



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Christmas holidays seem but a distant memory but I hope that you all had a chance to recharge your batteries and spend time with your families.

As always, we have a busy time ahead and there are lots of interesting things happening in school. If you would like to be part of these, especially our Wednesday World of Work Clubs, we would be delighted to hear from you. I would point out that if you wish to come into school on a regular basis we will have to ask that you undergo a PVG check. A big THANK YOU to all those parents who have done this along with thanks to the PTA who have contributed to the cost of this.

Seonaid McGillivray



STAFFING NEWS

We would like to welcome Mrs Blair and Mr Hill who are working with a number of classes to support and extend learning. These temporary positions are funded through the Pupil Equity Fund.



PARENT CARER COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Carer Council takes place in the Staff Base at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 6th February. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.

HOLIDAY



The school will close at the usual times on Friday 8th February and re-open for pupils at 08:45 on Tuesday 19th.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Is your child eligible for free school meals, and if so, have you registered?

Schools receive additional funding of £1,200 from the Scottish Government for

every pupil in P1 to S3 who is registered for free school meals. This is called Pupil Equity Funding, and schools use this additional money to help fund a wide range of initiatives to support achievement and provide the best possible opportunities for children's learning.

How do I know if my child is eligible for free school meals?

Please visit our website www.eastlothian.gov.uk to check your eligibility and download an application form.

Even if your child does not wish to take up the option of having a free school meal every day, we would encourage you to register so that your child's school will receive the Pupil Equity Funding allowance to support their learning.



SCHOOL ONLINE PAYMENT



As you will be aware, East Lothian Council introduced a new online payment system to Gullane Primary in October 2018. Schoolpay is the preferred method of payment for all excursions, school milk etc. and should also be used to pre-order and pay for school meals for up to six weeks in advance, if your child is going to be absent, you can update meal selections to reflect this.

If you have not activated your account, you can do so at <https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/schoolpay>, using the link key previously provided, if you require another copy of the link key, please contact the school office, who will be happy to assist.



HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDERS



Water bottles: 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. Fizzy drinks are not allowed in school.

Head lice: We would remind all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week.

Dogs: As we cannot guarantee that dog owners will have full control over their dogs, we do not allow any dogs onto school premises. Bringing dogs onto the premises could pose a health and safety risk to our children and could be unsettling for many as they arrive and leave school. There are added risks of dogs fouling, dogs biting or showing aggressive unpredictable behaviour.

We also request that dogs are not tied up and left unattended at the school gates

The only exception would be dogs for the visually or hearing impaired.

GENERATION SCIENCE



With thanks again to the PTA, we have been able to provide Generation Science sessions for all classes from P1 to P7. Generation Science brings unique and inspiring science lessons directly to classrooms all over Scotland with a programme of highly interactive shows and hands-on workshops. We are sure that our children will find them both educational and enjoyable.



SAFER INTERNET DAY



This takes place on Tuesday 5th. The aim of Safer Internet Day is to **inspire a national conversation** about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. We will be looking at this with our pupils and would encourage you to continue the conversation at home. Visit <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/about-safer-internet-day-2019> for more information.



CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Thanks to the generosity of pupils, parents and staff our Christmas and Craighelaw Bake Sales have raised £415.23 for the Jess Mackie Memorial Fund. Money from future House Captain Bake Sales will also go towards this.



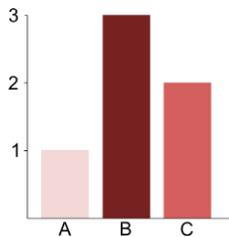
Four enterprising P5 pupils are organising a fundraiser for the Make a Wish Foundation whose aim is to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. This will take place on Friday the 8th.

AROUND THE CLASSES



The Nursery's thematic learning has been about Polar Animals. All of the

children have enjoyed exploring the icy water tray, creating polar animal's artwork and finding out lots of new information through books, our whiteboard and, for some of the children, 'Alexa'. We have been talking about measuring and have introduced children to the vocabulary of measure and provided opportunities to measure height and weight. We were invited along to the P1/2's Scottish assembly, which was a great introduction to our next thematic learning experience which will be focusing on Scotland. If anyone would like to share any Scottish traditions they would be warmly welcomed. Please speak a member of the nursery team.



P1 have already planned what they would like to learn in our theme of life in the past, from a range of experiences and outcomes shared with the class. They have also suggested some super activities. We will be

looking at homes, school and play, now and from long ago. We are busy collecting a range of artefacts from when our grandparents and/or great grandparents were young and are looking forward to seeing some of you at our class museum on Tuesday 5th February - 11.00-12.00.

