

Learning Leaflet for Parents Term 2



Welcome to Ness Class 2024-25



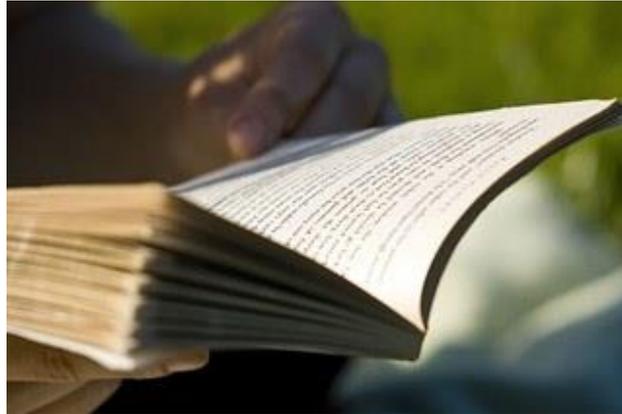
Term 1: Routine Reminders...



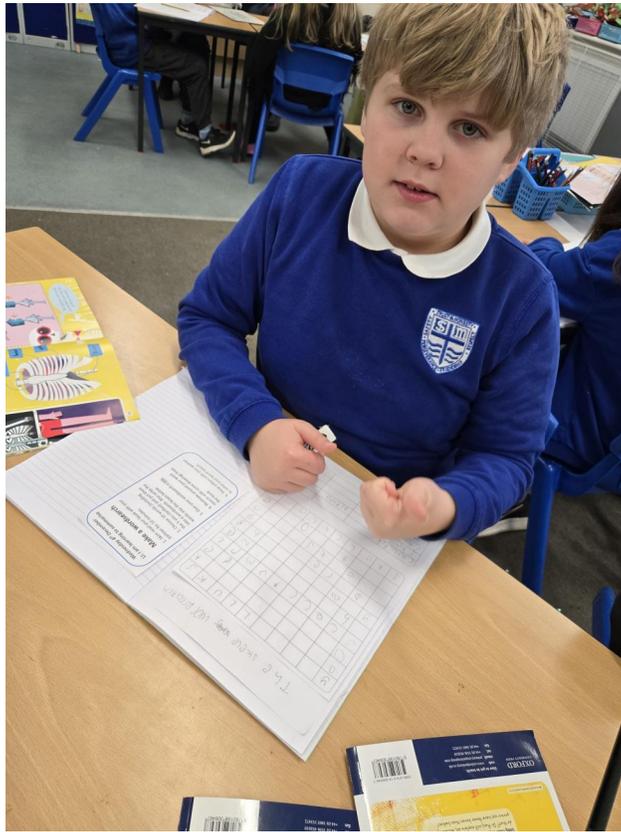


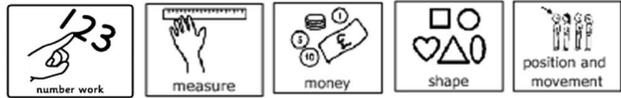
We are lucky to have lots of opportunities for Outdoor Learning this year. Wednesday and Thursdays are outdoor learning days- please remember outdoor clothes as we will be out in most weather conditions. We have wellington boots in school, but don't hesitate to send a pair if your child likes their own. Tuesday and Thursday are PE days and PE kits should be sent to change into. We are planning to visit our local Library in West Calder on the first Tuesday of each month, weather permitted. Local excursion forms are adequate for this trip, so we won't require parents to continually fill out forms but we will inform you the week before we plan to attend.

Literacy.

