



Learning Leaflets for Parents

St Mary's PS - Ness Class

Term 1 2020/21



Meet Ness Class.

Ness class this year has 6 pupils working with 3 key adults. Mrs Campbell is the class teacher and Miss Mains and Miss Jenkins are the Advanced Pupil Support Workers (APSWs) attached to the class. The pupils in Ness class range from P4 through to P7 this year with Lewis in P4, Ben in P5, Mitchell in P6 and Kevin, Finlay and Calum in P7. The Ness classroom is situated upstairs close to the sensory room. Our room is an L shape which allows us to have different work areas and safe spaces. We have a kitchen area where pupils are able to have their snack and eat their lunch together. This is also a great space for art / messy activities.



Mrs Campbell



Miss Mains



Miss Jenkins

Covid-19 Safety.

There are some changes in school due to Covid-19. Alongside increased handwashing and use of hand sanitizer in the school, we are also regularly wiping down work areas, touch points and resources. Items such as construction materials and games are used on a rota basis to allow for 72 hours between uses and daily diaries have been replaced with daily emails and reading books will remain in school this session rather than going back and forth to home. Adults within the class try hard to maintain 2m distance and where this isn't possible, staff make use of masks and gloves. A one way system around the school and designated entry points for each class along with staggered breaks and lunches has helped to reduce traffic around the school. Each class acts as bubble so at play times, each class bubble has their own designated area to play in. Sadly this does reduce the opportunities for integration with mainstream and resource class peers but we are hoping to introduce some more virtual integrated experiences until we are safe to physically meet with other classes.

Weekly Experiences in Ness.

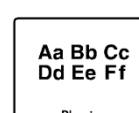
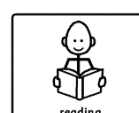
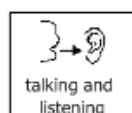
On a Monday, Ness class have access to the sensory room so the pupils have a number of slots spread out across the day. Sometimes this will be accessed individually and sometimes as part of a small group. On a Monday, we often have a virtual assembly with the whole school that we can tune into through our large interactive screen. This is a great way to keep connected with the rest of the school and the pupils love seeing and hearing from other classes.

On a Thursday, Ness class have Mrs Smith in the afternoon for some outdoor PE time and some outdoor learning linked to Science. This term the pupils are busy learning about mini beasts.

On a Friday, Ness class have Mrs McMaster in the morning for a slot of outdoor PE. Friday is also a great day for developing our talking and listening skills. We alternate between a digitally based show and tell and talking topics each week. Pictures for show and tell are emailed from home in advance of the session allowing for each pupil to share their chosen item safely with the rest of the class.

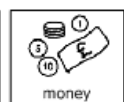
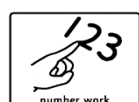
School Website, Blog and App.

The school website is <https://stmarysprimarypolbeth.westlothian.org.uk/>. From here you can access the school blog. Useful links to learning sites can also be found here as well as the latest school newsletter and links to West Lothian Council. We continue to use the school blog to record what is happening in Ness class and across the school. This will give you a little taster of life in Ness classroom and allow you to see the kind of activities the pupils are involved in at school. This is updated on a regular basis. The children enjoy checking the blog in class and contributing to the blog. If you haven't already, the school app is worth uploading to your phone. Access codes are required to initially access this so please get in touch if you require these. Regular updates and key information is posted with alerts and messages arriving straight to your phone. The app also allows you to see the lunch menu each day.



Literacy.

