



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL
OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

We are well into the session and the classes have settled into the routine of an academic year.

Our new House Captains and Pupil Council Reps have been elected. They have already come up with some ideas to support the school and the House Captains, in particular, would like to continue with the House Bake Sales. We will let you know when they have chosen their charity.

We recently sent Miss Swaney off with our best wishes as she left to await the birth of her baby. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Shepherd who will be looking after P5 in her absence.

We would also like to welcome Mr Hutchison who joins us as our music specialist whilst Mrs Roberts takes a year off.

Parent/Carers' meetings take place before the October break. These provide a time for the two-way sharing of information. We look forward to meeting you.



OCTOBER HOLIDAY

The school will close at the usual time on Friday 12th October and re-open for pupils, as normal, on Tuesday 23rd.



PARENT CARER COUNCIL

Vacancy - We are looking for an experienced administrator who can



provide first class support to the Chair of our Parent Carer Council. You will be highly organised, proficient in using Microsoft, and an experienced minute taker.

The Parent Council meets around 5 times per year normally on a Wednesday evening from 7 to 9pm.

This is a casual paid appointment. If you would like further information about this post please contact Bev Skirrow at East Lothian Council.

We also have a vacancy for a Chair and Vice Chair. If you would be interested in either of these posts, please come along to our next meeting which takes place in the Staff Base at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 21st November.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend



WEDNESDAY CLUBS



Following the October break, on a Wednesday afternoon, we will be running mixed year group clubs that focus on the development of skills for life and work. Amongst others, we will have Newshounds, Art, Cooking, Nature and Story Stones.

We would be very keen to hear from any parent/carers who would like to help with these. Indeed, if you have a skill you would be willing to share with our children we would be happy to support you.



P1 ENROLMENT

This will take place on Thursday 8th November. Times will be 08.30-9.00am, 12.00-12.45pm. East Lothian Council do provide an information leaflet which you should receive soon.



What we require on enrolment day is a **birth certificate (not required if your child is in our Nursery)**, a **recent utility bill** (dated within 6 months), and your most recent **council tax assessment letter** (if you do not have this you must obtain a copy of this from East Lothian Council). **This is essential.**



ALLERGIES



As we have a few pupils who are allergic to nuts, snacks or foodstuffs containing nuts are not allowed in school. Please note - This also applies to food packaging sent in for junk modelling eg no Crunchy Nut Cornflake boxes. We appreciate your support with this.



ROAD SAFETY



In conjunction with East Lothian Council, we would like to remind all parents and carers that parking on double yellow lines (and zigzag markings) around schools is a selfish and potentially dangerous act for those already walking, scooting or cycling to school. There are obvious health benefits of more active travel modes for journeys to/from school and we would encourage you to make the most of these. If you do need to drive we would prefer that you take some extra time for your journey and park further away from the school on quieter streets or within designated parking places. For journeys to/from school, we would like to see driving to be regarded as a last resort.



BIKES AND SCOOTERS



Linked to the above, we would encourage all children who do travel to school on bikes or scooters to wear a suitable helmet that conforms to safety standard CE EN1078. Whilst helmets do not

prevent accidents from happening they do reduce the risk of severe head injuries.

We would like to suggest that parents/carers set a good example by always wearing a helmet when cycling.



MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD



The roads are getting busier (and more dangerous because of speeding drivers) and I would like to remind children and parents/carers of the following key points:

1. Wait until I say it's safe to cross (and definitely don't walk into the road at the same time as me)
2. It's safer to push bikes and scooters across the road rather than try to cycle/scoot
3. When crossed (heading towards school) please wait until past the yellow grit bin before getting on your bikes as it can cause a queue leaving some people standing on the road.
4. Pay attention at all times when at the roadside (too many children busy chatting and having to be reminded to cross)
5. Before crossing the road make sure you are seen by me before you cross, children coming from behind me have a tendency to run into the road as I'm letting the cars go and that can be very dangerous as some drivers don't wait for me to get on the pavement.
6. You should **ALWAYS** stop, look, listen, even when someone is there to cross you over the road.

Stuart Walczak-Gillies
(School Crossing Guard)



HEAD LICE



We would like to ask all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week. Parental vigilance plays a vital role in keeping the spread of this problem under control.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Thursday 4th: P5/6 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Wednesday 10th: 5.00 - 7.30pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Thursday 11th: P4 Harvest Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Thursday 11th: 4.00 - 6.30pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- 15th to 22nd inclusive: **HOLIDAY**
- Wednesday 31st: Wednesday Club (1 of 6)
- Wednesday 7th **November**: Wednesday Club (2 of 6)
- Thursday 8th: P1 enrolment
- Monday 12th: Albert Roux charity dinner. Further details to follow.
- Wednesday 14th November: Wednesday Club (3 of 6)
- Wednesday 21st November: Wednesday Club (4 of 6)
- Wednesday 28th November: Wednesday Club (5 of 6)
- Thursday 29th: P7 Ceilidh at North Berwick High School



AROUND THE CLASSES



The morning children have been showing an interest in doctors and nurses, so we have changed our role play area into a doctor's surgery. The children are going to have opportunities to make a selection of art work, read stories relating to this and discuss what they already know and what they would like to learn next. Naturally, this thematic learning may lead on to people who help us, so if any parents or carers who work in this job sector are able to come into talk to the children it would be much appreciated.