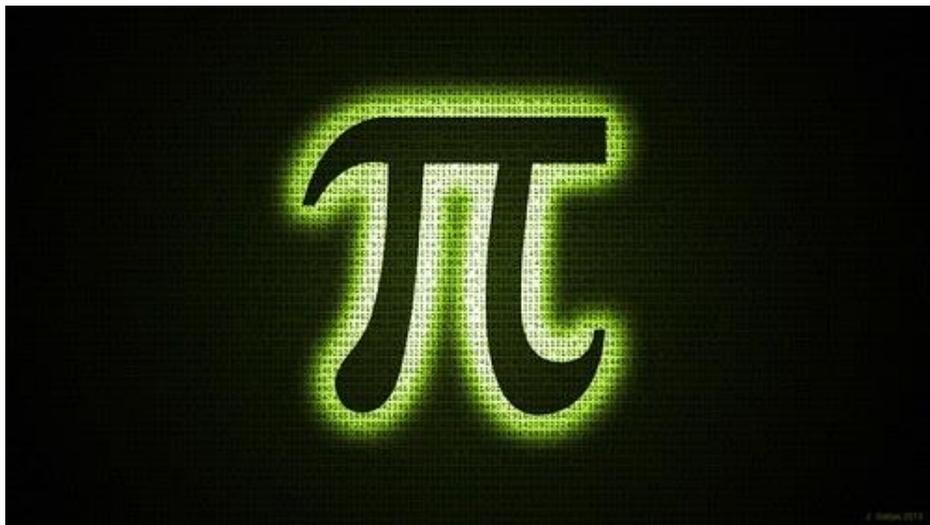


In Literacy, we are continuing to utilise the Read, Write, Inc approach for some of our pupils. Others will join mainstream on a rotational basis for reading tasks. Some of our pupils will now also benefit from Fresh Start reading. This is an advanced reading technique which builds on the same skills learned in Read, Write, Inc. On a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, some mainstream pupils will work in Ness Class along with members of our class. This allows pupils in Ness to learn with pupils across the school who are at a similar level. As a class we read daily, and discuss the characters and plot-line in the story we read- this story is our Short Read, and lots of learning is built around this throughout the week. We write every day in class with a focus on Perfect Presentation- our Core targets this term are using rulers to underline headings, and beginning to join our letters. Pupils have a weekly extended writing session which is being linked to either our topic, or an active activity we have been part of (eg Cooking/ Outdoor Learning). 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 are inviting our pupils to write their own presentation this term using Powerpoint to help structure their presentation. The subject matter will be a hobby the pupils enjoy. We have regular emotion check ins and pupils have opportunities to build upon their confidence by leading and sharing their learning with the class. Each day, during Morning and Afternoon Group, we chat about our learning for that day and other topics which arise daily (weather, Newsround, previous nights activities etc.)



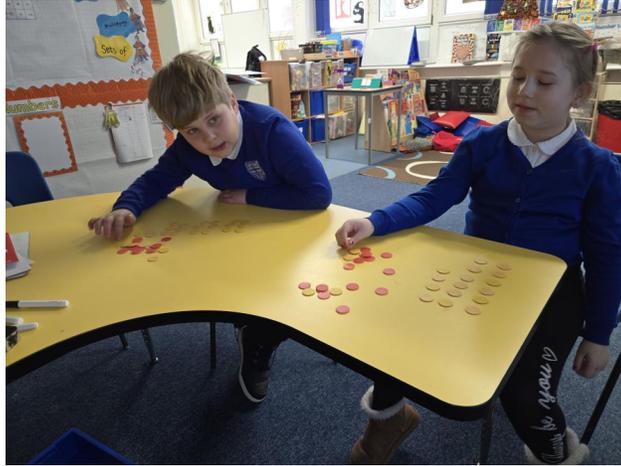


Numeracy and Mathematics.



In Numeracy and Mathematics, we continue to use 'Maths No Problem' which uses a CPA (concrete, pictorial, abstract) approach to aid the learning and understanding of Maths concepts. We make use of concrete materials that pupils can hold in their hands, a pictorial approach where calculations are represented by pictures and symbols followed by abstract which is the written calculation. Each pupil works at their own pace and level appropriate to the needs and learning styles of each individual learner. We are now using more traditional structures in number. Each lesson begins with an interactive song, followed by written tasks to allow our pupils to develop their Math's literacy skills. The lesson then moves on to learning and practising skills and strategies linked to our current learning. We end our numeracy each day with an activity linked to our learning. These activities generally include games to help embed skills, interactive math's tasks on the computer and construction based tasks to encourage problem solving, spatial awareness and motor skills. This term we will be focusing on multiplication, division and fractions in Numeracy. We will also focus on time as part of Mathematics.