In ICT, we will be learning to use search engines to find information and are becoming more familiar with the keyboard when typing and are becoming more confident using our secret passwords to log in. We continue to work on numeracy and have been focusing on addition and subtraction. We will also be learning to collect, organise and display information. We will be using technology to give directions and describe positions.

We will continue to develop our literacy skills and will have opportunities to read for information and use this to complete functional writing activities.

Keep up the good work Primary 1!

Mrs Cooper



P1/2 have been learning about Scotland. The children had good ideas for our Scottish Assembly and loved performing it to the

whole school. They created amazing art work in the style of Jo Lo Mo and Jack Morocco. We are also looking forward to seeing grandparents at our joint museum with Primary 1. Please continue to send in articles from the olden days or any interesting Scottish articles/photographs. They are such valuable learning tools.

Primary 1 are concentrating on personal writing this term, Primary 2 children are creating functional pieces of writing. Both Primary 1 and 2 children are learning to write Scottish poems and we are enjoying discovering the meaning of Scottish words.

In mathematics, we will be focusing on Data and Analysis alongside our continuing numeracy work. The children will be learning to interpret graphs and charts, along with collecting and organising objects for a specific purpose.

In PE, we are exploring, and practising with, a variety of small and large objects/equipment. We will focus on dribbling, passing and shooting through basketball, hockey and football. We are also looking forward to a Drama Mill taster session.

Mrs Grainger



P2/3 have settled back well to school after the holiday period. They are making a big effort to get into class quickly

and remember to take blue bags, reading books and records with them.

I would like to thank you all for helping to make last term's 60s/70s Day a success. The children looked fantastic as they arrived at school in their different costumes and had a brilliant day.

This term our timetable is as follows:

- Monday - P.E. with me.
- Tuesday - Maths with Mrs MacIver 10.55-11.55
- Thursday - P.E. with me. Keeping safe - with Mrs MacIver 10.55-11.40

- Friday - Music with specialist, Mr Hutchison

We have been thinking about our feelings, and how we can react in helpful or unhelpful ways. The children have suggested great strategies to use when upset, and we have been writing about these and acting them out in Drama. P3s have been learning about 'Inheritance.'

At the start of term, we had a maths focus for the first week on time with the days, months and seasons. The P2s are now looking at symmetry and the P3s are having lessons on position and movement; initially looking at quarter and half turns clockwise and anti-clockwise. Numeracy lessons are continuing in ability groups.

In ICT, the children amazed me at how well they created and learned their own passwords for their G-Suite/Edubuzz accounts. They are currently showing me whether they can log into Google Classroom at home and make a comment on a class post. They will then be allowed to use Google Classroom, Google Docs or Google Drive at home if they want.

Reading has been revised with some of the groups now being heard 2 or 3 times a week and additional reading tasks being given on the days their group is not heard.

P3s are reminded that they can continue to use their Mathletics account at home, and I have just assigned new activities for them. The whole class could continue to practise their number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 for fast and accurate recall using 'Hit the Button.'

As always, thanks so much for all your support.

Mr McEwan



P3/4 thoroughly enjoyed preparing for their assembly at the beginning of term and performing it for friends, family and the rest of the school. They drew on their study of the human body before the winter break to develop a creative

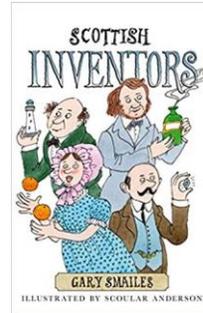
assembly that I feel reflected their enthusiasm to learn.

This term the class is learning about planet Earth. They have been investigating the relationship and balance between living things through study of

plants and animals. Next we will explore ways we can help reduce the human impact on the ecosystem. Later on this term the class will be learning about significant individuals and have chosen to focus their study on past Kings and Queens.

We have a Generation Science robot workshop and this will launch a block of work investigating programming and programmable toys. As well as using the school BeeBots we will be learning about how to use an exciting piece of electronic equipment new to the school - a Roamer.

Ms Ferguson



P4 have settled into another full term of learning currently finding out about significant individuals from the past, particularly Scottish Inventors who have had a positive impact and influence in developing the needs of society. For such a small country Scotland has achieved so much!

In Numeracy we are creating arrays and using our knowledge of this method of arranging numbers into equal groups to build our awareness of number patterns which we are helping us to learn the 4 x table as well as revisiting the 2, 3, 5 and 10 x tables. I would like to promote lots of repetitive multiplication practise outwith school too as they really are important life skills. (There are some great songs and games available online to support this at home). We have also been practising telling the time using 5 minute intervals and working out time durations, something you can also practise when out and about e.g. you go on the swim bus at 6pm and return at 7.15pm how long is it until I need to pick you up?

