



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



I would like to extend a warm welcome to pupils, parents and staff, both new and old, to the start of a new session at Gullane Primary.

As one of the 'newbies', I am looking forward to working with you and finding out about life and learning within the school. As is often the case when there is a change of head teacher, I will be looking at current procedures with a fresh pair of eyes and I may make some changes throughout the session. However, you should rest assured that these will only take place after consultation with the appropriate people, be that pupils, staff or parents. No school can function well without the support of its community and, as always, we would welcome any offers of support or time that you could give, no matter how small. Please let a member of staff know if you would be interested in volunteering.

We would also be very interested to hear your thoughts and suggestions as to how we can increase parent/carers' engagement in their child/ren's education.

Donald M. McCullivray



ONLINE PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL



As you may be aware, payments to school can now be made online. All other payments made to the school should be **brought in by pupils in an envelope**, with their name, class and reason for payment clearly marked on the front, to be handed to the **class teacher**. (NB: Permission slips for trips etc should not be placed in these envelopes.) Payments **will not** be accepted at the reception desk as this increases the chances of money going missing or being misplaced. Please ensure that all monies are correct as **we do not give**

change for any payments made to the school.

Cheques should be made payable to East Lothian Council. Payments for the PTA should be made payable to Gullane PTA.



CONTACTING THE SCHOOL



Should you require to speak to your child's teacher, or any other member of staff, you should, in the first instance, contact the school office on 01620 843455. To help us assist you with your request, you should expect to be asked your name, the name of your child and the nature of your enquiry. Please be aware that although staff will do their best to return your call on the day this may not always be possible.

We will use text messaging and email as our preferred means of communication. It is therefore essential that you keep us informed of any changes to either your email address or mobile telephone number. Our website is also a good source of information.

To assist in the smooth running of, and minimise disruption to, the school, it would be most helpful if children could be sent to school with all the equipment they require for the day, including knowing the arrangements for pick-up time.



PARENT CARER COUNCIL



The first meeting of the Parent Carer Council takes place in the Staff Base at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 12th September. Items for the agenda can be given to any

PCC member.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend.

HOLIDAY

The school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 14th September. It will re-open as normal on Tuesday 18th September.

See our website for this session's holiday dates.



CHILDREN'S ABSENCE



If your child is unable to attend school please inform the school office by telephone, preferably between **8.30am** and **9.00am**. Failure to inform

us of your child's absence will initiate a text/phone call to you so that we can check on your child's safety. If we are unable to contact you the absence may be passed to ELC's Children's Wellbeing Team. **On return, your child should bring a letter confirming the reason for their absence.**

Planned absence eg holidays, should be requested as far in advance as possible, preferably two weeks before.



START OF DAY



Please remember that there is no supervision in the playground at the start of the day. Parents/Carers are responsible for their children until the doors open at 8.40 am. Now that we are moving into a time of year when the weather can be dark and wet, we would request that children are not sent to school before 8.30 am.



PARENT/CARERS' MEETINGS

One-to-one consultations will take place on:

- Wednesday 10th October
- Thursday 11th October



- Wednesday 3rd April
- Thursday 4th April

If at any point in the session you wish to discuss your child/ren's progress, or other matters, we will do our best to accommodate your request.



ASSEMBLIES

Parent/carers are welcome to come along to their child/ren's class assembly.

Class assemblies will take place at 9.00 am on Thursday mornings as follows:

- 4th October - P5/6
- 11th October - P4
- 15th November - P1
- w/b 17th December (tbc) - P6 will lead our church service.
- 17th January - P3/4
- 24th January - P1/2
- 14th March - P7
- 16th May - P2/3
- P5 - Date to be confirmed with new class teacher



PE KIT



In accordance with Scottish Government guidance, all children in Gullane Primary receive two hours of PE. There may be occasions when your child will be taking part in PE outdoors when the weather may be cold, wet or windy. For outdoor activities pupils should wear a tracksuit or jogging bottoms and sweatshirt, extra socks and outdoor trainers. Rain jackets, hats and gloves should be worn when appropriate. It is important that pupils are ready to take part and also that they have a change of clothes and a bag to put wet gear in, so that they are comfortable for the rest of the day. We would appreciate your support with this.

Please ensure that your child has a full named kit, including gym shoes/indoor trainers, shorts and a t-shirt (this should cover your child's midriff), with them at all times. Please note: In the interests of

health and safety no jewellery should be worn on gym days.



LUNCHES



School lunches cost £2.00 per day. If you would like your P4 to P7 child/ren to have a school lunch you should make sure that they have the correct money with them every day. You will find copies of the menu on our website.