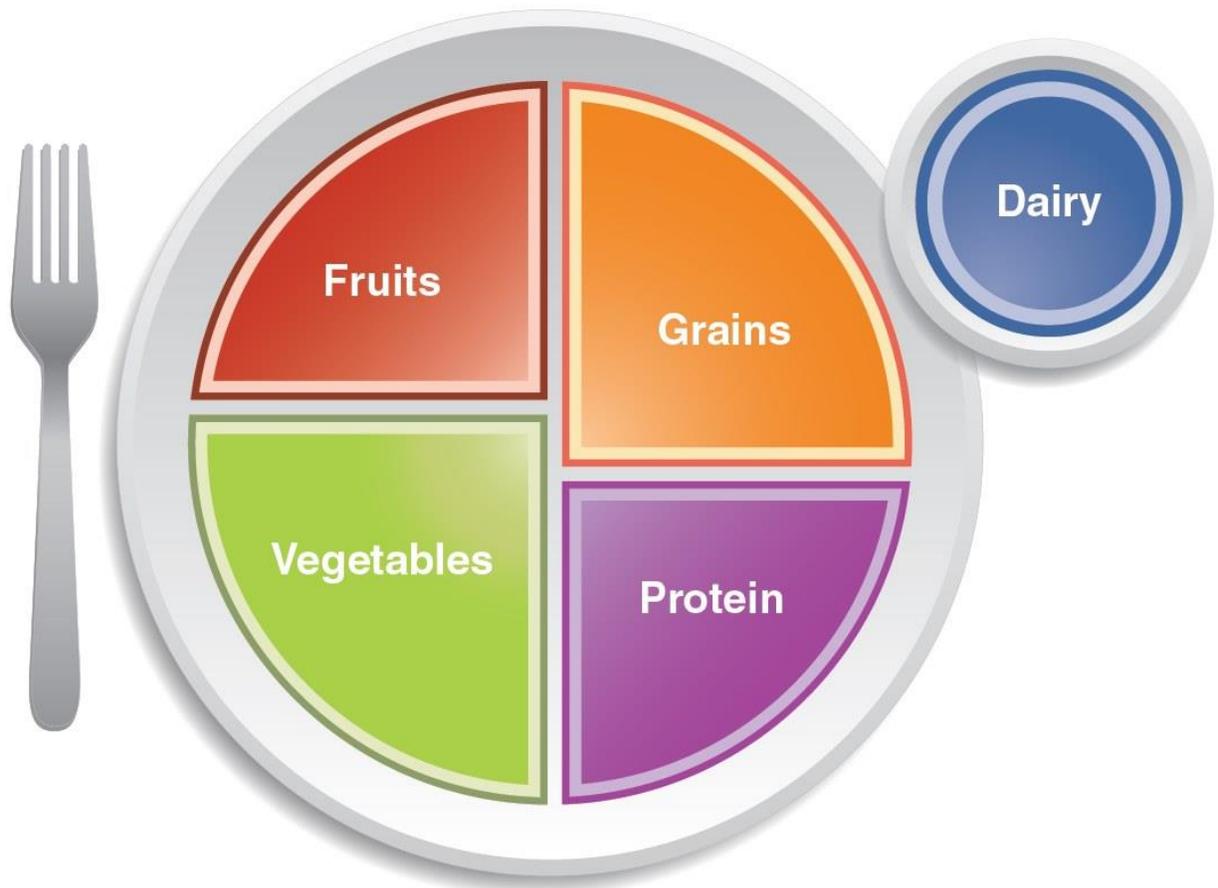








Health and Wellbeing.



