



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL
DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

No matter how well prepared we think we are, December always seems to come upon us all too soon! Plans are going full steam ahead for our Christmas Concert and the sound of Christmas music can be heard around the school. We are looking forward to seeing many of you on the 4th or 6th. Please read on for information about parties etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and parents for the support they have given the school this term. I wish all staff, pupils, parents and carers a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Mrs McGillivray



STAFFING NEWS



We would like to extend a warm Gullane welcome to two new members of the school team, Mrs Bryson and Mrs Maloney. Mrs Bryson has joined us as our Business

Support Administrator. Mrs Maloney has been successful in securing a permanent post in our nursery.



HOLIDAYS

The school closes at the usual time on Thursday 20th December and re-opens, for all, at the usual time on Monday 7th January 2019.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



As you will be aware from earlier communication, we will be holding two performances of our Christmas concert. One will start at 13:30 on Tuesday 4th and the other at 18:30 on Thursday 6th. We would ask that

you take your seats in good time for the start of each performance.



CHURCH SERVICE



Rev. B. Hilsley is looking forward to welcoming us all to Gullane Parish Church on Thursday 21st December at 9.45am. P6 will be leading our service and their parents are

welcome to join us. Unfortunately, due to a lack of space, we cannot accommodate any other parents. For our visit to church, we ask that the children contribute to a silver collection and the money will be gifted to the church for heating and lighting. Teaching staff will collect the coins before setting off and placed in the offering plate on arrival.



THANK YOU, PTA



We would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to the PTA, which has covered the cost of food and prizes for our parties that will take place on the last week of term.

The PTA has also very kindly covered the cost of our whole school pantomime, Peter Pan, which will take place on the morning of the 19th.

Party for P5, P5/6, P6 and P7 - Afternoon of Tuesday 18th

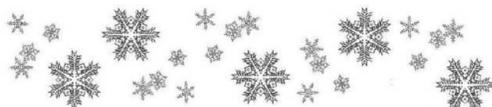
Party for P1, P1/2 and P2/3 - Afternoon of Wednesday 19th

Party for both Nursery sessions - Morning of Thursday 20th.

Party for P3/4 and P4 - Afternoon of Thursday 20th



We will be having our school Christmas Lunch on Thursday 13th and will, as we have in the past, be linking this with Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. We would be very happy if the children came to school wearing a Christmas jumper. If your child does not have one you do NOT have to buy one. We would also be happy with a festive coloured t-shirt. No Christmas jewellery or accessories please. The children should give a donation if they wear something. £1 per child is our suggestion but only a suggestion. Families with more than one child may wish to donate as a family.



ALBERT ROUX DINNER

We would like to thank all those parents and friends of the school who attended our recent Adopt a School charity dinner. As a result of their, and Mr Roux's, generosity, the sum of £1735 was donated to Kipawa Trust International. This Scottish-based charity provides feeding programmes and other health and counselling services for school children living in poverty in Kenya. They are currently focussed on helping the children of Mukuyu School and Oaklands School, both in the Ruiru area of Kenya, North of Nairobi.

DOGS



As you will be aware, we recently had an incident when a child was bitten by a dog that had been tied up to the school fence. We have noticed an increase in the number of dogs being tied to the fence at the beginning

and end of the day. This raises a number of issues, not the least of which is the impact that this can have upon children who are frightened of dogs. Added to this is the fact that the behaviour of dogs can change a) when there is no owner present and b) when they are in the company of other dogs. As a result, we would request that no dogs are tied to the school fence or those of our neighbours.



NOROVIRUS



In recent years we have seen a large number of norovirus outbreaks in nurseries and schools during the winter months and these have caused service disruption with staff shortages and many pupils being absent from class.

Norovirus outbreaks can happen at any time of year but are more prevalent during the winter months. Cases usually start to appear during the autumn, peaking during January. The symptoms usually last for 12 to 60 hours and often start with the sudden onset of nausea followed by projectile vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

Norovirus is very infectious and it takes a very small amount of the virus to cause ongoing spread. Anyone who is affected should remain at home until they have been symptom free for 48 hours. We would appreciate your support with this.



MEDICAL FORMS



Before medication can be administered to pupils during the school day, parents/carers should complete the appropriate form. These are available from the school office or our website.



W W W CLUBS

Our WWW Clubs are proving to be very popular with both pupils and parents. We will be starting a new round of these in January and, as always, would welcome any help that you can give. The Community Club, which is doing some fantastic work, depends upon additional adults to help walk children to and from their destination in the community.



CHRISTMAS CARDS



Whilst children love to give out cards it is not necessary. Once one child gives out cards others then feel that they should and parents can feel pressured into buying boxfuls of cards. Some children may receive a lot of cards but there are some children who do not receive many, and it all becomes a little stressful for them.