WATER



We would ask parents to ensure that children are sent to school each morning with a filled, named water bottle. This can be refilled, if required, during the day. **Please note** - only water should be provided as sipping fruit juice, fresh or diluting, can lead to tooth decay.



MOBILE PHONES



There is no need for children to have mobile phones in their possession during school hours. Children who require a phone for use outwith school hours should hand their mobile in to the office at the start of the day. Any child who is found to have a phone during school hours will have it removed. The school takes no responsibility for children's mobile phones.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS

After school clubs for the North Berwick cluster can now be booked online using the following link:

<http://www.edubuzz.org/gullane/>

<https://www.activeeastlothian.co.uk/clubs/north-berwick-active-schools-primary-271>

You could also contact our Active Schools Coordinator, Paul Lavery, at plavery@elcschool.org.uk
Or by telephoning: 07976 377956



GULLANE LIBRARY

We thought you would be interested in finding out what is happening in the library.

Code Club - For children aged 9-13. This will help young people to learn Scratch, HTML & CSS, and Python by making games, animations and websites. It will run on a Thursday from 3.30 to 4.30 pm.

Chatterbooks Club - For children from P3 to P7. This club aims to inspire children to read different books, develop confidence in talking in a group and to have a good time with fun and creative activities. It starts on Monday 3rd September and runs from 3.30 - 4.30 pm.

Lego Club - For children of all ages; however, children under should be accompanied by an adult. Please phone Gullane Library on 01620 826045 to register your interest.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 14th: HOLIDAY
- Monday 17th: HOLIDAY
- Friday 21st: P7/S1 open afternoon at North Berwick High School



AROUND THE CLASSES



The Nursery Team is delighted to have welcomed children back after the summer holidays as well as saying hello to

some new faces. We are pleased to report that the children have all settled very well.

We have been learning about 'The Rainbow Fish' and discussing the importance of being kind and caring. As a result of singing our 'hello' song at morning gathering, the children have shown an interest in flags from around the world. This will lead our learning onto an 'around the world topic'.

If any parents/carers would like to come into the nursery to share any of their related experiences please speak to a member of nursery team.



P1 have enjoyed getting to know each other and are becoming familiar with the school and class rules and routines.

We have been learning about our community and the class has enjoyed looking at maps of Gullane, plotting key buildings and finding their own streets on the map. Our health and wellbeing theme is going to be World of Work and we are looking for parents to come into school and share their work experiences with the classes. If this is something you would be willing to do please pass on a note with your name, job title and day/time that would suit you. The class has been enjoying Jolly Phonics and learning to read and write 3 sounds a week. We have been learning to build and decode some CVC words. We have enjoyed reading books in class and learning more about the Oxford Reading Tree family. Look out for the keywords reading pouch that will come home with your child after the September weekend with reading books to follow. We have been focusing on writing numbers to 10 and will be learning to identify and sequence numbers to 30. We will also be working on counting forwards and backwards to and from 30.

Primary 1 has made an excellent start to school. Well done!

Mrs Cooper



P1/2 are enjoying learning about Gullane and the local community. We have been looking for their houses on google maps and have plotted

their addresses on a large town map. The children are very interested in the streets near their

<http://www.edubuzz.org/gullane/>

homes. We are learning about line in art and the children have produced lovely drawings of their own home and main buildings/landmarks in Gullane. We have used different media such as chalk, coloured pencils and black pens. We hope to visit Gullane Library and Gullane High Street this term. If you would like to help with either activity please let Mrs Grainger know.

Buddy Bear will be coming home with your child at some point this year. Your child can share an act of kindness with Buddy and record it in the Buddy Bear Book. This can be a drawing or a photograph with some text. Buddy will be sent home on a Friday and returned by the following Wednesday.

Spelling words will be given on a Monday, to be returned by Friday. Everyone should write their words 3 times using the look, cover, write, check method. Reading is done 4 times a week in school and the children should have their reading folders in school every day. Mrs Elderfield runs a lending library on Fridays, please return books each week.

Mrs Grainger

P2/3 have all settled back to school after the summer holidays. They are enjoying being in their classroom and the new things that they have been learning.

Bonjour !

It was lovely to meet a lot of parents at our Meet the Teacher event. I appreciate the support of those who have volunteered to help with the class and am grateful to them for giving up their time to assist. Currently we have Mrs Tulloch on a Tuesday morning, Mrs Spink on a Wednesday morning and Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Jones on a Thursday afternoon. Initially, they will mainly be hearing reading, but may assist with other learning in class.

