



# St. Colmcille's Primary School

Curriculum Content  
2023-24  
Term 1b  
November-December

## Year 1 Curriculum Content for Term 1b November-December 2023

### Language & Literacy

We are continuing to introduce our sounds using the Sounds~Write programme and this term we will be focusing on the identification and formation of the sounds b, c, g, h, d, e, f, v, k, l, r and u through a variety of practical activities. We will be blending these sounds in order to read simple words. Our shared and modelled reading and writing will focus on the 'Changes in The World Around Us' topic where we will be looking at the differences between fiction and non-fiction books. We will also explore book handling skills, using language such as front & back cover, spine and title.

### Mathematics & Numeracy

In our mental maths we will be focusing on counting forward and backwards within five, extending towards 10 and quick recognition of numerals and small quantities. We will be investigating different aspects of measure, such as length, weight and capacity. We will be working with numbers 0 - 10, looking at addition and subtraction within 6, identifying 1 more and 1 less within 10 and towards the end of the term, will introduce ordinal numbers. We will also be investigating 3D shapes and their properties and will begin to look at Time, focusing on the seasons, months of the year and the passing of time.

### World Around Us

In our 'Changes' topic we will be exploring ways in which change occurs in the natural world. We will investigate life cycles, seasonal weather and harvest time, developing an awareness of farm life.

### Religious Education

We will be looking at God's action in the autumn world and thanking Him for it. We will celebrate the wonder of Creation and look at how we can care for the world, following the example of St. Francis. We will also be celebrating Christmas through stories and songs.

### Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

We will be exploring and discussing our feelings and emotions, developing ways of expressing how we feel. We will discuss knowing what to do when we feel sad, lonely etc.

### The Arts

The children will use dough/clay to make decorations and make their own drawings and paintings reflecting on what they have produced. The children will be able to describe what shapes they use within their artwork. We will dramatise familiar stories using puppets and storysacks. We will be learning a variety of action songs to perform for Christmas.

### Physical Development & Movement

We will be experimenting with different ways of moving, exploring personal and general space. We will be travelling in different directions and at different speeds. We will also look at different balances.

### Notes

- Homework packs are given out on a Monday. Complete pages in workbooks marked with a star.
- Please remember to return library books and homework packs every Friday. The maths home-school link does not need to be returned to school.

## Year 2 Curriculum Content for Term 1b November/December 2023

### Language & Literacy

This term our shared and modelled reading will focus on the theme of *Toys*. We will be following the *Sounds-Write* programme to read and write words with 3, 4 and 5 sounds. We will also decode words using /sh/, /ch/, /th/ and /ck/. This will also be revised in the phonics homework booklet. Pupils will become more competent with their reading skills such as blending, decoding and using picture cues. High Frequency Words will be introduced as part of weekly homework. They will recognise features of texts such as full stops, commas, question marks and exclamation marks. Writing activities will include using a stimulus to write more independently, making Christmas shopping lists and writing letters to Santa.

### Mathematics & Numeracy

This half-term the children will explore *Numbers to 20* and *Addition & Subtraction within 20*. The children will use place value to recognise numbers to 20. We will then add and subtract within 20, finding number bonds first within 10 then 20. We will also explore Time using analogue clocks and record o'clock and half-past times. We will explore the calendar, sequence events and solve problems involving time.

### World Around Us

Our topic this term is *Toys*. Children will learn about the history of toys and investigate various toys used in the past. They will discover how toys move and operate. Children will be given opportunities to build their own toys using construction materials. We will also learn about the simple forces of push and pull, and we will investigate some properties of materials.

### Religious Education

We follow the Grow in Love programme. The topics this term include *We Remember*, *Advent Light*, *Mary Says 'Yes'*, *Jesus Is Born*, and *Gifts For The Baby*. We will listen to stories, songs and poems from the programme.

### Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

As part of our topic pupils will explore the similarities and differences between groups of people. They will recognise and value the culture and traditions of other groups who share their community. Through the medium of stories, children will be encouraged to consider the needs of others in their environment.

### The Arts

Children will use and combine a variety of media to create their own Christmas wrapping paper. They will paint toys from memory and experience. Children will learn songs and dances for our Christmas show.