In literacy, the children have been exploring the different genres of poetry. So far we have created Haikus and Cinquain poems. Both forms of poetry use syllables in words to fit the rules of the poems. This has really helped the children to break down longer more unfamiliar words, assisting spelling and has also lead them into using these words throughout their writing. We will also be looking at rhyming couplets.

We use ICT throughout many areas of the curriculum and we will be looking at computer coding this term. This is a new area for me so I guess we will be

learning with and from each other. If you have any expertise to share with us please get in touch.

Mrs Cowie.



P5 we are listening to Alice in Wonderful and are working towards a Mad Hatter's Tea Party! We have contacted lots of local folk to ask if they can help us to find out about food preparation, table setting, baking and creating, all part of this

term's Health and Wellbeing work. Please let us know if you have something to offer. We have started with a tour of the school kitchen and taking part in some basic fruit and vegetable preparation.

Our props for drama are slowly taking over the classroom as we recreate scenes from the story and experiment with different characters from Wonderland. Mr Connell is enjoying sharing his skills and knowledge of the various illustrators who have brought this story to life.

We have written some wonderfully descriptive conversations between characters and are working on play scripts too.

We are learning to use coordinates to read maps and linking this with imaginary maps of Wonderland. Mrs MacIver is working with the class twice a week to develop orienteering skills.

Mrs Shepherd

A note from Lilly

We have been learning about Alice in Wonderland We have been making food to prepare for making a Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Lots of us have brought in stuff for the display.

On the computers we have been doing a bit of coding. We create games and we learn about coding as well. We have also been on Mathletics and some people are doing tests about maths questions.

In maths we have been doing division and carrying. We have also been doing map reading and we are learning about compasses.

In writing we have been writing about Alice in Wonderland. We have been writing conversations in

the story and we have been writing our own chapters of the story.



P5/6 have been learning lots already this term and their newsletter has been written by the pupils.

- Social Studies: Sustainable Development and Pollution

We have been learning about the impact of humans on the planet and how we can look after the environment better like walking to school and picking up litter. Lyra

- Health & Wellbeing and Literacy
We have been learning about the benefits of drinking water. We are using the facts to write a persuasive leaflet to encourage the children and parents at Gullane Primary School to drink more water to help you be healthier. Jess

- Numeracy
We have been learning about how to budget our money and work out what is a need or a want. For example - water is a need and a computer is a want. Joshua
We have been solving problems using money to work out how much change we should get from the shopkeeper. Aimee-Mae

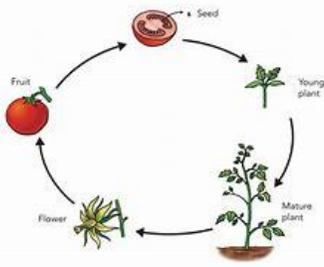
- Maths
We have been learning how to gather data and make different types of graphs on our Chromebook; bar graphs, line graphs and pie charts. Elliot

- Art
We have been learning about Monets' Water Lilies - we have been drawing them and colouring them in - it is fun because I love art! Jack

- Technology
We have been learning about computer coding using Scratch - we made a maze game with tricky levels and enemy sprites! Sam

- Drama / RME
We are learning about Chinese New Year and the Zodiac. We are doing a play and I am the narrator! We will be performing the play on February 5th! Charlotte

- P.E.
We are learning how to play volleyball. It is harder than it looks because you have to be ready at any moment! Hannah



P6 thoroughly enjoyed writing and adapting their short 'play' for our end of term assembly and it was exciting to be able to perform in front of an audience. Thank you to all the P6

parents/grandparents who came to the church to support us. I am very proud of how well they all did. This term, we have started off with our 'Circle of Life' project. This will combine many curricular areas but predominately Health and Wellbeing and Science. We will be learning about the life cycles of plants and different animal groups, with a particular focus on human reproduction. The children have made an excellent start to this and are asking and discussing some excellent questions with great maturity. We will also look at the emotional aspects of growing up and puberty.

In literacy, we are looking to improve our techniques in creative writing and are hoping to participate in the BBC radio '500 words' writing competition. We are also going to be developing our understanding of specific types of questions and using these to create our own reading comprehension tasks to swap with others in different classes.

We are finishing off our focus on 'money' at the moment in maths/numeracy and will be working on fractions/decimals/percentages, as well as exploring the different numeric strategies we use within addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

After the February holiday Primary 6 will receive some rugby taster sessions leading up to our 'Rugby Festival' at North Berwick High School on the 20th March. We are also developing our volleyball skills in P.E as well as a fitness focus.

