

Primary 4 Curriculum Evening – Tuesday 16th September 2025

The purpose of the P4 curriculum evening is to give you an overview of our planned curriculum for the coming year and how you can help in developing the potential of your child.

- This is not a Parent Teacher Meeting but if you have any problems or concerns (no matter how ‘trivial’) please contact me. (Homework book or Dojo is a good means of communication).

General Information

In Primary 4 children are encouraged to take **responsibility** for their work and to organise themselves. Children should try and bring in two sharpened pencils, colouring pencils and pritt stick (or similar glue) each day.

I am also encouraging children to **take risks** and **not to be afraid to make misstakks**.

The Northern Ireland Curriculum aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives...

Healthy Break

It is important that your child brings a healthy break and a bottle of water into school.

Clothes

Children are always losing coats/ sweatshirts etc. Please check that their name is clearly identifiable on all their clothes. PE days are Monday and Wednesday.

Homework – to reinforce what is taking place in class.

It may take the form of number work, literacy tasks or research work based on our topics. Children are also encouraged to read every night and particularly on a Wednesday.. Homework should always be signed by a parent or guardian. **It should take no longer than 45 minutes**. If your child has a problem with completing homework on a given night do not worry – put a note in the book beside the work. **Homework book needs to come into school each morning.**

Rewards

- Positive reward system (Dojo points). Children rewarded for following class rules negotiated by whole class at beginning of year. Emphasise respect for one another
- Points system for tables

Friday Walk/ Poly tunnel - In the coming weeks we are going to try and walk on Fridays. Children should be prepared for wet and cold weather and wear appropriate clothing e.g coats, hats and gloves. We will also visit our lovely poly tunnel.

General overview of what children need to bring in during the school week

(as from the middle of September – this may change during the course of the year)

Monday –Children should come to school in their **PE gear**. Usually spelling HW.

Tuesday – Quiz books (spellings) returned

Wednesday – Newsdesk Wednesdays and reading night.

Thursday – Children should bring in the reading books that they read from the night before. Children usually receive a mental Maths homework.

Friday – Quiz

* AR books should come in to school every day.

Language and Literacy (General Guidance)

- **Talking & Listening**

We want children to be able to-

Listen with increasing concentration.

In discussions, be able to make contributions and ask questions.

Circle Time/PDMU - to increase confidence, raise awareness of needs of others and enhance self esteem.

Children seated in a circle.

Four Golden Rules which are- **1.** No talking when someone else or teacher is talking. We listen. **2.** No put-downs. **3.** We can pass.

4. Only person can talk.

- **Writing**

Children will be writing in many different forms both fiction & factual (e.g. writing poetry, imaginative stories, letters, comic strips, advertisements, producing fact files etc...)

Please encourage

Correct sentence formation.

The use of capital letters and full stops.

Awareness of vowels and consonants.

Knowledge of the alphabet and use of dictionaries.

Recognition of nouns, verbs and adjectives.

- **Reading**

Reading Wednesdays. We are encouraging children to read half an hour each Wednesday (preferably for or with an adult).

Guided Reading

Reading will take place in groups. Emphasis placed on reading for meaning. Lots of discussion about characters, setting, as well as how to decode unfamiliar words will take place in Guided Reading sessions. Children will bring their reading books home as a familiar home read so parents will get the opportunity to see what their child is reading in class.

Accelerated Reading

Each child will be tested and they will have a book at the appropriate level. The levels will be low to begin with to help the children to get the hang of it. Try not to be concerned about their starting levels or if their age fluctuates up and down throughout the year (this is normal). We are looking for the children to enjoy reading, to be motivated and to improve their reading. This is a slow process and anything you can do to help, support and encourage your child will benefit them. There is some excellent information available on our school website <http://www.stcolmanslambeg.com/accelerated-reader/>.

- **Spelling/Phonic work:**

Children will normally have a spelling and Maths test every Friday. Books are given out on a Monday and should be signed and returned on a Tuesday. The school is also engaging in the linguistic phonics programme.

What is Linguistic Phonics?

The central rationale of Linguistic Phonics is that children understand the relationship between their spoken language and the written word.