### Physical Development and Movement

This term we will focus on developing gross motor skills. This will include travelling in different ways and using equipment such as paddle boards and scooters to negotiate obstacles.

### Notes:

Weekly Homework and reading for each night is marked in your child's reading record. We encourage you to include a comment in the box or allow your child to make a comment.

High Frequency Words should be practised each week as part of homework. Words for the week are marked with \*

## Year 3 Curriculum Content for Term 1b

### November-December 2023

#### **Language & Literacy**

In Reading we will be given the opportunity to develop our skills of showing empathy with characters as well as understanding how the setting of a story influences the plot. We will begin to learn how to summarise a story and predict story endings. We will also compare and contrast fiction and non-fiction texts. The focus in phonics is on diagraphs, using two letters to make one sound. While the focus in grammar is using plurals, alphabetical order and adjectives. We will learn how to write a story with a familiar setting, sequencing our ideas into a beginning, middle and end and using time connectives. We will begin to learn how to check our work for sense and accuracy.

#### **Mathematics & Numeracy**

In Measures we will explore length and use appropriate standard units (m/cm) to estimate and measure the length and height of a variety of objects using metre sticks, rulers and measuring tapes. We will compare and order lengths in metres and centimetres using  $>$ ,  $<$  and  $=$ . In Number we will begin to explore the relationship between multiplication and division using the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables. We will represent multiplication and division concepts using concrete manipulatives, write equations and solve word problems. We will explore multiplication through arrays and division as grouping and as sharing. We will also solve word problems using concrete materials and pictorial representations.

#### **World Around Us**

We are continuing with our topic of 'Towers and Turrets'. We will explore castles and their use of weapons as a means of defence. We will look at the design of weapons and create our own. We will also explore the process of becoming a knight and investigate the strength and elasticity of materials.

#### **Religious Education**

We will explore Mass and the roles of different people at Mass. We will research the patron saint of our school and learn about the season of Advent and associate it with waiting for the coming of Jesus.

#### **Personal Development & Mutual Understanding**

Through 'Talking and Listening,' we will recognise a range of feelings and emotions and begin to realise how our actions can affect others. We will develop a range of strategies to help us deal with negative feelings, such as sadness and anger, in an appropriate way.

#### **The Arts**

We will explore Art through our World Around Us topic. We will create a nativity scene and Christmas characters through Art and Craft. The children will learn Christmas songs from 'It's a Baby!'.

#### **Physical Education**

We will have the opportunity to explore body movements and medieval themed dance. We will use daily movement exercises to help focus and concentration.

## Year 4 Curriculum Content for Term 1b November-December 2023

### Language & Literacy

In our shared reading we will be discussing how an author uses language to portray moods as well as identifying different aspects of punctuation and grammar. Through our guided reading we will be focusing on reading with expression, finding information from a text and the features associated with a non-fiction book. Our grammar will involve the use of question and exclamation marks and the use of adjectives, nouns and past tense verbs. We will be exploring how to write a non-chronological report. Our novel work will concentrate on Jeff Brown's "Flat Stanley."

### Mathematics & Numeracy

In term 1b we will cover units 4 and 5 in Mathematics Mastery. Unit 4 will focus on addition and subtraction, using known facts and develop number sense. Unit 5 will focus on measuring and calculating length. Children will use millimetres and record and compare measurements using mixed units. In this unit they will practise and refine length measuring skills. Pupils go on to apply their understanding of length and measures along with prior knowledge of 2-D shapes as they learn to find perimeters and identify missing lengths of sides. They will go on to solve every day problems involving length.

### World Around Us

We will begin our new topic of 'Sound'. Through it we will be learning how sound is produced, how pitch can be changed, how music conveys a mood and children will be given opportunities to respond to and create musical sequences.

### Religious Education

We will become more aware of Jesus as a teacher, a teller of parables and a healer. We will develop our understanding of the meaning of Christmas through the account of Jesus' birth as described in Matthew's Gospel.

### Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

We will be continuing to explore the importance of positive relationships in school and at home. We will participate in Anti Bullying Week activities and look at effective strategies for dealing with bullying. During Pastoral Care Week, children will engage in various activities designed to help them be mindful of the importance of looking after ourselves and others in our community.