GIFT IDEAS



Although completely unnecessary, should you be considering a present for your child's teacher, we would like to suggest that, instead of buying a personal gift, you could, for example, spend £10 and buy textbooks, which could help a child out of poverty. £8 means Oxfam can get food to families who need it most. You might also like to consider making a donation to a local foodbank or to Kipawa Trust International.

Although teachers appreciate presents at Christmas we know they would be touched by knowing that you were supporting children who are in need. If you are interested in this idea here are a couple of links to look at -

<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped>

<https://shop.savethechildren.org.uk/product-category/virtual-gifts/>
<https://eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk/>
<http://www.kipawa.org.uk/how-you-can-help.html>



PARENT CARER COUNCIL



Vacancy for Clerk - We are still 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 of £43 per meeting. If you would like further information about this post please contact Bev Skirrow at East Lothian Council bskirrow@eastlothian.gov.uk

The next meeting will take place in the Staff Base at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 6th February.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend



AROUND THE CLASSES

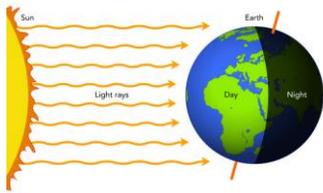


The Nursery's thematic learning will be moving on to Christmas. We will be

reading about the nativity, making Christmas crafts, baking sweet treats and singing festive songs. Both morning and afternoon nursery will come together to celebrate with their Christmas Party. Following this, we will be inviting parents/carers to join us for a festive sing-along; letters will be in your children's pigeon holes about this soon. We will be discussing the changes in weather which may naturally direct the thematic learning onto seasonal changes and Winter. In readiness for the changes in weather, we would ask that parents read our outdoor play weather

policy and ensure children come to nursery prepared to play outside in all weathers.

The Nursery Team



P1 have enjoyed learning about keeping safe when crossing the road, now that winter is drawing in and the evenings become

darker. They worked well together and shared their learning at a Road Safety assembly. Thank you to all who made it along and we hope you enjoyed it.

We have been thinking about time and seasons and have been learning to tell o'clock times on both analogue and digital clocks. We are starting to discuss the sun, moon and stars and discover why it is light during the day and dark at night.

With Christmas in sight, we have been learning the Nativity story and will retell this story for our Christmas concert. We are looking forward to putting on our costumes and singing some fantastic songs and hope you will be able to come along and enjoy one of the performances.

Primary 1 are all looking forward to the holidays and a well-deserved break. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Cooper



P1/2 have been learning to write imaginative stories. P1 children are copying their own sentence and are trying to sound out words to write their

own thoughts. The P2 children have been making up their own characters and thinking about what setting they would write about. The success criteria have included using interesting words, capital letters and full stops in their sentences. We have been working on our stories having a beginning, middle and end. The children have also been thinking about their sentence starters.

In numeracy, P1 children have been very busy counting forwards and backwards and are learning about addition and number stories to 10. Primary 2 children have been sequencing numbers and have also been working hard on addition and subtraction. We have been learning about time - reading clock times,

times of the day, days of the week and months of the year. In health and wellbeing, we have enjoyed sequencing our own little dances. The class have been good at peer observations and have explained what they like about other's performances. We are currently enjoying Scottish country dancing. All the children are very excited about our Christmas Nativity, we have had a lovely time preparing for it and all the children have tried hard to learn the songs and the signs to go with the words. We have lots of nice activities planned for Christmas and we are hoping to visit Gullane Church in the run up to the holidays.

Mrs Grainger



P2/3 are having a fun and busy term, and it has been a delight to see the progress made since the start of the session.

The children have been writing imaginary stories, using a video stimulus, about a boy who ended up in a strange land after sliding down a chute into a ball pit. Some of the children's ideas were amazing! They recently created some questions that they could use to interview their neighbour's glove or finger puppet. They then used this skill to create some questionnaires to interview someone who was a child in the 60s or 70s.

The class has been investigating life in the 60s and 70s using the internet, books, school reports and photos. Along with researching singers from the 60s, they learned some 60s and 70s dances and created some of their own to songs from that era. Some of the children are very confident in their research skills, with others showing steady progress.

The children have successfully used their IT log-ins to allow them to access the Internet for research, Maths games, Google Docs and Google Classroom. At the moment, we are just using these accounts in school.

Mr Connell, our art teacher, has seen fantastic results from teaching the children how to draw their own space hoppers. Each one has been unique with its own features and personality. In P.E., the class has been exploring a number of basic moves skills with Miss Gordon and myself, as well as looking at Dance.

In Numeracy, the children have been doing calculations in their mental jotters and choosing what they wish to do from three sets of sums. The focus

has been on making sure the children are confident with forward and backward number sequences and calculating jumps. The class has also been exploring different ways of making numbers and playing a lot more active maths games, as well as using ICT to support our learning.

