



Parent Information Booklet – S1 Curriculum Autumn Term 2026

English

This term's theme is 'Learning and Discovery'.

Mr Jones

Literature/Language:

Pupils will complete written baseline assessments in reading and writing to support them and monitor their progress. They will complete the same assessment in the summer term, to check progress.

S1 pupils will be studying the play, 'The Demon Headmaster' which will allow them to become familiar with reading and understanding a script. The play itself is about two brothers and their adopted sister who have to defeat their demon headmaster. The play looks at many important themes such as individuality and friendship.

Throughout the study, pupils will be involved in a range of activities which will help with their enjoyment and understanding of the play. They will learn about plot development, character analysis and how to evaluate effectively.

They will also use this play as a springboard to write a creative piece taking on the role of a character from the play.

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation:

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation skills will be developed throughout the term. The class will learn how to recognise the commands from different question types and the approaches needed to successfully show their comprehension of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Reading for pleasure will be promoted and pupils will visit the school library for one period a week. They will read fiction and non-fiction of their choice. Parents and careers can always encourage more reading at home – this helps your child build their vocabulary, sparks imagination, and creates a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Mrs Thompson

Pupils will complete written baseline assessments in reading and writing at the start of term. They will complete the same assessment in the summer term, to check progress.

They will write a letter of introduction, which will act as a diagnostic exercise, and as a way of getting to know each pupil.

The key text this term will be the novel, 'Skellig.' Pupils will be taught how to understand the writer's craft: plot development, character establishment and development, setting, language, themes and literary devices. We will also focus on how to infer from the text, a skill that is transferable to other aspects of the English curriculum and across the curriculum. Pupils will also be taught how to write in the voice of a character from the play.

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Reading for pleasure will be promoted and pupils will visit the school library for one period a week, reading fiction and non-fiction of their choice. Reading homework has been issued and is due every 2 weeks.

Parents can help their young person at home by asking them about what they are reading as a school text and for pleasure and what they have done for homework. They could talk to them about plot, characters, themes and new vocabulary. They could also encourage them to practise punctuation and writing skills. BBC Bitesize has a variety of activities to help develop pupils' skills

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbdxvcw>

Maths

S1- Students this term will be working on rounding to a given decimal place or significant figure. They will also be working on the four operations with both positive and negative numbers. Students will receive a homework each week. They will sit a Baseline Assessment at the start of September that will help to plan the learning for this year.

Parents can help their students by asking them to talk about the maths that they are covering each week. Students can also use the following websites for help:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.national5maths.co.uk/s1-s2-courses/>

RME

We will begin S1 with an introduction to philosophy of religion. Pupils will explore 'ultimate questions' that have puzzled philosophers for millennia. How was the universe created? Is there really a God? What is the purpose of our existence? They will investigate key philosophical assertions such as the classic Cosmological and Teleological arguments and compare them with scientific discoveries and theories such as the 'Big Bang' and Darwin's theory of evolution. Pupils are encouraged to think for themselves, support their own views and listen respectfully to the ideas of others. Please support your young person by discussing their learning with them.

Art

This term, S1 pupils are continuing to explore the visual elements of art, including line, shape, colour, texture, tone, pattern, form, and space. Through a series of creative tasks and experiments, pupils will learn how these elements can be combined to express ideas and emotions in their artwork.

By the end of the term, each pupil will create a personal artwork that reflects their individual style and interests. They will select their three favourite visual elements and use them to design a unique and expressive piece. This project encourages creativity, decision-making, and confidence in their artistic choices.

How to Support at Home:

- Encourage your child to draw, paint, or make collages at home using simple materials such as pencils, pens, or recycled papers.
- Visit local galleries or explore online exhibitions together — discussing what you notice about colour, texture, or pattern in the artworks.
- Talk about art in everyday life — the design of clothes, posters, packaging, or buildings — and ask your child which visual elements they can spot.

Physical Education

S1 pupils will be undertaking blocks of Football, Basketball, Dodgeball and Longball during term 1. Extra-curricular clubs for Football, Rugby and Netball will also be available for pupils to attend. Please encourage your children to get plenty of exercise and physical activity through the Autumn term. Pupils and parents can also access the PE Dept. Website www.langholmpe.wordpress.com to find lots of learning resources and get updates about sporting success.

