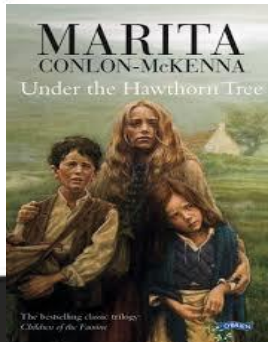




Curriculum Newsletter

Primary 7

Term 1 2026-2027



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.

As part of our science, we will learn about the parts of a potato plant and the process of growing potatoes. We will explore 'food groups' to help understand how important the potato was to the Irish people as well as looking at how different food groups support a healthy body. Once again, the pupils will have the opportunity to harvest potatoes in our local area, a special event indeed.

We will visit The Ulster American Folk Park on Friday 4th December 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 such as rounding and adjusting, partitioning and using our known facts. 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 unique art of **letter writing** will be a focus this term. The children will write letters when they get paired off with their very own 'pen pals'. We will also be focusing on **Tanka poetry writing** and will use the story of The Great Hunger as a stimulus for this work.

In **handwriting**, the children will have the opportunity to build on the cursive writing skills introduced in Primary 6. Their goal will be to work towards achieving their 'pen licence' which will happen at the end of Term 2.

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. (Finishes on Oct 12th)
Tuesday – Gaelfast (begins after Halloween)
Thursday - Games



Homework:

- ❖ **Reading nightly** and will be one of the following: AR book or Guided/Class reader.
- ❖ **Mental Maths nightly:** focus areas will come from their Maths Facts books 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 encourage your child to read their AR books at home during the week and at weekends if possible. **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.

Block Play: We are very fortunate to be able to continue with block play this term, an area of the curriculum that is greatly enjoyed by the pupils. Through these sessions, children will develop their creativity, imagination, literacy, numeracy, and presentation skills while engaging in meaningful, collaborative play.

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.
 - Keep the classroom tidy and organised.
 - Push your chair in when you leave it and zip up school bags.
 - Always work to your best potential.
 - Put rubbish in the bin.
 - Be kind and fair towards everyone.
 - Always walk 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.

