



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL
MARCH/APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is lovely to look out of the window and see blue skies, sunshine and daffodils; quite a change from a year ago when we were in the grip of the 'Beast from the East'!

Since the last newsletter, there has been a positive change in our learners too and it is good to note the progress that many are making. You will have an opportunity to find out more about this when you meet with staff on the 3rd or 4th of April.

Seonaid McGillivray



PARENT CARER COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Carer Council takes place in the Staff Base at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 27th March. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.



EASTER HOLIDAY



The school will close at the usual times on Friday 5th April and re-open at 08:45 on Tuesday 23rd April.

COMMUNICATION



We have recently upgraded our text communication system to Groupcall, which is widely used within the majority of schools in East Lothian. Groupcall enables more efficient communication and

offers the added advantage of recipients being given the opportunity to reply to text messages.

Where possible, our preferred method of relaying information to parents/carers is via text and/or email, this ensures that messages are provided to parents at the same time. To aid this, if you haven't done so already, we would be grateful if you could provide an up to date email address.



SCHOOL UNIFORM



We have been working with Patricia Bewsey Designs to provide parents/carers with the opportunity to purchase sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts directly and are pleased to

confirm all ordering requirements from May 2019 will be via www.garmentprinter.co.uk.

At present we have a limited stock of sweatshirts and polo shirts in school which can be purchased as normal until the stock is depleted. Unfortunately, cardigans are out of stock in school; however, you will be able to order these direct from Patricia Bewsey Designs from May.



MINDSET MATTERS

FIXED OR GROWTH MINDSET?

Thanks, once again, to the generosity of our PTA, on Wednesday 24th April, we will be having a visit from a company called Live'n'Learn who will be delivering growth

mindset workshops to pupils, staff and parents. Amongst the topics being looked at are:

- Qualities of a 'Growth Mindset'
- What is confidence?
- Bouncing back
- Our fantastic and elastic brain
- Flexible mindset: Come and meet Resilient Rob and Helpless Harry!
- Getting involved in our amazing world

The aims of the sessions will be to raise aspirations, help pupils embrace struggle, cope with setbacks and give them the impetus to start believing in themselves. By starting to see their brain like a muscle, pupils can continue with a focus on gradual improvement, tend not to expect immediate success and will start to persevere longer with more difficult tasks than those thinking in a fixed mindset way.

We had hoped to be able to give you a time for the parents' workshops in this newsletter but, unfortunately, this has not been possible. We will let you know as soon as we can.



CHARITY FUNDRAISING



Hello. We would like to thank you for your donations for the Make a Wish fundraiser.

If you remember, we are trying to make a sick child's wish come true and we needed your help.

Our lucky dip went really well and we raised £223.90 and will be adding to that amount at P5's Mad Hatter's Tea-Party.

If you donated 20p or more please give yourself a pat on your back. We hope you all had a brilliant time and thank you for helping a sick child.

Bye, bye. Hope you had a good time and thanks once again for your donation!

Holly, Kirsten, Millie and Lorelai



WELL DONE!



On Friday 22nd February, Cameron (P7), Matthew, Sandy and Jack (P6) competed for East Lothian in a football tournament against teams from Midlothian, Borders and Edinburgh at The Oriam, Heriot Watt University Campus, Riccarton.

All boys did very well with Cameron, Sandy and Matthew's team winning their group. Cameron and Matthew both scored goals in the final game to ensure the top spot.

Mr Hill



PIANO FOR SALE



In preparation for our forthcoming building work, we are having a look at our resources and establishing what we have space to keep.

As a result, we have a Knight upright piano for sale. It is in good condition and has been tuned regularly. If you would be interested in purchasing it, we would be looking at offers over £500 (with the successful buyer arranging uplift). The money raised would be added to our school fund. Please let the school office know if you are interested. In the event of there being more than one note of interest names will be drawn from a hat.

HEALTH ALERT



It has come to our attention that there have been some cases of threadworm. Whilst it's not always possible to prevent a threadworm infection, you can significantly reduce your risk by always maintaining good hygiene and encouraging children to do the same.

