

Niddrie Mill PS  
Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011

Dear Parent,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope that you had an enjoyable holiday although I'm sure we'll all think twice before dreaming of a White Christmas!

We have an exciting term ahead with the focus on all things Scottish;  
Scottish dance leading up to the **Cluster Ceilidh** on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February;  
Scottish art - looking at different Scottish artists and painting our own Scottish landscapes;  
Scots language - a study of The Eejits (a translation into Scots of Roald Dahl's The Twits) and writing in Scots  
Poosie Nancy - where some of the pupils in the class will represent the school at this Burns competition;  
The Scottish assembly - where all parents are invited to share in the school's celebration of our Scottish heritage and culture. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February

And finally our fabulous history project **Made in Scotland**. For this we will be working with the author Allan Burnett over a 6 week period looking at different Scottish inventors. To enable this to happen we were fortunate to receive funding from the Scottish Book Trust. The children will share their research with you at the end of the project.

There will also be a visit to the **Museum of Scotland** to help bring all the ideas together. More details to follow.

PE -There will be regular PE lessons throughout the week as we prepare for the ceilidh so it is important that all children have at least their gym shoes or indoor trainers with them so that they can take part safely.

SWIMMING - Because of the disruption to swimming lessons caused by the snow we were only able to attend one of the lessons. However the swimming teachers have been able to offer us a new slot at Portobello Baths starting on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April. (4 lessons) We will travel there and back by private coach.

HOMEWORK (Home Learning.) This will continue to be issued at the beginning of each week, for return usually on the Thursday. The language work will take a slightly different approach this term, encouraging pupils to extend their writing skills.

I have also enclosed a board game based on asking questions. This could be used in a variety of ways including creating questions based on your child's accelerated reader, questions on their day/ week at school, questions on their project or a mixture. In class we are learning how to create higher order or challenging questions so this should help give practice. If you would like to know more please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

READING -Pupils will continue to take home their accelerated readers for home reading. When pupils have completed a book they then take a quiz on this to establish if they have understood what they have read. Hopefully the board game will help to check if they have understood the story.

PLPs- pupils are currently reviewing their learning targets and setting new ones for the term. It is good to also hear of achievements out of school, so that these can also be added to the PLP to show the range of successes your child has. Photographs are very welcome, or I can take pictures in class of any trophies, medals or certificates. You will have a chance to share these with your child later in the term.

Kind Regards,

Kathryn Foley  
Class Teacher