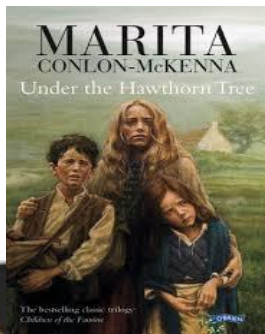




Curriculum Newsletter

Primary 7

Term 1 2025-2026



The World Around Us

(Science, Geography and History)



Our theme this term is called *Hunger*. The children will research parts of the world where hunger is a problem, looking at the main factors that contribute to hunger/famine in these areas. They will begin to understand the role of relief in supporting countries affected by famine and consider how they too can make a difference.

The Great Hunger in Ireland will be our case study. We will look at Victorian times in Ireland and at the devastating effect that the 1845 potato blight had on the Irish people.

The children's knowledge of the geography of Ireland will be developed as they learn to name and locate the four provinces, the 32 counties and some of the main waterways and mountain ranges of Ireland.

The children will complete an art project creating 3D cottages inspired by Ireland in 1845 – an important period of Irish history. They will design and construct these cottages using a variety of materials supplied by school and those gathered from home.

We will learn about the parts of a potato plant and the process of growing potatoes. Fair test investigations will be carried out to establish the best conditions to grow potatoes, looking at how and why vegetables decompose. This year the pupil will have the opportunity to harvest potatoes in our local area, a special event indeed.

We will visit The Ulster American Folk Park at the end of November and take part in the 'Flight from Famine' workshop. Through role play, the children will share in the experiences of thousands of immigrants as they make their way to the departing ship in the hope of a new and prosperous life in a new world.

This term in:



Maths: Maths Mastery will focus on learning to read, write, order and compare 7-digit numbers. We will apply rounding strategies for rounding integers to the nearest multiple of different powers of 10, including to the nearest multiple of 100,000. We will explore multi-step problem solving involving addition and subtraction, with a big focus on mental strategies. Knowledge of special numbers, e.g. prime, square, cube and triangular numbers will be revisited, as well as multiplying and dividing 3 and 4- digits numbers.

Fractions, decimals and percentages will also be covered this term and problem-solving tasks will continue with the use of IZAK 9 cubes.

In our topic maths we look at the names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes, exploring their properties and relationships using practical materials.

Literacy: Our class novel for this term is *Under the Hawthorn Tree* which links to our topic.

The children will continue to develop their **report writing** skills by writing a simple autobiography and a biography on their 'saint buddy' whose name they have chosen for Confirmation. We will also be focusing on **Tanka poetry writing** this term and will use the story of The Great Hunger as a stimulus for this work.

ICT: The focus for Term 1 is Computational Thinking and Coding. The children will use the Scratch program to create a game linked to The Great Famine of Ireland.

What else is happening this term?

PE: Monday – swimming
Tuesday – Gaelfast Coach



Homework:

- ❖ **Reading nightly** and will be one of the following: AR book or Guided/Class reader.
- ❖ **Mental Maths nightly:** this will be in the Maths Facts folders and will be tested in Friday Check-ups.
- ❖ **Spellings & Activity booklet** – complete Mon, Tues and Wed nights.
- ❖ **Literacy:** Monday & Tuesday night
- ❖ **Numeracy:** Wednesday & Thursday night

Your child has a **Learning at Home book** which should be used to revise spellings and practise areas of maths facts.

Please make sure you check over and sign your child's written homework each night and their Friday checkup book on a Monday.

Blended Learning: Primary 7 have been enrolled in a Google Classroom. During the term some collaborative tasks will be set for the children to complete in their own time at home. This is a great way to further your child's learning and to help develop their ICT skills. If your child is having trouble accessing Google Classroom from home, please inform the school via email.

Helping at Home: This term, the children have been involved in setting their AR points target. This target can be found in your child's homework diary (see week beg 25 Aug). Fifteen minutes of reading should be completed daily. Please encourage your child to read their AR books at home during the week and at weekends.

Class Charter

To make our P7 class a fair and happy place, we promise to:

- Put our hands up to ask or answer a question.
 - Concentrate and listen to all adults.
 - Keep the classroom tidy and organised.
 - Give Respect to get Respect.
 - Always work to your best potential.
 - Put rubbish in the bin.
 - Use inside voices in the classroom.
 - Be happy and have fun!
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Playground Rules

1. Look after each other and play nicely.
2. Be kind to everyone.
3. We follow instructions of the adult on duty.



4. Take care of the playground and all the equipment.
5. We share and take turns.
6. We invite children on their own to join in.