Children should wash their hands regularly, particularly after going to the toilet and before mealtimes. Kitchen and bathroom surfaces should be kept clean.

For further advice and information see: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/stomach-liver-and-gastrointestinal-tract/threadworms>



AROUND THE CLASSES



The Nursery's thematic learning is moving onto our favourite books. In preparation for World Book Day, we have begun planning with the children, to capture their thoughts and ideas. We would like to encourage the children to bring in their favourite story book to share with their friends over the next few weeks. On Thursday the 7th of March, to celebrate World Book Day, we are having a pyjama party, when the children will receive their book bags. We will be reading the Runaway Pancake story and having pancakes for snack to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. We will be looking at Holi this term, which is the festival of colour and love. The children will be welcome to wear an item of clothing in their favourite colour on Thursday the 21st of March. After the feedback from our last stay and play, we will again be inviting parents to join us for part of their child's session to find out how they are progressing. This is an opportunity to spend time with your child and find out more about their learning journey. Your child's key worker will be available to answer any questions you may have. The sessions will run between 08:30-

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09:00 and 11:30-12:00 Monday to Thursday on the weeks beginning Monday the 25th of March and 1st of April. There will be a sheet displayed within the cloakroom for you to indicate your preference. Your children's learning stories will be sent home prior to stay and play. Our afternoon parents will also be invited for stay and play in May and dates will be confirmed nearer the time.

The Nursery Team



P1 will be taking a closer look at toys and forces. We will be exploring toys and thinking about what makes them go. We are going to become toy inventors and design our

own toys, taking into consideration which forces they use.

The class have been using directional language to guide each other around obstacle courses and are now busy giving directions to Beebot to guide him around his mat. We are continuing to work on numbers and effective strategies for addition and subtraction.

The class have worked incredibly well in literacy and are now enjoying reading and writing more independently. I will continue to send home copies of the tricky words so please let me know, either through your child or their reading diary, when you are ready for the next set of words.

This term primary 1 along with primary 1/2 will be spending the later part of every Friday morning taking part in outdoor learning. This will begin within the school grounds with the aim of exploring the local environment as the year progresses. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for all weather. (Wellies, warm coat, hat, gloves, etc.)

Well done Primary 1!

Mrs Cooper



P1/2 are looking forward to outdoor learning with P1. We have some activities planned to make good use of our fantastic outdoor space. It will also be a great opportunity to work

within different groups of children. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately on Fridays. We had a great session from Generation Science called Ella's Wobble. This taught the children about sound waves and vibration. The class were very engaged and loved making the musical instruments. It was a fantastic learning opportunity.

In RME, we have been learning about Morals and Fables and have shared thoughts on what is fair and unfair, caring and sharing. We will be looking at other world religions and will be learning about the key beliefs of Islam. We will enjoy some Easter activities and will of course read The Easter Story.

The class are enjoying developing their ICT skills. The school has some lovely new Chrome books which we are learning how to use.

Mrs Grainger



P2/3 have composed some excellent pyramid poems on feelings. They have also enjoyed working on paired persuasive writing

pieces whilst learning how to share a document with their partner on the Chromebook. They are continuing to appreciate using Google Classroom at home and school. The children recently had great fun during a drama taster session from the Drama Mill.

Mrs MacIver has completed lessons on 2D and 3D shape and is now working on a block on time. The children will be working with her once a week on biodiversity and interdependence.

In Reading, we have been identifying whether a statement is true or false or if it is a fact or opinion. The children listened to a variety of Scots poems and gave their opinions on these as well as their reading books. In Numeracy we are mainly looking at addition and subtraction in our ability groups. In Health and Well Being, we will be looking at what babies need, along with investigating food waste and recycling. In PE, we are mainly continuing to focus on skills needed for basketball. In Science, we will be investigating soluble and insoluble materials and the P3s will be exploring magnets and friction. In French, we are revising colours and then will be moving on to look at our family.

The children have had a lot of pleasure from our daily Secret Student; waiting to discover whether they are the person I have selected that day. If the person I have chosen has worked well they receive a certificate, house points and free choice time the following day.

