



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL
DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems rather strange adding 2020 to the title of this newsletter as it seems no time at all since we were all talking about the Millenium!

As you are aware, we recently had a School Review. We have not yet received our report but some of the feedback we were given is that:

- there is a caring ethos across the school and that relationships between adults and pupils and between pupils are very positive.
- the quality of work in literacy focus groups was appropriate to the expected standards at P4 and P7.
- the school works successfully with the PTA and this has a positive impact on resources available to learners.
- partnership links to support key aspects of the curriculum and its design are strong, particularly noted in the opportunities provided by WoW clubs and links to business and enterprise.

As always, we have a packed few weeks ahead of us with concerts, parties, events for P7 etc. Whilst it is still quite calm, 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



HOLIDAYS

The school closes at the usual time on Friday 20th December and re-opens for pupils at the usual time on Wednesday 8th January 2020.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL



Should you require to communicate with your child's teacher, or any other member of staff, you should, in the first instance, contact the school office on 01620 843455 or gullanepts@gullane.elcschool.org.uk 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.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Merry Christmas



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 Wednesday 4th and the other at 18:30 on Thursday 5th. We would ask that you take your seats, which cannot be reserved, in good time for the start of each performance and that you would show respect for all our performers by staying until the end.



CHURCH SERVICE



Rev. B. Hilsley is looking forward to welcoming us all to Gullane Parish Church at 09:30 on Thursday 19th December. If you are available to walk with us to and from church please let your child's class teacher know.



THANK YOU, PTA

The PTA have, once again, kindly agreed to cover the cost of food and prizes for our parties, which will take place on the last week of term.

They have also covered the cost of our whole school pantomime, Pinocchio, which takes place on the morning of the 18th.

P5, P6 and P7 party - Afternoon of Tuesday 17th

P3, P3/4 and P4 party- Afternoon of Wednesday 18th

Nursery party - Morning of Thursday 19th.

P1 and P2 party - Afternoon of Thursday 19th



FLU IMMUNISATION



As you are aware, unfortunately, due to a national lack of vaccine, whole school immunisation did not take place as planned on the 29th of November. We have been advised

that it will now take place on the last day of term, Friday 20th.



Our school Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 11th and, as we have in the past, we will be linking this with Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. We would be very happy if the children were to come 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.

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



WoW CLUBS



Our World of Work Clubs are going really well and we are really pleased that Gullane Table Tennis Club has joined us.

We begin another round of clubs on the 22nd of January and, as always, would be delighted if you could come along and join us.



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 can all become a little stressful for them. As a result, we would ask that cards are not exchanged in school.



GIFT IDEAS



According to the Trussell Trust, *'the largest ever poll into poverty shows that nine in ten Brits think hunger is a problem in the UK.'* This means that there will be families

living locally who will be struggling to put food on the table. At this time of year, when there is perhaps a greater focus on eating and drinking, it would be good to stop and think about these people and do something to support them. So, rather than thinking about a present for your child's teacher, we would like to suggest that you make a donation of food, which we would then give to our local foodbank. Foods to consider are:

- tinned vegetables, including potatoes
- tinned meat and fish
- tinned fruit
- long-life fruit juice
- rice
- jam
- rice pudding

Alternatively, you might like to consider supporting Oxfam or Save the Children through the purchase of a 'virtual' gift. £5 buys a Super Seeds gift voucher that helps women to support their families. £11 buys winter clothes for a child. Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity would also be grateful for any donations.

If you are interested in the above 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/>



PARENT PARTNERSHIP



Following November's AGM, Clare Jones was re-elected as Chair. At this meeting, a new constitution was agreed along with a change of name from Parent Carer Council to Parent Partnership.

The next meeting will take place in the Staff Base at 19.00 on Wednesday 29th January.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend



AROUND THE CLASSES



As Christmas is fast approaching, our thematic learning is well under way. The

children have been sharing all their Christmas ideas and traditions. We will be learning about the First Christmas, creating Christmassy crafts, baking sweet treats and learning festive songs. On the 2nd of December, the nursery will be going to see the school Christmas concert.

We will be having Christmas lunch on Wednesday the 11th of December (this will have to be pre ordered by Monday the 2nd of December) and this will also be our Christmas Jumper Day. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper please do not buy one, a t-shirt in a festive colour would be great and we will also have a few jumpers in the nursery. If you would like to hand in a small donation this will be sent to the Save the Children Charity.

On Wednesday the 18th Of December we will be attending the school Christmas Pantomime in the hall. Thursday the 19th Of December will be our Christmas sing along, parents and carers are invited to join us at 09:00 for a 09:15 start. Directly after this we will be

having our Christmas party - a special guest may even join us. If your child does not usually attend nursery on a Thursday they are very welcome to attend our party but collection time is prior to lunch at 11:40. Letters will be in your pigeon holes about this very soon.