### The Arts

Through our WAU topic we will be creating our own musical instruments, using a variety of junk materials. The children will use different media to create Christmas art. The children will prepare and perform their Christmas show entitled 'Children of the World'.

### Physical Education

Children will continue to develop fundamental skills such as throwing, catching and kicking. The children will be encouraged to communicate and work together as a team when playing team or group games.

### Notes:

- Children have reading homework every night. Please ensure that you follow the Reading Record sheet.
- Please remember to carry out the mental maths activity each day with your child.
- Please encourage your child to use the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method when learning spellings.
- The children will be given song lyrics and lines for their Christmas show. Please ensure you go over these regularly with your child to help with their confidence.

## Year 5 Curriculum Content for Term 1b November-December 2023

### Language & Literacy

In our shared reading we will be focusing on the importance of descriptive language to convey feelings. Through our guided reading we will be exploring the reciprocal reading strategies of summarising, clarifying, predicting and questioning. This half term the children will be reading 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. Our grammar will involve an in-depth look at adverbs, commas, apostrophes and antonyms. In talking and listening the pupils will be developing their ability to work as a group, listen to and respond to each other's thoughts and opinions. The children will be creating firework poems using onomatopoeia, similes and alliteration.

### Mathematics & Numeracy

In our Numeracy this term the children will derive known facts to allow them to complete 3-digit multiplication and division problems. They are learning to implement new strategies to solve real life world problems. Children will be exposed to different representations of data and will have to read, interpret and compare pictograms, bar charts and time graphs. Pupils will also be building upon their knowledge of fractions and will progress to using equivalent and improper fractions. They will be able to calculate fractions of quantities and apply these skills to problem solving.

### World Around Us

We are beginning our new topic of 'Children of the World Unite'. The boys and girls will be learning about the rights of a child and how this applies to their daily life. They will research other children's cultures and appreciate the similarities and differences of children throughout the world. They will have the opportunity to research children who have inspired them. They will also investigate how the lives of children have changed over time in their locality.

### Religious Education

We will remember our dead throughout the month of November. As part of the Grow in Love programme we will be exploring stories of Jesus, his birth and his life. We will also learn about Advent and the Nativity story. The pupils will be preparing for the KS2 Carol Service.

### Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

We will begin the term with Anti-bullying week and focus on the theme "Make Noise". The main theme we will be covering this term is Staying Safe and Healthy. Pupils will explore what constitutes a balanced diet, learn how to make informed and responsible decisions and understand the harmful effect of substances on the body.

### The Arts

We will be practising our Christmas hymns and carols. The children will have the opportunity to develop an appreciation for traditional music around the world. Art will link closely with WAU, focusing on cultural celebrations and traditional art. Opportunities for drama will arise through novel work, Christmas poems and tableau.

### Physical Education

The children are developing their ball handling and games awareness. They will be building on their catching, throwing, kicking and team work skills.

### Notes

- Children have reading homework every night. Please ensure that the Reading Record is completed, signed and encourage your child to make a comment.
- Please remember to reinforce your child's times tables every night.
- PE times – Hall Mr Murray – Tuesday Miss McAleenan – Tuesday Mrs McAleer - Monday  
Outside Mr Murray – Thursday Miss McAleenan – Thursday  
Mrs McAleer - Friday

Please wear school PE kit. (Black/navy joggers or leggings, white top and school jumper.)

## Year 6 Curriculum Content for Term 1b November-December 2023

### Language & Literacy

We will continue to develop key comprehension skills in our shared and guided reading. We will focus on the skill of predicting and justify the reasons for our opinions. We will be considering the author's choice of vocabulary and how this leads to implied meaning. We will be continuing to explore and embed features of poetry in our writing. We will learn about homophones, synonyms and the spelling rules for plurals, as well as the use of the apostrophe and how to punctuate speech.