P5 recently invited us to their class and taught us how to do Coding with www.code.org, which gave the children a lot of pleasure.

On Wednesday 20th March, from 9-10.30 am, we will be having a drop-in session for parents, or another relative, to allow them to experience how their child learns. Further details will follow.

Thanks as always for your ongoing support.

Mr McEwan



P3/4 are continuing to investigate their impact on the planet. Pupils focused on the conservation debate around the Eurasian lynx after researching different members of the cat family. They learned about the reasons the lynx became extinct in the UK and considered the possibility of reintroducing it to

Scotland. The children have been carefully considering the pros and cons in written work and a lively class debate. A class vote showed the majority thought - despite some worries it might eat our pets - that it would be exciting to have wild lynx living in Scotland! Children are now thinking about how to reduce our impact on the world and are beginning a project to reuse old clothes and textiles by weaving them into rag rugs.

In numeracy the class has been learning about multiplication and division in numeracy and children are currently investigating how arrays can help with our calculations. We've been learning about poetry this term by studying poems and writing some wonderfully descriptive - and often very funny - poems of our own.

Ms Ferguson

MARCH

P4 have taken a different approach to this month's newsletter.

*Brighter mornings are a welcome sight,
The children continue to be a delight,
We found out lots,
About earlier Scots,
Inventions and discoveries,
Helped progress and recoveries.*

*Moving now to developing Sciences,
Investigations using appliances,
Materials and properties lots of change,
Solids, liquids or gas that's the range.*

*Poetry has also been a focus,
Finding words that rhyme like crocus,
Kennings, Couplets or Haiku
Subject maybe about you,
Metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia
Shape poems even of a cheetah.*

*Strategies and number patterns,
Problem solving always matters,
Practice duration and time,
I hope you enjoyed the rhyme.*

Thank you for all your help.

Mrs Cowie.



P5 have been organising a Mad Hatter's Tea Party! We know how to make cupcakes, jam tarts and fruit salads. We also know how to decorate biscuits.

In maths, we have learnt about maps and angles. We have started to learn about symmetry. In our symmetry tasks, we have made shapes with the line of symmetry like a butterfly. In PE, we are doing rugby and golf. In golf we are doing chipping and putting with the p5/6s. We are doing rugby too.

Lorelai and Ellie

In the coming weeks we will be planning work around John Muir, news to follow.

Mrs Shepherd



P5/6 are learning about the Congo Rainforest and Fair Trade products from the region to help us understand more about ethical trading and how Fair Trade products are being sold in our local community. We are looking forward to inviting parents to a Fair Trade information day on

Wednesday 27th March to share our knowledge!

We have been learning how to play and improve our golf skills with help and lessons from Katy McNicol PGA Assistant from Gullane Golf Club. Not only that but we are also learning how to play and improve our rugby skills with help and lessons from North Berwick Rugby Club.

In numeracy, we are learning about fractions, decimals and percentages and taking part in challenges such as Fraction Capture, Fraction Monkeys and Fraction Beach. We have also been designing our own 'What We Know About Fractions' posters to help share our knowledge and strategies with others in the class.

Nǐ hǎo! We have just started learning Mandarin with Mrs Jing Li. So far we have learned how to greet each in simple sentences - but we are excited to learn more!

Mrs Thomson



P6 are nearing the end of our work on 'The Circle of Life' and sexual health. We will now be focusing our learning on 'ethical trading' and 'Fairtrade' in Social Studies, looking at why some societies are more able to meet people's basic needs than others. We are hoping to organise and run (along with P5/6) a 'Fairtrade morning' on Wednesday 27th March, which we may invite parents/carers along to, so keep that morning free if you can and watch this space for more information!

We have been working hard on our 500 words stories for the BBC competition, and were DELIGHTED to

get a mention on their 'Live Lesson'. We are now trying to improve our self-editing skills and get our stories ready to submit next week.

Our rugby taster sessions are going well and I think everyone is looking forward to the rugby festival on Wednesday 20th March. We are also focusing on cross country running/fitness with Miss Gordon in P.E.

