**Term 3 in Primary 2**

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope you enjoyed your break! Primary 2 have settled back in to school life very well and we are making great progress with our learning already.

**Literacy**

A new sound will continue to be sent home on a Monday and spellings tested on Fridays. We will use Active Spelling strategies such as bubble writing, playdoh spelling and magnetic boards to practise spelling and common words throughout the week but additional practice at home is still vital to help your child consolidate their learning. I would like to congratulate all the boys and girls who performed their Burns poem in class last week – they all did a super job and it was clear that many of them had put in a lot of time and effort at home with your support. After reading Burns’ poetry, we have started a block of poetry writing and last week the children had a go at writing acrostic poems.

**Maths**

This term we are working on place value and understanding that a number’s position can help us work out its value (for example the 4 in 43 is worth 4 tens or 40 because it is in the ‘tens’ column and the 3 is worth 3 ones or 3 because it is in the ‘ones’ column). Children have been using blocks to practise exchanging 10 single blocks for 1 stick of ten and moving the number one place to the left when doing so. I would appreciate your support in helping children to practise partitioning numbers at home. This means looking at a number and working out what it is made up of (for example, 56 is made up of 5 tens and 6 ones, 22 is 2 tens and 2 ones). As children become secure with this, they should find mental addition and subtraction easier. We are also looking at clocks and learning to tell the time and will be moving on to money later in the term.

**Topic**

Our topic for the first part of this term is My Scotland, My Community. So far we have been learning about Robert Burns and his life and work. After Burns’ Night, we will focus on Aberdeen and the Bridge of Don. During the second part of the term our topic will be Our World.

**New Year’s Resolutions**

Your child may have told you about the New Year’s resolutions we made as a class at the start of term. These are to encourage children to behave in a manner that allows them and the rest of the class to focus and do their very best and to foster a calm, happy classroom environment. As a class, we came up with some routines and the children decided on the consequences if the routines are not followed.

Here are the routines the children came up with:

* We follow instructions quickly.
* We let other people concentrate.
* We push in our chairs in when we get up.
* We walk in the classroom.
* We leave the classroom tidy.
* When we arrive, we do our morning job.
* We do our own work.

The consequences are as follows:

1. Warning
2. Lose 3 house points
3. Yellow card
4. Red card

As I see children following the classroom routines they are rewarded with house points or a certificate/note home.

If your child receives a consequence I would appreciate your support in discussing with them why they received it and what they could do to prevent it happening again. I will also talk about it with them but reinforcement from home is also important.

**Useful dates and General Reminders:**

**PE:** Monday + one other day (depending on timetabling). – Mrs Begg, our P.E. specialist, requests that tights and earrings are removed and that long hair is tied back.

**Library**: Wednesday.

**Spellings and Homework:** Issued on Monday for Friday.

**Water bottles** for use in class should be only be filled with water.

**Toys (including cuddly toys)** should only be brought to school on a Friday if children wish to play with them during Golden Time.

As ever, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to me in the playground or through the school office.

Mrs Kane