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Health and Wellbeing is at the centre of the curriculum and prioritises every child being Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, and Included. These lie at the centre of our wellbeing journey in our 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 and Afternoon 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 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. We build flexibility into the day to allow us the opportunity to support each pupil where they are in that moment. Routines and structure to the school week play a key role in allowing pupils to access learning as successfully and independently as possible. 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

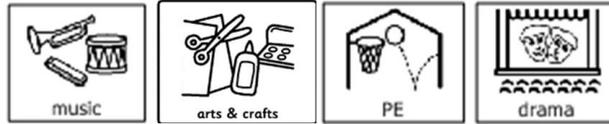
situations. Each day we also brush our teeth after lunch. Throughout the school we use a variety of health and wellbeing programmes including Zones of Regulation which links emotions with colours and regulation strategies and Emotion Works which looks at the intensity of emotions, body sensations, triggers and behaviours to support understanding and healthy management of feelings and emotions. We have also incorporate learning and skills around The Leader in Me programme which encourages each individual to develop leadership skills through seven habits which are being promoted across the school. This term we will be focussing on daily activities to promote healthy developing bodies and minds. We will explore ways to develop our Core strength, as well as peaceful meditation exercises. We will continue to use the Superflex resource- an emotional 'superhero' who helps people overcome negative emotions. Your child will continue to talk about Superflex and how they can use strategies to defeat negative emotions. We will be following a daily Class Yoga scheme of learning to promote core strength and calm minds.

Superheroes helping us be Smart in class... and beyond!



