Happy New Year!

We hope everyone in Lindisfarne has had a wonderful Christmas holiday and is ready to enjoy all our new topics and activities for 2018. Our theme for this half term is: ‘Let’s Get Going!’ and we are looking forward to all the fun and learning this will involve.

Religious Education
Our first ‘Come and See’ topic will be about ‘Books’. The children will be comparing the different books used at home, school and in the Church. They will be developing their understanding of the importance of the Bible as God’s word shared with all, and will learn about Jesus’ life as told through the Gospel stories. Following on from this will be a topic about ‘Thanksgiving’. The children will be learning about when, how and why we say thank you. They will be learning about the Eucharist: when the parish family thanks God with Jesus.

Literacy
We will be using the ‘Katie Morag’ stories by Mairi Hedderwick as the stimulus for much of our ‘Let’s Get Going!’ topic work. The stories are about a young girl living on a Scottish island and have been made into a BBC TV series (see our class webpage for the link). There are lots of lovely stories in the series. We will also be exploring a range of traditional Scottish stories and fairy tales in order to develop speaking and listening, reading and writing skills. We will be learning about the key features of traditional tales and will compare them with well-known English traditional stories. For example, we will be comparing the story of ‘The Wee Bannock’ with ‘The Gingerbread Man’.
‘Big Writing’ will continue on Fridays with ‘Talk Homework’ being set every Wednesday in preparation for their writing. (Remember talk homework requires no writing, but the time spent talking about what they will write is invaluable to the children, and really improves the quality of their writing.)

Numeracy - Maths Makes Sense
In Numeracy we will be continuing our Maths Makes Sense programme. In Arithmetic pupils will be learning how to calculate vertical subtractions with a ‘tricky’ units column using ‘funny counting’. We will also be learning how to partition up to 4 digit numbers, read and copy mixed numbers (1 ¾) and read subtraction maths stories as ‘difference between’ stories. In Geometry children will be recognising 2D faces in 3D shapes, using the vocabulary: side and corner for 2D shapes; face, edge and vertex for 3D shapes. In Data and Measure pupils will be answering ‘How many?’ and ‘Difference between’ questions about information presented in a grid or bar chart - recognising related addition and subtraction maths stories. In Reasoning the children will be answering simple word problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division (identifying the basic real life stories and choosing the correct operations).

The children need to secure at least their 2, 5 and 10 times tables (fast recall) and then move on to counting in threes and fours this term. Multiplication and division work will continue in class and homework will be set to support this - any extra practice is very valuable.
**Topics**

In **Science** we will be using our theme of 'Let's Get Going' to really develop our skills in 'Working Scientifically' through exploring forces and motion. We will be learning about different pushes and pulls (including friction and gravity) and how they can make things speed up, slow down or change direction. The children will be raising questions about how toy vehicles move and planning fair tests, using measuring and recording skills - they will be using their results to support their work in Design & Technology.

In **Geography** we will be using the 'Katie Morag Stories' to explore the features of an island home - comparing our locality with Katie’s Scottish island. The children will be identifying physical and human features of the island location, thinking about how land and buildings are used and how the environment changes. They will be undertaking map, coordinate and compass work - also naming the countries and capital cities of the British Isles. Interestingly Katie’s island home is based on the real Isle of Coll - worth a look on ‘google map’.

In **Design & Technology** the children will be designing and making model delivery vehicles (for Katie Morag), developing their making skills using small hand tools safely and learning about different wheels and axles. **Box Appeal** - it would be wonderful if you could save and donate any small empty boxes e.g. oxo cube or tea boxes, suitable for making parts of their toy vehicles.

In **Music** our topic is entitled: ‘What’s the score?’ The children will explore classroom instruments and learn that instruments that make sounds in similar ways can be grouped into families. They will describe instruments in terms of pitch and timbre. They will create symbols that represent the various ways an instrument can be played and use these to help compose a sequence of sounds.

In **Computing** we will be sending our ‘Floor Robot’ on the move, developing children's programming skills: creating, testing, modifying and storing instructions to control the movements of the floor robot. The children will learn to program the floor robot to move around an area (a map of Katie Morag’s Island) by using single instructions, a sequence of instructions and repeated sequences. They will be debugging and improving programs, also making their own simple catch games on the computer.

**General Reminders:**

**Reading, Spellings and Homework:** Guided Reading to the teacher will take place weekly, and there will be regular opportunities to read to adults in school. We hope that children continue to read regularly at home, please note their reading in their diaries.

Spelling and number facts for the half term are again, given in their spelling book; this ensures that each child has their spellings even if they are absent. Spelling/number tests will be on Mondays.

Our next homework project will be set in their talk homework book to be handed on **Monday 12th February** giving plenty of time for your child to achieve their research/creative work. We encourage good homework habits, we will remind them not to leave their homework to the last minute and to complete their work as independently as possible.

**PE Kit:** Children continue to require their own PE kit (clearly named) for our weekly sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays - outdoor kit (dark plain tracksuit and outdoor trainers) is required - may we suggest an extra draw-string PE bag for outdoor trainers so that dirty trainers do not soil your child’s PE kit.

**Playtimes:** Pupils will be playing outside whenever possible and will need suitable warm outerwear.

**Snacks:** Pupils in Key Stage 1 are provided with a daily fruit snack (morning break) and pupils who have milk have it during afternoon break. We are a healthy school and promote healthy eating, pupils in key stage 1 do not need to bring extra snacks from home as there is plenty of fruit available.

Thank you for your support with this.

**Uniform reminder:** Please ensure your child comes to school in correct uniform, ready for the day. (Please refer to our school policy/handbook.) Long hair needs to be tied up (plain headbands), no jewellery apart from stud earrings is allowed and pupils need to be wearing their red tie. In Year 2 the children are always very smart and this helps them feel smart and ready for the day. Thank you for your continued support.

**Web Site:** Remember to check our class page on the school web-site: [www.priorycatholicschool.co.uk](http://www.priorycatholicschool.co.uk). We will continue to try and keep you up-to-date on our class activities, assemblies, and you may find useful newsletters and class information there.

Wishing everyone a happy and productive new year!  
Mrs Kelly & Mrs Harrison