: Tuesday 29 September—Friday 02 October (Open during both Parents Evenings)
- End of Term/October Holidays: Monday 12 — Friday 23 October (Inclusive)

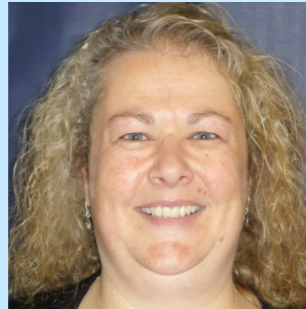


# Welcome to our new staff!



Miss Alice Beams

Music



Miss Fiona Robertson

Early Years Worker



Miss Jessica Cox

1E Teacher



Miss Julie Watt

6M Teacher



Mrs Teresa Peace

Early Years Worker



Miss Leanne Spence

Clerical Assistant



Mrs Leah Rendall

Early Years Worker

## Website

Papdale Primary School introduced a new style website last year. As well as general information on the school there are also class and news blogs (including videos of concerts, photographs etc) which give a flavour of what is happening at Papdale.

We would be very interested to hear your views on our website's content and also any ideas you may have on other information you would like to see included in the future.



## Cycle Safety

In line with Police advice we strongly recommend that children are not permitted to cycle unsupervised to Papdale until they have completed their cycle training which is delivered in term one of Primary 6.



## Internet Safety



Once again we would like to raise awareness of the importance of using the internet and social media appropriately. We know that they can be powerful education tools and promote positive communication, but conversely they can also be misused with serious consequences.

To minimise the chances of this happening we need to partner together and ensure safeguards are in place to limit the chances of accessing harmful and/or inappropriate information in school and at home.

All schools in Orkney, including Papdale, are monitored and protected by filters which aim to prevent access to sites that are categorised as inappropriate for educational purposes. At Papdale the use of computers is supervised by members of staff and laptop use is individually logged to increase accountability. We also encourage any child accessing information that they are uncomfortable with to notify the supervising member of staff so that action can be taken to support the child and, if necessary, block the hosting website.

While these measures promote good practice no one can guarantee 100% success in filtering out all material that may be deemed "unsuitable" because of the constantly changing nature of the world wide web.

## Road Safety and Parking



As we approach the Winter months we felt it is important to draw attention to the Parent Council advice on road safety and parking at our school which was originally sent to all parents in January 2015. The letter reinforced the following safety advice:

Consider whether you really need to use your car to make the journey to school at all. Walking is healthier, better for the environment and helps reduce traffic.

If you do need to drive, please be considerate to others and follow these parking rules for collection and drop off:

- Please do not park in front of driveways as local residents need to access their properties.
- Use designated parking spaces to avoid causing traffic jams.
- Please do not park on kerbs or pathways. Consider the safety of young children and parents with pushchairs who may have to walk into the road and into the path of oncoming traffic to get past.
- Please keep a low travelling speed around the school so you have time to react if something unexpected occurs.

If walking, where possible please use the designated School Crossings where School Crossing Patrol Officers are on duty to assist.

To view a copy of the letter please visit the "Information for Parents" page on our school website.