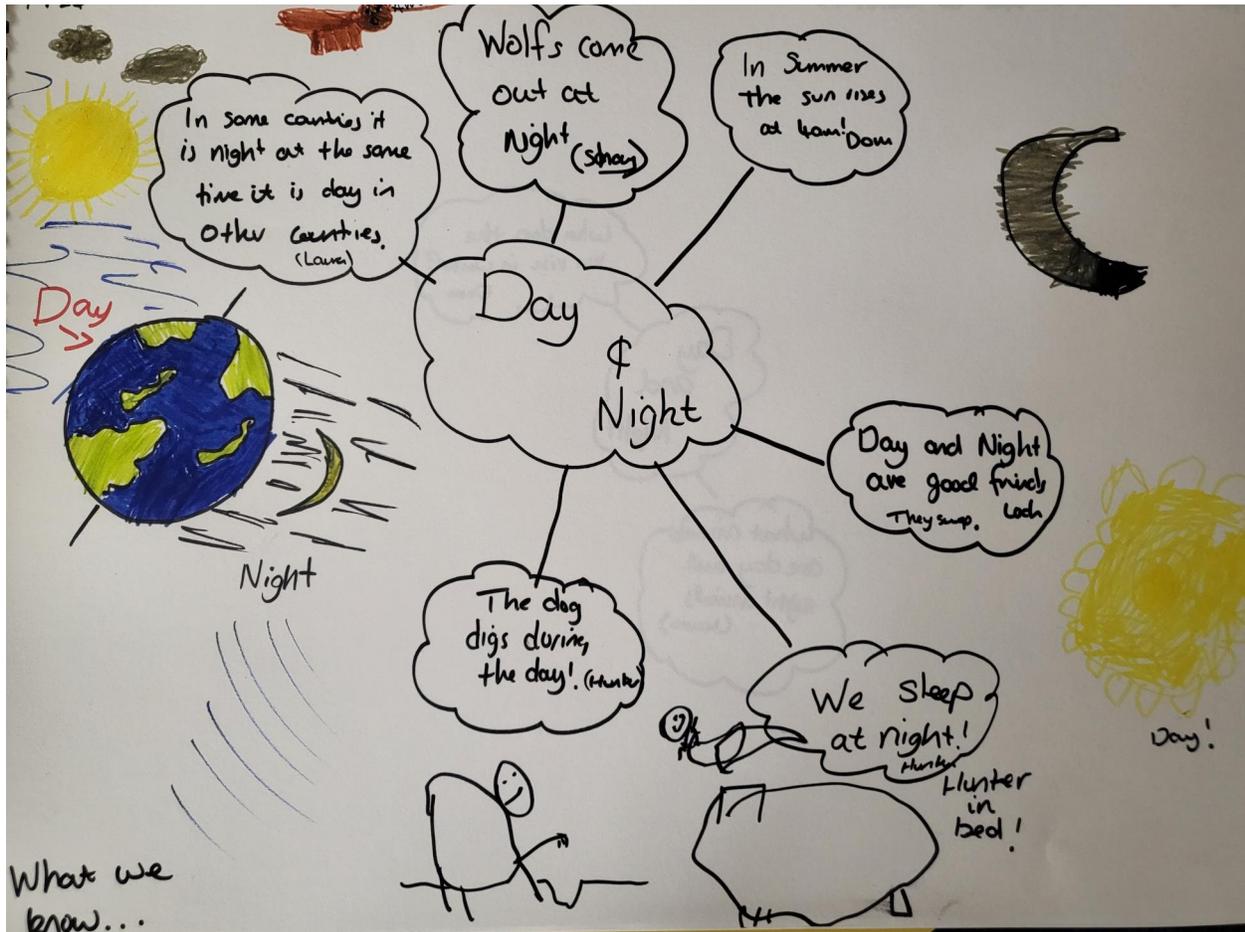


Expressive Arts



Daily opportunities for physical activity are provided with focused teaching sessions taking place on Tuesday and Thursday. We also make use of music, drama, arts and craft to enhance our learning across the curriculum. In our class we will use all of these skills whilst learning across our curriculum. Mrs Hill is a trained Woodwork Instructor and the pupils will continue to enjoy creating and crafting wood items. Mrs Hill and Miss Mains are also amazing artists, who is always on hand to help pupils express their learning in different ways. Mrs McMaster leads PE sessions which include health and fitness as well as movement and dance. This term we will focus on Yoga, team and co-ordination games and skills. We will also explore textured 3D picture making, Scottish songs and dancing.

IDL/ Topic



We are planning in a responsive manner using Floorbooks to track our learning. Dominic is going to be visiting London in February and the children wanted to learn about the city. We have also planned to explore Scotland through Burns and Hot and Cold through a Science and Technology lens. where we are exploring how our lives are influenced by our daily routines. All topics are planned using the Experiences and Outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence, which helps guide the children when planning ensuring a balance and progressing of skills are maintained .



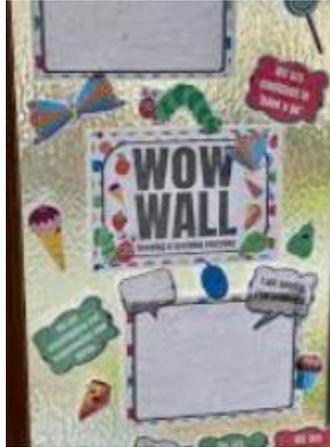
2 - Enjoying a Burn's Supper

Life and ethos of our 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 experiences. We are a school where the Rights of the Child are at the core of everything we do. We focus on one of these 'Rights' every fortnight. We have also introduced our WOW board to reward success- every time someone produces amazing learning, they are given a huge WOW verbally, and their names are entered onto our WOW display grid. When the grid is full, we have a prize draw- if their grid-number is the winner, they win a prize. The more WOWs- the more entries into the draw! This

idea has been developed with our children, and they are very excited for the first WOW Prize Draw!



Communication

Our Daily Diaries are a super way of us keeping in touch with each other. Please do not hesitate to write a message to us if you feel there is something we should know about your child's evening at home, any difficulties they may have had or any success they have achieved. Alternatively, please do not hesitate to email me if you prefer that method of communication. My email is: martin.elliott1@westlothian.org.uk

We also have a TEAMS page called Ness 2024-2025. Your child is a member of this team, and can access by logging into GLOW and clicking the TEAMS tile.

Many thanks- we look forward to an exciting year with your children.

Martin Elliott, Sue Hill, Kirsten Mains