The afternoon group have been talking lots about Autumn and have been bringing in their Autumn treasures. We have made 'Autumn Treasure Bags'

which are in the cloakroom for you to use when out on walks or at the park with your child.

The children have also been showing an interest in tractors and combine harvesters. We will be using the big floor book to chat about what the children know and what they would like to learn about. We will have a harvest tuff tray for the children to use their senses to explore and reading books to find out more about harvest. The morning children are looking forward to joining the rest of the school for the Harvest Assembly.



P1 have been working their socks of this term learning new sounds every week and learning to build and decode words. We have enjoyed learning about Kipper and his family and are very excited to be using reading books now. The children are becoming more confident reading, writing and ordering numbers and have enjoyed learning new games. We went on a pattern walk and found many interesting patterns around the school; this gave us lots of ideas when completing our challenge to create a patterned tie for Sage (our magical woodland elf). We enjoyed a walk through Gullane to visit the local library and found out about the services and resources it provides. Our world of work topic has been very interesting with many parents volunteering to talk to the class about their work - thank you for taking the time to do this. Over the next few weeks the class will be taking part in some painting. We will be learning about the primary colours and how to mix these to make secondary colours. In gym, we are enjoying using the large equipment to explore with our bodies and are learning to roll, balance and jump.

Keep up the good work P1!

Mrs Cooper



P1/2 have been enjoying lots of literacy opportunities. P1 children are doing well learning 3 new sounds a week and have just started taking a reading book home. P2 children are working hard on their reading, spelling and writing tasks. The children are still very interested in World of Work. Thanks to all the parents who have supported us by giving informative

talks. We are currently learning about people who help us and what their role in the community is. Gym is very exciting as we have been taking part in gymnastic activities and have been using the wall bars and ropes to build our agility and core strength. We are running and walking the daily mile when time allows. We have been having music sessions and drama with Mrs Cooper's class; the children are very happy to work with a different cohort. We have embraced Fischy Music. The songs provide such valuable health and wellbeing lessons. We have been learning about pitch and keeping the beat through songs and rhyme.

Mrs Grainger



P2/3 have been working hard and I am looking forward to sharing their progress with you at our forthcoming Parental Consultations.

In Imaginative Writing, the children wrote about a pet they would have, created an imaginary fantasy pet and then wrote about an adventure they had with it. They have been drawing pictures and writing about how they, and the teacher, might react if a jotter went missing in class! Next week will be deciding what we think happened to it!

Primary 3 have been enjoying using Mathletics as a fun way to help them improve their Maths and Numeracy skills.

After the October break, the class will have P.E. and Art with our specialists.

As a class, the children have all been working on a target of getting into the class quickly in the morning, as well as after break and lunch. Although I have been delighted to see an improvement in this, some of the class could still continue to work on this. Bringing filled water bottles to school could also cut down on wasted time.

The children have started to complete their Learning Logs and will be bringing these home, fortnightly, on a Friday. I would appreciate it if parents/carers would look over these, sign them and ensure they are returned in the blue bags. Comments are always welcome.

I have made some changes to how spelling is taught in class along with the homework relating to this. As well as practising the weekly spelling sound at

home, an activities sheet has been given to your child with suggestions for a second spelling homework activity. Most of the children are working through the lists of common spelling words at the back of the homework jotter. It would be helpful if the words your child can read and spell are ticked at home, so they can be given dictation on these words. When it has been completed successfully, the next list of words will be issued to be practised at home.

Thanks for all your support.

Mr McEwan



P3/4 have been investigating the past and learning about life in Gullane in the 1960s. The class researched when their houses were built and used the information gathered along with old maps to find out how Gullane

has grown. The children interviewed people to find out what school and farming were like in the 1960s. The class has been very enthusiastic about the project and a number have undertaken their own research by using the internet and interviewing grandparents. We'll be putting together all our new knowledge to travel back in time and spend a day in the 1960s in the last week of term!

We've enjoyed trying out the learning platform Mathletics in class and children have been very motivated to complete activities to reinforce the learning they have been doing in numeracy.

Over the course of the last four weeks, the children have been writing an extended story about a tiny dragon and they have shown fantastic development in their descriptions and organisation of ideas.

We're experimenting with a slightly different way of doing our learning logs P3/4 this year. Each week everyone is setting themselves an individual target for something they want to improve or work on. The children are focusing on this target throughout the week and reflecting on their progress on a Friday. I'd be interested to know what you think about this approach.

I am looking forward to catching up with everyone about individual progress at our parent/carer meetings.

Ms Ferguson



P4 have settled well into their new routines and your child should be able to share with you their learning about how land is used in Scotland. Discoveries have included the fact that there are currently 22 golf courses in East Lothian and that there is a variety of types of farming; arable, livestock, mixed and dairy. The children have been working in pairs, using technology, to research a chosen East Lothian farm using PowerPoint to present and share their knowledge, thus increasing their understanding of their local environment and what it provides in the community.