Taking parental feedback on board, I have tried to give a choice in the number of homework activities children complete and how much they do. I will review this after the holidays.

Thanks for all your support and I hope you have an enjoyable break when it arrives.
Mr McEwan



P3/4 has been exploring the sciences this term. They enjoyed building circuits and undertaking experiments when learning about energy and electricity in the first five weeks. Children took part in a fantastic workshop about wind energy with students from Strathclyde and Edinburgh universities where they worked out the most effective design for a wind turbine. They put their learning about circuits and energy sources into practice when designing fabulous drones that could help people and animals. The class is now investigating the human body and will be learning all about bones, muscles and organs in the coming weeks.

Studying science-based topics has provided us with interesting material for factual writing. Children have written biographies, persuasive essays debating the pros and cons of drones, prepared presentations for the class and most recently have produced detailed factsheets on keep your bones healthy.

The class has been taking part in rehearsals for the Christmas concerts with enthusiasm and I'm sure all are looking forward to sharing the songs they have prepared.

Ms Ferguson



P4 have had a very busy and productive autumn term. We gained an awful lot from our educational excursion to Nisbet Farm and Farmer Charles was suitably impressed with the children's knowledge and their

level of understanding and questions. I hope your children have been sharing their experiences with you at home.

In mathematics and numeracy, we have been applying our knowledge of number to practical 'problem solving' activities where the children have had to work out if they need to use addition or subtraction. They may be working with number from 20-10000. They have also been developing their map reading skills, plotting co-ordinates, working out area and are currently looking at shape. These areas have been linked with the themes of study putting their learning into a realistic and meaningful context (linking to how land is used, mapping and measuring area).

In literacy, the children have been developing their imaginative story writing skills and have added atmosphere through using adverbs and adjectives as well as starting to see the purpose of using long and short sentences to create effect. These have been very exciting to read - well done P4.

We have been focusing on how to keep ourselves safe during our focused health and well-being sessions; looking at how to be road safety aware as well as fire safety (electrical too) and safe use of medicines (through illness). Through discussion the children have demonstrated a sensible and considered attitude to these important areas.

Next term, we will be focusing on poetry in our creative writing. We will be continuing to look at number patterns linking to multiplication. We will be focusing on significant individuals from the past (perhaps looking at Scottish inventors) and historic timelines.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable festive break, all the best, Mrs Cowie.



P5 will be creating dance routines in groups using some of the steps we are learning in our Scottish country dancing in December. We will be performing these to the nursery children and, hopefully, to Miss Swaney and her son too.

On a Friday, we will continue to run the Fit 15 with the nursery group. Last week, when it was raining, we went into the nursery to work together, it was great fun.

We will be using our internet research skills to find out about the plastic problem on our planet. In cooperative groups we will be designing a useful product made from recycled materials.

After the holidays, we will be answering different types of questions in order to develop and extend our reading comprehension. We have planned a challenge task with the P5/6 and P6 pupils, more about this in the new year.

We will of course be continuing to use the Chromebooks and Google Classroom.

Thank you to all of the parents who have given their time to support us in P5 this term.

Mrs Black and I wish you all a very happy Christmas time with your families and look forward to more fun and learning in the New Year.

Mrs Shepherd

We have been learning about forces in class. We have been exploring many areas in this topic, gravity, magnets and air and water resistance. We have made models in our groups and tested many ways of understanding forces. Taking notes in our topic jotters helped us to take in information. For example taking notes on gravity and engineering.

By Kirsten and Holly



P5/6 have been learning about how Scottish Myths and Legends have shaped Scottish society, from the Loch Ness Monster to Robert

the Bruce and William Wallace! We have also looked at all sorts of Scottish Folk and Fairy Tales like the Selkies, the Kelpies and the Blue Men of Minch. We have been learning how to use maps and co-ordinates to find out where these Scottish Myths and Legends are from and then writing stories drawing pictures to create a huge wall display in front of our classroom. In Art, we have been working with Mr Connell to recreate paintings of Robert the Bruce and William Wallace.

In Maths and Numeracy, we have been learning about angles, symmetry and transformation. We have also been practising, revising and sharing different multiplication strategies - with a specific

focus on how to multiply 3 numbers by 2 digits using the grid method.

In Literacy, we have been looking at different types of poetry including haiku's, acrostic, rhyming and unrhyming. We are also studying different forms of persuasive writing and advertising and forming our own opinions to present topics to the class.

In P.E, we have been learning different types of Scottish Country dances. We have also been looking at Diet, Health and Nutrition in order to understand what a healthy balanced diet is and learning to plan and prepare meals.

We are looking forward to the Christmas holiday and already planning what we might do in the New Year!