Mrs Gordon



P7 have chosen the context of The Second World War for their interdisciplinary learning this term. This follows on from having studied The Great War and the penalties imposed on Germany through the Treaty of Versailles in term 1. Whilst they will, of course, learn about the

key events and figures, the focus will shift to comparing life in the 1940s to life today. The class chose a variety of aspects of life at the time, such as fashion, entertainment, the experiences of evacuees, and food and health, to name a few, and are now working in small groups to create, plan and then deliver a day of learning experiences for their peers. The classroom is filling up with costumes! Our P.E. specialist, Miss Gordon, has been persuaded by one group to teach the class the Jitterbug! I'm so glad they didn't ask me.

In Mathematics and Numeracy, we are working on different strategies to help further develop written and mental fluency and accuracy in numeracy. The pupils are currently creating activities for the whole class to put these strategies into practice.

As part of the transition process, I would like the class to learn more about the application, in various careers, of the knowledge and skills they learn in school. With this in mind, I would like to invite adults into the classroom to talk about their experiences. If you, or someone you know, would be prepared to do this, please contact me through the school office. I know we have some parents who have started and are running a business: this would help the children to make connections with their learning with a view to exploring the options open to them as they move to high school. Thank you in advance for any help you can offer.

The class will undertake Bikeability training this term. Aside from the on-road training, the class will learn about planning safe routes, bike maintenance, clothing design, and Health and Wellbeing. Our thanks go again to Mr Dowsett and his team of volunteers for their help in delivering this experience. More details will follow with the permission form.

We have a Masters student working with us from January through till May. Miss O'Riordan is in class with us two days a week at the moment, and will be full-time for three weeks towards the end of her placement.

On a personal note, I have been awaiting an operation of my shoulder for a considerable time, and have now been given a date for this. The operation will be on the 18th of February and I will then be absent for recovery. Cover for the class has been arranged and I will meet with the teacher to go over planned learning experiences to ensure continuity.

Mr Adamson



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Monday 4th February: Generation Science Workshops for P4, P5 and P5/6.
 - Tuesday 5th: Safer Internet Day www.saferinternetday.org.uk.
 - Tuesday 5th: P1 and P1/2 Class Museum. Grandparents welcome to attend 11-12
 - Thursday 7th: P1 health screening.
 - Friday 8th: East Lothian Swimming Gala
Make a Wish Foundation Fundraiser.
 - Monday 11th to Friday 15th inclusive: HOLIDAY
 - Monday 18th: In-service day
 - Friday 22nd: Kilspindie Bake Sale (green)
 - Wednesday 27th: P1 and P7 Tempest Photographs. Wednesday Club (4 of 6)
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- Wednesday 6th **MARCH**: Wednesday Club (5 of 6)
 - Thursday 7th: Whole school CPR training
 - Wednesday 13th: Wednesday Club (6 of 6)
 - Thursday 14th: P7 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
 - Wednesday 20th: P6 Rugby festival, NBHS
 - Friday 22nd: Muirfield Bake Sale (blue)
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- Wednesday 3rd **APRIL**: 5.00 - 7.30pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
 - Thursday 4th: 4.00 - 6.30pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
 - Friday 5th: END OF TERM
 - Monday 8th to Tuesday 22nd inclusive: HOLIDAY
 - Wednesday 24th: Mindset Matters workshop for parents. Time to be confirmed.
 - Friday 26th: Luffness Bake Sale (yellow)



GULLANE BEAVERS

Beaver Scouts are for boys and girls aged between 6 and 8 years old. This is the youngest section of Scouting. Gullane Beavers meet most Friday nights during term time between 5.30pm and 6.30pm in the Village Hall. We do lots of fun activities including games, outdoor activities, crafts and visits to local places of interest all based around the children earning badges devised by the Scout Association. Children's names can be placed on the waiting list as soon as they turn 5. If you would like to place your child's name on the waiting list (or if you would like further details) please e-mail gullanebeavers@outlook.com with your child's name and date of birth. Please note that we are currently full for P3 & P2 aged children but can still accept names on the list for P1 children at this time.

GULLANE GOLF CLUB

We would like to invite children and their parent(s) to an info afternoon on 24th February at 3:00pm - 4:30pm in the Members' Clubhouse. Last year was fantastic with an ever-increasing number of junior golfers taking part in the many different aspects of our programme. The Scottish Open's definitely inspired many of us and we want to ensure this continues for years to come. The aim of the afternoon is to help you understand what organised activities are available at Gullane this season. You will also get to meet a few of our junior committee, our starters and the coaching team. This year we have decided to open our junior group coaching (ClubGolf) to children from the age of 6. If you would like to find out more, or start your golfing journey, then please come along on the 24th February. If you would like to attend, please email Jane - jane.flockhart@gullanegolfclub.com so we can set up accordingly. If you have any questions, the Pro Shop team are here to help - assistantpros@gullaneproshop.com or 01620 843111.

Looking forward to seeing you all and growing the game of golf throughout Gullane!

Alasdair Good (Head PGA Professional)