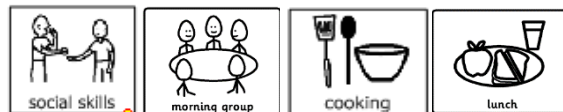
We enjoy using Epic (a reading based website), audio books and regular story reading sessions. We have just finished reading a WW2 themed book called 'Hero on a Bicycle' by Shirley Hughes. We have a word boost wall where we record interesting words that we find under the categories of noun, verb, adjective and adverb. This year we'll be taking part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge and we're already excited to see how many books we will get to read together this year. Ness pupils also enjoy reading a range of books pitched at an appropriate level for them. This might be reading as an individual or within a small group setting. Tasks related to their reading are then completed to support their understanding and reflection on the text. We use games, whiteboards, overlays, worksheets and interactive resources to support handwriting, spelling and grammar. Pupils have a weekly writing session where graphic organisers and a range of stimulus are used to promote a positive writing environment in a scaffolded manner. The pupils have regular opportunities to share their writing with their peers and are encouraged to reflect and uplevel their own work using individual targets. Talking and listening play a key role in the development of literacy skills and the children have regular opportunities to talk about their learning, ask questions, join discussions and story tell. We have fortnightly Show and Tell sessions which alternate with talking topics where the pupils choose a topic card and then talk about this for around 90 seconds.



Maths and Numeracy.

This session, we have introduced a new Maths scheme called 'Maths No Problem' which is being used across the school. This is based on an approach used in Singapore which looks at developing a deeper understanding of Maths concepts through a guided approach which breaks down each element using concrete materials that pupils can hold in their hands, through to a pictorial approach where the sum is represented by pictures and symbols followed by abstract which is the written sum. Each pupil works at their own pace and level appropriate to the needs and learning styles of each individual learner. This term we are focusing on 'number' looking at place value,

sequencing, addition and subtraction. In Ness class, Maths sessions tend to split into three or four carousel activities allowing movement breaks and to encourage engagement. These activities generally include direct teaching and written tasks, fun colour by number activities, games to help embed skills, interactive maths games on the computer and construction based tasks to encourage problem solving, spatial awareness and motor skills.



Health and Wellbeing.

Health and Wellbeing is at the centre of the curriculum, especially in these uncertain times. Getting it right for every child is crucial and we strive to make Ness a place where each pupil feels safe, cared for and valued. The Scottish Curriculum for Health and Wellbeing seeks that every child would be Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, and Included. These lie at the centre of our wellbeing journey in Ness class. We have regular check-ins and space where pupils are encouraged to voice their thoughts and opinions in a safe and valued way. Morning group takes place every day and this is a valuable time when pupils can share their highs and their lows alongside their interests and news in a safe space. Relationship building plays a huge part in our class ethos. Each pupil has identified a trusted adult within school that they can spend time with and the as a staff team, we strive to build relationships with the pupils where we can recognise and anticipate the needs and wants of each individual. Routines and structure to the school week play a key role in allowing pupils to access learning as successfully and independently as possible. The children have been involved in establishing the class rules and a reward system. Collaborative learning and social interaction skills are encouraged through play, sharing and class routines. Snack times and lunch times continue to be an invaluable way in which these skills can be used in real life situations. Throughout the school we use a variety of health and wellbeing programmes including Zones of Resilience which links emotions with colours and regulation strategies and Emotion Works which looks at the intensity of emotions, body sensations, triggers and behaviours to support understanding and healthy management of feelings and emotions.

Expressive Arts

Daily opportunities for physical activity are provided with focused teaching sessions taking place on



Thursday and Friday. Within Ness, we also make use of music, drama, arts and craft to enhance our learning across the curriculum.

Interdisciplinary Learning

This term we are having a heavy focus on health and wellbeing alongside personal projects. Each pupil has chosen an area of interest to them and they are working on creating a powerpoint to present to their class peers. Pupils are developing a range of skills through their learning including ICT, research, planning, writing, creativity and perseverance.

Life and Ethos of the School

At St. Mary's we love to celebrate success. We work hard to earn house points to integrate into the school wide house system. We use this to focus on the positive including: following our timetables, making good choices, helping others and trying new foods. In Ness class we also have individual star charts with our own individual targets where we can earn an individualised reward when we earn 8 stars.