Mrs Thomson



P6 have been learning about Scotland's journey with Independence in Social Studies - particularly looking at the Scottish Wars of Independence in the 13th and 14th Centuries.

We have been using role-play a lot to understand each step of the story and have been learning about some of the key figures involved.

In Sciences, we have been researching our sensory organs and specifically how they work and how they protect us from harm. We are also looking forward to a visit from P.C Johnston and learning more about substance misuse and risk taking behaviour.

We are enjoying learning some new Scottish social dances and really getting the hang of some of them. We also had a go at some traditional African dancing and made our own AMAZING routines using some of the traditional steps plus our own creativity!

Over the next couple of weeks we are going to be writing our own little 'performance' which we will present as our 'assembly' at the Church on Thursday 20th December - very exciting.

Mrs Gordon



P7 have been working in an interdisciplinary learning context based on the Mexican Day of the Dead, which is linked to our study of Spanish in Modern Languages. The

class were tasked with creating and branding a travel

company, and to then produce a package holiday to Mexico for various budgets. Through online research, they have been finding out about the language and culture of the country, flight timetables and journey times, time zones, foreign currency exchange rates, company branding and advertising and online brochure design, to name just some of the learning experiences. The groups have also created, filmed and edited a TV advert, which will form part of their pitch of their company to their peers.

On Thursday 29 November, the class enjoyed an excursion to the Dalkeith campus of Edinburgh College, to take part in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) day with pupils from Dirleton and Law primaries. The children experienced a variety of activities in mixed-school groups, including a task of designing and building an aerodynamic car, which was then rocket-propelled along a wire in the car park. A top speed of 90mph was recorded on the day: only 2mph behind the all-time record!

The class were invited to the High School to take part in the cluster ceilidh, which is part of the transition timetable, with children from all the feeder schools. A good time was had, and the preparation for social dance in PE with Miss Gordon definitely paid off.

The House Captains have the first bake-sale of the session planned and in the diary for Friday 14 December. This one is a whole-school sale with a Christmas theme. All the funds raised from this year's events will go to the Jess Mackie Memorial Fund, supporting The Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Kids through music therapy.

We are in the final stages of rehearsing our pantomime for the Christmas concert. Throughout the process, the children have been learning about stage direction, lighting and sound, as well, of course, as learning and delivering their lines. We hope you will enjoy the performance!

Merry Christmas



DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Tuesday 4th: 13:30 Christmas Concert
- Wednesday 5th : 13:30 WWW clubs 5/6
- Thursday 6th: 18:30 - Christmas Concert
- Friday 7th: Visit from NBHS Brass Band
- Wednesday 12th:
Flu immunisation
13:30 - WWW clubs 6/6
- Thursday 13th: School Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
- Friday 14th: House Captains' Christmas Bake Sale
- Tuesday 18th: PM - P5, P5/6, P6 and P7 party
- Wednesday 19th:
AM - Pantomime, Peter Pan
PM - P1, P1/2, P2/3 party
- Thursday 20th:
AM - Morning and Afternoon Nursery party
09:45 - Church service led by P6. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us.
PM - P3/4 and P4 party
School closes at the usual time

- **MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2018: School re-opens at the usual time**
- Tuesday 8th: P4 10 week swimming block starts
- Wednesday 16th: 13:30 WWW club
- Thursday 17th: P3/4 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 18th: Craigielaw Bake Sale (Red)
- Wednesday 23rd: 13:30 WWW club
- Thursday 24th: P1/2 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Monday 28th: Generation Science Workshops for P2/3
- Wednesday 30th: Generation Science Workshops for P3/4, P6 and P7.
- Thursday 31st: Generation Science Workshops for P1 and P1/2

- **Monday 4th FEBRUARY:** Generation Science Workshops for P4, P5 and P5/6.
- Tuesday 5th: Safer Internet Day
www.saferinternetday.org.uk
- Monday 11th to Friday 15th inclusive: HOLIDAY
- Monday 18th: In-service day
- Friday 22nd: Kilspindie Bake Sale (Green)



Olivia, from P3/4, competed in the Jessie Marshall Highland dancing competition on Saturday 10th Nov and was placed first for her Highland Fling. She is very proud of her gold medal.



COMMUNITY NEWS

PTA Cinema Afternoon

Tickets for the PTA's screening of Polar Express in the Village Hall on Sunday 16th December are sold out.



Gullane Parish Church

Junior Church

Nativity Service

16th December 2017 9.45am

Come on the day dressed as an Angel, King, Shepherd or Sheep and join in telling the Christmas story

You are also very welcome to join us if you can at Sunday Club (9.45am) on preceding Sundays as we practise songs, make our props and prepare for Christmas.

In addition to this, on 2nd December we will be running a Family Christmas Craft Afternoon in the Church Centre 3-5pm.

For more information:

www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk

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