In class, we have been working on routines such as getting into class quickly and remembering to go to the toilet. We are spending timing on setting out our written work neatly and have been looking at behaviours that are helpful and unhelpful in class.

This week we have looked at what we know and want to know about eating healthily and will be studying this for a few weeks. We are revising what we know in French and looking at simple greetings, feelings, numbers and the weather. In Numeracy, we have been counting to 30, 50 and 100 and odd and even numbers. In Maths, we have been looking at

Data Handling. The children have been enjoying investigating different ways to travel around the hall in P.E. and we are starting to look at underarm and chest passes in ball handling skills.

The children have been enjoying Maths and I.C.T with Mrs MacIver on a Tuesday and are excited about having the P.E, Art and Music Specialists after the September weekend.

I am looking forward to the rest of the session with your children and would like to thank you for all your support.

Mr McEwan



P3/4 have made a super start to the term and have been keen to get back to their learning (and their homework!) The class has been learning about

healthy eating over the past couple of weeks. They investigated the vitamins and nutrients you get from different fruit and vegetables and learned about the main food groups. The children have been working out which food groups their snacks and lunch choices fit into and are developing an understanding of what makes a healthy balanced diet.

Ms Ferguson



P4 have settled in well to their new learning location where we have a new Promethean Interactive Mobile Panel. This form of

technology really supports our learning and understanding and the children have been proactive in using this effectively and helping to realise and release its potential.

We have begun a unit studying agriculture, with a particular focus on how land is used in Scotland. Of course, we are extremely fortunate with our location here in East Lothian where over 70% of land is used for farming. So far we have built upon our map reading skills; working with coordinates finding farms and using the key to see how the land is used in the UK. We have questioned why there is a less land for ploughing in northern areas of Scotland and found out the reasons for hill farming and keeping sheep. We will be continuing to investigate

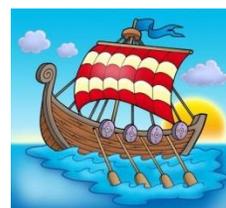
<http://www.edubuzz.org/gullane/>

the different types of farming over the next term with the hope of having a farmer visit our class and a possible education excursion to a local farm.

In numeracy, we are extending our understanding of place value: understanding the value of a digit, its place and value adding on 10s and hundreds. Practising this at home would further support your child's understanding e.g. 10 more than 699, 50 less than 320 etc. these are the more tricky examples, but we are moving to 10 000. We are also investigating area and linking this with our interdisciplinary learning applying our skills across the curriculum using our knowledge to create a farm, using area to plan land use for a variety of crops and catering for farm animals.

I have been delighted to see the children's spelling ability continue to improve (greatly more many) and continue to challenge them weekly. This is an area where further practice at home will support and extend their ability further. We enjoy sharing a class novel daily where the children have expressed a wish to continue to read Adam Blade's Beast Quest adventures with Tom and Elenna. The novels contain fabulous examples of similes and metaphors and the children are becoming more aware of these, spotting them and discussing their effect within the sentence, and are even beginning to use them within their own writing. We are also using Fantastic Mr Fox as a stimulus in writing (linking to our farming theme) this term to explore authors' craft and develop our writing; creating wanted posters, instructions, letters, invites as well as imaginative writing. Thank you also to the parents who have already stepped forward to support our learning in class we really appreciate your time and expertise.

Mrs Cowie



P5 have come back after the summer with lots of enthusiasm and seem to be settling in well. It has been lovely to see them and hear of all the exciting things they got up to during the holidays.

What are we learning about this term?

Social Studies - We are learning all about the Vikings this term and already know so much - please ask you children about this at home.

Literacy - Reading for enjoyment and being able to read unfamiliar text with increasing fluency and

expression, writing imaginative stories and discussing and debating word issues after watching Newsround in class.

Numeracy/Maths - Lots of revision on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will explore time, looking at 12 and 24 hour clock and using this knowledge to read timetables. We will also look at extending our knowledge of place value within 1000.

I.C.T - Using search engines to find out information about Vikings and becoming more familiar with the keyboard to improve our typing skills.

Health and Wellbeing - We are exploring emotions and ways of sharing them appropriately. The children would like to explore this in a variety of ways such as circle time, keeping a diary, emotional check in and having a feelings box in class so they can share their thoughts and feelings with me.

P.E - In P.E, we are learning to sustain energetic exercise. Gym days are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Library - Our library time is a Tuesday afternoon.

It has been a pleasure to come back to such a lovely class after the summer. I had such a great year with them all in P4 and wish them all the very best with their new teacher and the rest of P5. I intend to start my maternity leave on 21st September but will very much look forward to coming back to visit once my baby has arrived.