In mathematics, we have been learning about area and the children have been planning their own farm map, plotting areas for different crops, animals and farm buildings. They have been buying and selling fresh produce in the class 'Farmers' Market' using their weighing and money skills. The children have been introduced to the online resource 'Mathletics' where each child has their own login enabling them to access this resource at home. This aims to provide extra practice of math concepts and skills covered in class and further develops their mental mathematical agility (tasks are differentiated).

In art, the children have been working on perspective with Mr Connell, sketching their own farming landscape and applying a wax resist technique. You should be able to admire the finished results at the upcoming parent consultations.

Remember, as daylight get shorter and the weather gets colder the children will need to be warm and dry as well as being bright and seen - label those extra layers to limit the hours and money lost looking for them or replacing them. Not an easy task finding a glove or gym shoe amongst at least 120 others! We look forward to sharing our learning and meeting up with you soon.

Mrs Cowie



P5 children, along with the rest of the school community, have really helped me to settle in this week. Thank you! We have had a busy week getting to know one another. Look out for our fabulous minion paintings when you are in the classroom.

Over the next few weeks we will continue to enjoy the adventures of Charlie as he steps into the wonderful world of Mr Willy Wonka and his chocolate factory. The children have already been inspired to create character descriptions and some have created play scripts, a very creative bunch!

We will be trying to increase our speed at our multiplication square challenge and also getting started with Mathletics.

The class have enjoyed using Chrome Books to investigate the Vikings through Usborne Quicklinks. They have also used the Newsround website to follow up stories of interest.

PE and music will continue with the specialist teachers.

We are taking the afternoon nursery children with us on our Fit15 and we hope to go into the nursery to show some off our French café role plays too.

I'm looking forward to the next few weeks.

Mrs Shepherd



P5/6 have been busy practising our play for our assembly this month. The theme is around the Victorian school classroom. We are excited to show

everyone what we have been learning!

In Maths and Numeracy, we have been learning about shape and volume. We have also been practising, revising and sharing different addition, subtraction and multiplication strategies - sharing these as a class and working on group problems to solve.

In Literacy, we have been writing imaginative stories about people in the Victorian period. In grammar, we have been practising our homophones and use of apostrophes, exclamation and question marks.

In P.E, we have been learning how to play great team games like football. We have also been looking at diet, health and nutrition in order to understand the main food groups and portion sizes that we should be eating every day!

We have been extending our French conversation skills every Thursday afternoon but try to practise every day in class!

In Art, we have been learning how to sketch people in proportion and in music we are now learning new songs with Mr Hutchison!

Mrs Thomson



P6 finally managed to have their 'Healthy Picnic', after several weeks learning about the various elements required. They thought about the nutritional content of what they wanted to eat

and drink at their picnic, and took any dietary requirements/preferences into consideration. They were also to think about food journeys and seasonality. Then, with their thrifty heads on, they investigated Tesco, Aldi and Co-op websites to look for the best deals and came up with some very interesting shopping lists (sticking to their £2 per head budget - £12 per group). They washed, prepared, chopped, sliced, spread and mixed - making sure they adhered to all the food hygiene/kitchen safety rules they knew. The final picnics were incredible! Very nutritious, tasty and demolished in no time! Thankfully, there was time left to also do all the dishes. Well done, P6.

The children are now onto level 2 of Bikeability and are delighted to be getting lessons on the roads. Fingers crossed the weather stays kind so they get to complete this level. They will also be getting a couple of hockey sessions this month finishing with a festival at the end of October.

After the October break, we will be learning about the history of Scotland. The children would like to learn, in particular, about the Scottish Wars of Independence. Unfortunately, a class excursion to Bannockburn is not possible, but if anyone is in the Stirling area over the October break, a wee look at some of the tourist spots there could be useful.

Mrs Gordon

the Pals Battalions, linked to our work in Social Studies. We also watched a short animation called *The Girl and the Fox* and then rewrote the story.

In art, we have been doing perspective art galleries, where we chose famous works to feature on the walls.

In maths, we have been solving algebraic equations, including inequalities.

For P.E, on Tuesdays we have been doing basketball and are just starting football. On Wednesdays, we have been doing High Intensity Interval Training and we have just reached level three.

In Social Studies, we have been studying the Great War and have recently been learning about the Christmas Truce of 1914. In groups, we researched and prepared presentations on a well-known person who lived during the war, including Wilfred Owen, Harry Patch and Henry Tandey.

By Lily and Freya.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Gullane Parish Church invites children and their families to a Harvest Craft Afternoon on Sunday 7th October at 15:30 in the Church Centre.

For more information:

www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/aberladyandgullanechurchforchildren

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x - 3 = 7 \\ + 3 + 3 \\ \hline 2x = 10 \\ \hline x = 5 \end{array}$$

P7 have been doing the Headstrong project over the last five weeks. This has been about our physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

For writing, we wrote a piece about