### Mathematics & Numeracy

In Mental Maths we will use known facts to divide and find fractions of sets, adding on and subtracting time. We will be using the written method to divide and learning how to divide by factors. We will explore fractions and find fractions of quantities. In measures we will revise telling the time using the 12-hour clock and learn to use the 24-hour clock. In data handling we will use Venn diagrams and line graphs. We will also explore the use of bar models to help us solve problems.

### World Around Us

We will continue with our theme of the Vikings. We will think about life in Viking Times in relation to their homes, clothes, families and society. Through this topic we will produce oral presentations, interactive displays using the I-Pads, create 'Viking artefacts' and sound poems. We will think about how Vikings preserved their food.

### Religious Education

Our moral and ethical understanding will continue to be developed through the teachings of the parables. We will develop an understanding the Liturgical Year. In the lead up to Christmas we will reflect on the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth and the Annunciation, as well as preparing for our Carol Service. We will learn to pray the Angelus and the Memorare.

### Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

Our PDMU will focus on dealing with feelings. The main aim is to recognise different feelings and emotions and understand why we need to manage them in a positive and safe way.

### The Arts

We will develop our printing techniques and clay modelling skills using aspects of Viking Life as stimuli. In Music we will create musical stories and pictures, using percussion instruments and relevant apps. Our Drama will link closely with our WAU topic. We will develop skills appropriate to audience, context and purpose whilst performing our poems. Create musical stories and pictures, using percussion instruments.

### Physical Education

We will be developing effective use of space and direction in dance. Pupils will consider how to move with increased control, co-ordination and poise whilst communicating ideas and feelings. Miss McKinley's class will be swimming on Fridays this half term.

### Notes

- Please ensure that you spend time each day discussing your child's reading to enhance their understanding. Try to ask a range of questions, such as 'How was the character feeling?', 'How can we tell that the character was ..?' or 'What does the author mean by ...?'

## Year 7 Curriculum Content for Term 1b November-December 2023

### Language & Literacy

This term the children will continue to develop their reading skills using the strategy of Reciprocal Reading. They will be introduced to a variety of novels and non-fiction texts as part of shared, guided and independent reading. The children will continue reading *Under the Hawthorn Tree*. We are continuing to explore non-chronological reports in writing. Children will then write an independent non-chronological report on life in Ireland during the famine. Opportunities will also be provided to develop their understanding and appreciation of poetry.

### Mathematics & Numeracy

The mental maths focus for this half term will be to encourage the children to choose the appropriate mental maths strategy in solving maths problems. In the area of Shape and Space, we will recognise symmetry and be able to reflect shapes, as well as calculating missing angles by applying our previous learning. In Measures, we will understand the purpose of and apply scale. In Handling Data, we will explore and interpret conversion graphs.

### World Around Us

The pupils will be continuing to study the thematic unit of '*The Great Hunger*'. The pupils will explore the causes and effects of the famine, life in Ireland before, during and after the famine and the impact it had on the Irish people. We will also explore the Victorian period and learn about Victorian life. They will explore what life was like for Victorian working children and find out about the types of jobs these children were employed to do. The pupils will learn about children's lives during the Victorian period and how this compares to the UNCRC today. They will learn about the Industrial Revolution and the impact it had on Victorian Britain. They will research some of the inventions and discoveries of this time and understand how these changed people's lives. The pupils will compare a Victorian Christmas to Christmas in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Religious Education

The children will explore the theme 'Our Christian Vocation.' Emphasis this half term will be on understanding God calls us into a covenant relationship and studying people who have shown Christian values at work. The theme of Advent and Christmas and the beginning of the new liturgical year will also be explored.

### Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

PDMU this term includes opportunities for pupils to develop an understanding and appreciation of other faiths and cultures. They will explore the theme 'Faith and Light' looking at faiths around the world and festivals associated with these different faiths.

### The Arts

In Art we will study the works of artists JP Rooney, LS Lowry and William Morris. We will learn and practise a number of Christmas carols and poems. Our drama will be closely linked to our novel, *Under the Hawthorn Tree* and *The Victorians*.

### Physical Education.

Children will have opportunities to develop a range of movement and ball skills during PE this half term through playing a range of games. Mr Duffin's class have PE on Thursday and Friday. Mrs McAleer/Mrs Halloran's class have PE on a Monday and Friday.