Miss Swaney



P5/6 - We have settled into our new classroom and routine well. We have a new table points and class coupon reward system which is up and running already! We can earn points for good behaviour, hard work and demonstrating kindness and respect to others.

At present we are learning about the Victorians, we wanted to learn about what it was like to go to school during the Victorian period and compare it to school life today, how the Victorians lived, what they ate and what games they played. We have been looking at what the Victorians wore and have been sketching and drawing the different fashions from that time with our art teacher, Mr Connell. We have also been investigating the great inventions of the Victorian era and have been conducting experiments with light and sound.

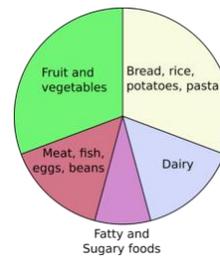
In maths and numeracy, we have been learning about timelines, place value up to 100,000 and 2D/3D shape. In literacy, we have chosen our reading books for homework and we also visit the library every Monday so that we can choose our own personal reading book for class time. All of the reading has inspired us to write our own short imaginative stories that we share with the rest of the class!

In P.E, we have been learning how to play basketball, which includes great team work skills, control and balance and in music we have been practicing our singing and learning some tricky tongue twisters!

We also have French every Thursday with Madame Swan but try to practise every day in class ☺

So far it has been an active and engaging start to P5/6 - busy and fun!

Mrs Thomson



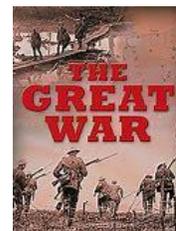
P6'S focus at the moment is nutrition and food choices. Our class chose to organise a healthy picnic. We looked at the Eatwell Guide, and learned about all the different food groups. We learned how much to eat of each

different food group for a healthy, balanced diet. We also looked at what people can or can't eat in their different religions.

We are now going to be learning about salt and sugar levels in food, learning how to understand food labels, discuss allergies, food hygiene, advertising and deciding what to make for our picnic within our budget. We then get to make and eat the picnic!

We are looking forward to the picnic, because we are learning about food and it sounds like fun.

By Rachel



P7 pupils have settled in well and are looking forward to a fun, busy and productive session. It's lovely to get to know the pupils and I am sure they will make for an excellent P7 class.

Each day some of the P7 pupils go to the P1 playground to help the children with games and finding their feet. The P7 children seem to enjoy it just as much as the younger ones! We will be starting Learning Buddies on Friday 31 August, where the P7 pupils help with various aspects of

PTA NEWS

learning with their buddies, from reading through to ICT work.

In Health and Wellbeing, we started the term by looking at rights and responsibilities, and this helped us establish an agreement of the standards and expectations for the classroom for the year. We are also looking at hemispheric specialisation of the brain, with focus on the impact of language on confidence and self-esteem with a view to raising attainment and success.

We have just started the Headstrong programme, which allows the children the opportunity to explore and discuss various aspects of mental, emotional and physical health. In PE, the children have started basketball with Miss Gordon, our visiting specialist, and are going through a progressive series of High Intensity Interval Training sessions for the second hour of activity each week. There were some sore muscles at the end of last week!

For Social Studies, the class has chosen The Great War as our first area of study. Our work here will develop knowledge and understanding of the key events and people, and the political and economic conditions, whilst developing the skills needed to research, record and present information gathered in any context. Our first class novel is 'Stay Where You Are and Then Leave', by John Boyne, and this explores life throughout The Great War from the perspective of a young boy whose father has gone off the Front. We will be looking at poetry from the era before having a go at our own, as many of our writing tasks will be developed through the context of The Great War.

Mr Adamson

New Committee for session 2018-20.

**Say yes!
Be a PTA
VOLUNTEER**

ATTENTION - Calling all parents/grandparents/carers!!

As many of you will already be aware, the PTA of 2016-18 recently handed over the reins to our new committee and although we've already got the bones of a really good group we REALLY NEED some more volunteers to join us - after all, many hands make light work!

The PTA has a vital role in the school and the funds raised by the PTA go towards buying fantastic new resources and materials that all of our children benefit from - examples from previous years are Chromebooks, audio equipment, outside seating areas and the recent additions to the trim trail. Just think how rewarding it would be knowing that you've helped give something back to the school!

The previous committee did a tremendous job and we would like to do just as well when following in their footsteps. We've got a calendar of activities that we're keen to get started on and we would love you to join us. Oh, and we also promise it'll be sociable, fun and a great opportunity to get to know some new faces!

If you're keen to volunteer or want to know more, speak to Nicola Smith or Heulwen Hardie, or email gullanepta@gmail.com.