We started our block of Mandarin lessons last week and have already picked up some key phrases - such as an interesting and complex language!

On Monday this week we were delighted to have Edward's Uncle, Dr Alcock, in class to tell us all about his adventures in Antarctica as an emergency medic. He 'transported' us there with his photographs and stories and we all learned a huge amount, both about Antarctica itself and life as a doctor/medic. Many thanks again to him for sharing his experiences.

Mrs Gordon



P7 have a busy few weeks ahead and lots of exciting things on the horizon. I am delighted to have stepped in for Mr Adamson while he recovers from his recent operation, but what big shoes to fill! I have already set up a P7 Google Classroom as a communication tool, and will be using this to share work, provide feedback and even set some homework and challenges.

The class are continuing with their interdisciplinary learning about the Second World War and are finalising their presentations, activities and other experiences to share with their peers between now and Easter. Each group will also showcase an aspect of their work in their class assembly taking place on Thursday 14th March.

In preparation for our work on enterprise and business, I have applied to Virgin Money's "Make £5 Grow" Programme. This initiative gives the class a real-life experience of starting and running a small business, and it provides a real context for literacy, numeracy and expressive arts through the design and development of a product or service. It also helps develop teamwork and problem solving skills, financial and risk awareness and an enterprising spirit. The classroom is already buzzing with ideas,

some more realistic than others! More details will follow once our application is approved.

In maths and numeracy, we are continuing to develop mental and written fluency when using the four operations and putting different strategies into practice. In addition to our focus on money, budgeting, and calculating profit and loss through our enterprise work, I also hope to revise any particular topics covered to date that the class feel they would benefit from revisiting.

In literacy, alongside the weekly focus on spelling, comprehension, grammar and SAR, the class are working on their "500 words" stories for the annual BBC Radio 2 short-story writing competition, editing and finalising their stories before the 7th March deadline. I have been very impressed (and moved) by the stories shared with me so far. There are certainly some very creative minds and vivid imaginations in P7, and perhaps even a potential winner.

Bikeability is now underway on Wednesday mornings so let's hope everyone can remember their bikes and helmets, and take care not to trample the lovely spring flowers when parking their bikes!

In PE, the focus will soon move onto athletics, and I am hoping that my training course on 5th March will equip me with some new skills and ideas to share with the class.

Finally, in an effort to encourage the class to show respect and recognise kind deeds, I have introduced a "Compliments Box" so that they can share kind words and positive remarks about others in the class.

Mrs Jones



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 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: AM - P6 Rugby festival, NBHS
- Friday 22nd: Muirfield Bake Sale (blue)
- Wednesday 27th: 7.00pm Parent Carer Council

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- Wednesday 3rd **APRIL:** PM - Gullane's Got Talent 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)

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- Monday 6th **MAY** - May Day Holiday
 - Monday 13th to Friday 17th: P7 to visit Dounans Outdoor Centre.
 - Thursday 16th: P2/3 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
 - Monday 20th: In-service day. School closed to all pupils.
 - Thursday 30th: Jobs Kingdom event at Queen Margaret University for all P5 pupils.



PTA NEWS

The PTA are now working hard on our final events of the school year, and as always, we really appreciate the support of families and friends at these events so please put the dates in your diary and come along and support your school! Details of the events are:

- PTA quiz night & auction - Sat 30th March at 7pm
- School Summer Fair - Sat 8th June from 11.30-2pm

Volunteers needed!! This is a fantastic staple in the school calendar and hopefully the sun will be shining. In order for the event to run we rely heavily on the support of parent helpers. Please put the date in your diary and we will shortly be requesting names and times for volunteers.



COMMUNITY NEWS

GULLANE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Gullane After School Club will be running a programme of fun activities during their Easter Holiday Club from 8am - 6pm, Mondays to Thursdays, for children aged 4 - 12 years. Full days (£30) and half days (£15) available. More details can be found at www.GullaneAfterSchoolClub.com or E-mail gullaneasc1@aol.co.uk to book. Places will be limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