Key Principles

- sounds are represented by letters
- longer words are made up of blocks of sound (syllables)
- sounds can be represented by more than one letter
- some sounds can be represented in different ways e.g. boat, go, snow, cone
- some spellings can represent more than one sound e.g. cow, snow

Handwriting

Children will be encouraged to write with kicks on their letters. We are revising different letters each week and this will eventually lead to joined up writing. It is important that they try and write on the lines in their books and that they use different sized letters when appropriate.

Mathematics and Numeracy (General Guidance)

5 areas:

1. Number Work
2. Process Skills
3. Data Handling
4. Measurement
5. Shape

Our aim is to enable children to:

- Write and order whole numbers up to 999

- Use the multiplication tables up to 10 x 10 in solving problems
- Approximate to the nearest 10 or 100
- Add and subtract money up to £10.00
- Recognise and understand simple fractions (1/2, 1/4, 1/3, 1/5, 1/6, 1/8)
- Solve problems involving addition, subtraction, and multiplication up to 999
- Explain and predict number patterns within 100, including those in the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
- Use standard units to measure length, weight, capacity and area
- Read time on clock and date from calendar
- Name and describe 2-D and 3-D shapes
- Identify lines of symmetry in simple 2-D shapes
- Extract and interpret information presented in simple tables/lists
- Interpret data in pictograms and bar charts

The World Around Us

Children will learn about a number of topics throughout the year. We try to make these both interesting and diverse. The children will start each topic by discussing what they know and looking at what they want to know. At the conclusion of the topic they will record and discuss what they have learned. Parental involvement is very important and this really helps to motivate the children.

Children are encouraged to carry out their own research and home learning related to topic work. The children will also have the opportunity to participate in school trips relating to the topics. Our World Around Us topics will be linked with everything else we are doing and learning (including Literacy, Numeracy, PE etc)

September/ October	Dinosaurs (Trip to Ulster Museum)
November/ January	World War 2 (Trip to Palace Stables)
February/March	Space (Trip to Armagh Planetarium)
April/June	Europe

ICT – we will use ipads and the c2k network which will enable us to work individually on a wide range of apps and programmes linked to the P4 Curriculum. These will include numeracy and phonics games as well as topic based research. We will also be using the new Key Stage 1 chromebooks which should arrive soon.

E-Safety – this is a very important issue that will be discussed throughout the year and we will have an e-safety week in September. We encourage parents to oversee any work the children are doing on the internet. We will also be providing parents and children with useful apps to help them use technology to develop and improve their learning.

Good advice on online safety is available on <https://www.childnet.com>
Be smart on the internet: <https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/zcardsPrimary.pdf>

We will also be discussing with the children the importance of not spending too much time playing games on devices and being aware of using age appropriate games. e.g Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12 due to the “frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.” This PEGI rating only takes into account the content of the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to

swearing and offensive language from strangers in voice or on on-screen text chat. Advice on gaming and parental controls: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/gaming>

Physical Education

P. E will take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. This term we will focus on dance.

Religion

Your child will take part in religious studies throughout the year. The children will complete activities set out in our new Religion programme- Grow in Love. They will enjoy visits from Father Martin and they will have opportunities to regularly attend Mass and participate in assemblies. It is important to help your child learn the songs, prayers and responses so that they are fully involved in their faith.

Assessment

There are many different types of informal assessment that takes place on a daily basis including Friday's class tests and peer and self-assessment as the year progresses in Numeracy and Literacy. Children will be test on accelerated reading throughout the year.

Formal assessment

- Children may be assessed at Halloween (AR).
- Standardised Tests (May) – Online PTE and PTM assessment in Maths and English as well as testing in Reading, Spelling and Mental Maths.

This is an overview of the Primary 4 curriculum but hopefully it will give you an insight into what your child will be learning and, perhaps more importantly, how your child will be learning this year.

My aim for P4 is to develop your child as an independent learner while ensuring that they feel secure, respected and valued at all times.

I have been delighted with the terrific help and support I have received from parents from the beginning of the year and I look forward to your continued support.

Art Kernan