



Weekly Learning Summary

Believe! You Will Achieve

Dates for your Diary – More Confirmed Next Week	
Oct	24 th – Autumn disco 28 th – wear yellow for Hospice day please – Fiona singing to us in assembly as she practices for Ness Factor! (She's Hannah in P7's mum)
Nov	18 th Children in Need
Dec	9 th MFR Cash for Kids Christmas Jumper day and Christmas lunch 13 th 9.30 am ELC – P3 Christmas concert 14 th 1.45pm ELC – P3 Christmas Concert School parties dates decided this week with teaching staff 21 st – Smithton Community Choir to sing at local Christmas Service at Smithton Church 22 nd – ELC Christmas Parties 22 nd 9.30 – Christmas end of term service at Smithton Free Church

Here is the shortened version of the annual [School Improvement Plan](#). You will see, for a change, that we are focusing on only literacy this year rather than three or four areas. This is because we want to embed and keep practising the other improvements, we have undertaken over the last four years – with the interruptions of the new school build and covid we wanted to focus on only one area to allow us time to really make sure financial education, applying other areas of the curriculum to everything we do, outdoor learning, IT use and leadership skills across the school.

Since August we have been focusing on writing across the school and checking that we are clear about what attaining a level looks like and what interventions are needed if a child is not at the right place yet. We have also explored talking and listening well and it has been good being able to work closely with each other again to ensure that we have a clear progression through the school. Having new staff each year brings a richness but it also means we need to be clear with everyone what the expectations are. Again, part of my work is to ensure we have similar standards across the are so that when all young people go on to the academy there is a similar assessment framework in place. We meet at least once a month as head teachers and heads of department at the academy and there are plans in place for all PSAs and teaching staff to share with each other this school year, too – something we all get a lot out of but was curtailed during the covid years...

This is a busy 'glitter' term but we try to keep things as calm as possible. Early years and infants usually put on a Christmas nativity but as our numbers are growing we want to make sure all who want to take part up front can do so therefore each class will have 12 minutes to perform so it should be a good variety show!

We have had a community choir singing at the local carol service on the last Wednesday of term for a few years. It's always good to have staff, young people, parents, carers and friends join us – do let us know if you want to be part of this. If you're new to the area why not join us and get to meet people? We'll issue the song to practise at home and then we'll have a couple of times together.

Have a good week,

Aileen Mackay

31 October 2022