Personal Support Programme

Classes will be looking at body image and the effects of social media, before looking into diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity. There will also be input from Shirley Jones, from Skills Development Scotland, on careers and input from our Community Police Liaison Officer on Smoking and Vaping.

Finally S1 pupils will be taken through the Core Session workshops by our Senior MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) pupils. Further input on MVP will be given across terms 2 and 3.

Science

The first topic in the Science course is Matter, which will begin with investigating the properties of solids, liquids and gases before learning how the particles of matter change as the state of matter changes. We will also investigate expansion and compression and the Water Cycle.

Through the topic, pupils will also learn about the use of basic scientific equipment such as Bunsen burners and the necessary safety rules for lab work.

Parents/carers can support our young people by encouraging them to complete homework tasks and use summary notes to revise for assessments and visit revision websites such as BBC bitesize

Business and ICT

Pupils attend Business and ICT for two periods a week.

Mr Atkinson and Miss Harvey's class: This term pupils will be learning about Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Database and Excel.

Using Word, pupils will develop essential word processing skills such as formatting text, creating documents, and using tools like spell check and tables to enhance their writing. PowerPoint helps pupils express ideas visually and verbally by designing engaging presentations. Through working with databases, they'll learn how to organise, store, and retrieve information efficiently, gaining an understanding of database structures. Finally, Excel introduces them to spreadsheets, where they'll learn to input data, use formulas, create charts - building numeracy and problem-solving skills.

To support your child, please try and get them to complete tasks for using the software packages above such as creating a budget for the family shop.

Mr Clement's class: This term pupils will be learning about Internet safety.

Pupils will learn how to stay safe and responsible when using the internet, including how to protect personal information, create strong passwords, recognise unsafe or inappropriate content, communicate respectfully online, and know what to do if something makes them feel worried or uncomfortable. To support your child, please talk openly about their online experiences, setting clear and age-appropriate rules for internet use, encouraging them to ask for help, checking privacy and safety settings together, and modelling positive and responsible online behaviour.

Music

Pupils will have the opportunity to play a variety of classroom instruments including drum kit, ukulele, bass guitar and keyboard. We will endeavour to perform as a group and use peer and self-assessment as well as ongoing teacher feedback to improve our practical skills. We will also be working on music literacy (reading music). Pupils will be introduced to instruments of the orchestra and playing techniques. Lastly, pupils will have opportunities to invent and create music across a variety of activities.

To support your young person, please try and instil the concept of improving through practise- getting it wrong is a major part of getting it right in music!

Computing: Mr Wood

S1 pupils receive two 45-minute Computing Science lessons each week and one piece of homework per term.

This term, pupils will develop their programming skills using Scratch to design and create their own simple 2D game. Pupils will work through the Boat Race project, gradually building their game while learning how different programming constructs control characters, respond to player input and create game mechanics.

Throughout the project, pupils will develop their understanding of key programming concepts, including sequence, variables, selection, repetition, events, and movement. Each activity will build on previous learning, allowing pupils to gradually develop a complete and playable game while becoming more confident and independent programmers.

Problem-solving and debugging will form an important part of the project. Pupils will learn how to identify and correct errors in their programs, test that their game works as expected and make improvements to their solutions. They will also have opportunities to personalise and extend their game by applying the skills they have learned.

By the end of the project, pupils will have gained experience in programming, problem-solving and debugging, while developing their confidence in using Scratch to create simple programs and games.

Social Subjects: Miss Walker and Mrs Archibald

S1 are starting the year with a history topic. The pupils will be learning key history skills and will then move onto 'Witchcraft in Scotland'. S1 will learn about why people believed in witches in the past, and how people who were suspected of witchcraft were treated. We will then move on to our first Geography topic: Earth Science and the ice-age. Parents can support their child by asking them about what they have been covering in class and encouraging them to watch or read news stories about events related to social subjects.

British Sign Language

S1 pupils receive two periods a week learning British Sign language. This term we will be looking at what British sign language is (background, variations within BSL, the deaf community, other signing systems). **Fingerspelling** (Alphabet and spelling out words), **numbers** (1-100+) and **Halloween** signs. At the end of each block of learning pupils will complete an online assessment.

Homework will be online via the sign language course pupils will be enrolled in. This can be accessed through any device with internet. Pupils will be encouraged to revise material learnt in their lessons or catch up on any work missed. Log in details will be emailed to each pupil's glow account.

www.british-sign.co.uk.