The children have shown a great interest in the changing weather and, in line with this, we would ask all parents/carers to read our weather policy so children are prepared for outdoor play in all conditions.

Just a small reminder for all parents to please empty their child's pigeon holes daily; letters, along with art work, are filed in here and you may miss important information. All Christmas information and dates are on the notice board in the cloakroom. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and break.

The Nursery Team



P1 children have been counting forwards and backwards and sequencing numbers to 30, as part of their numeracy work. The class have also started adding amounts together and

everyone is doing well with this concept. The children are also learning about time - clock times, times of the day, our weekly timetable, months of the year and seasons.

In Literacy, everyone is enjoying reading the Oxford Reading Tree stories. It is really important for the children to bring their reading books every day, as we try hard to read four days out of five with each reading group. The children have finished learning all of the individual sounds and now they are putting their knowledge into action by writing their own sentences - they are trying very hard to listen for each sound in a word.

We have learned about road safety and the children took full advantage of the related play situations. We are now moving onto learning about The Sun, Moon and Stars.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Christmas shows. We will be performing The Sleepy Stargazer and I think that the songs are really lovely this year. The children have worked hard to

learn all the words. The class are very excited to be dressing up and be on a big stage. I'm sure that everyone will be ready for the Christmas holidays when they come and I hope everyone will be able to have a rest and come back to school in January bright eyed and bushy tailed!

Mrs Grainger



P2 are working very hard on their performing skills and getting ready to share the Nativity show with all their friends and families. We will immerse ourselves in the Christmas spirit and revisit the

Christmas story and Christmas around the world.

Through our IDL we are continuing to learn about pirates.

The children will carry on writing imaginative stories with a focus on punctuation and writing clear sentences with joining words. We will also have a focus on letter writing, including our all-important letters to Santa.

In numeracy, the class are doing lots of repetition on numbers to 100 and beyond, number bonds to 10 and counting in 10s. They will be exploring 2D and 3D shape and looking out for them in our environment.

In Health and Wellbeing, the children will continue to explore resilience and deal with issues as and when they arise.

In P.E, the class are exploring Scottish Country Dancing and are loving it!

Our library time is a Friday morning and the children are enjoying choosing books for enjoyment.

We look forward to sharing this exciting term with you.

Mrs Downey and Miss Swaney



P3 have been enjoying our whole school assemblies and class lessons on Building Resilience. It was amazing to see the posters they produced

at home on someone they admire. These were then used to deliver a short talk to the class. The children had chosen a variety of interesting people from relatives to Anne Frank, Jessica Watson (the sailor) and David Attenborough. The posters are displayed outside the class and individual assessments with feedback on the posters and talks have been shared with the children and can be looked at by the child logging into their Google Drive and clicking on 'Shared with me.'

In Numeracy, we have been continuing to look at forwards and backwards number sequences in our different groups to 120, 1,000 and beyond. We have also been making 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers with arrow cards and discussing the number of thousands, hundreds, tens and ones depending on our group focus. Maths lessons with Ms Gordon on a Wednesday have been on using calendars and Mrs MacIver has been teaching direction work on a Thursday.

The children have been enjoying their music lessons with our specialist, Mrs Askew, on a Friday and social dancing in PE, with Miss Gordon, on a Tuesday. This term, the children decided they wanted to learn about Victorian children. So far, we have studied Queen Victoria, created a Victorian timeline and carried out paired research on children in Victorian times. At home, some of the children have investigated famous Victorians, completing an assignment in Google Classroom.

It is good to note that parents and children are getting more confident in using Google Classroom at home. I have created useful information including spelling activities for confident spellers, the words for the Christmas concerts to learn and some materials and videos on building resilience. Why don't you ask your child to log in and see the information under the Classwork tab? Please note that weekly home learning is now posted under Classwork in Google Classroom. You should ask your child to log in so that you can check what they have to do each week. Due to various events happening in school, no new spelling sounds home learning will need to be completed in December.

We have revisited the safe and responsible use of IT equipment and the internet. In particular, the children have been reminded of what they can and cannot access e.g. YouTube cannot be searched freely in class.

As the days are wet and cold, it would be great if you could support your child to bring a jacket to school. Trainers for outdoor PE would also be appreciated as it is difficult to take part in outdoor PE in school shoes/boots, especially if the grass has been cut. A number of children are wearing fashion boots to school and changing into gym shoes could be more comfortable for them in class.

Thanks, as always for your support.

Mr McEwan



P3/4 welcomed their families into school to share their learning of their studies about the life and times of the ancient Egyptians. They then hosted an informative Egyptian

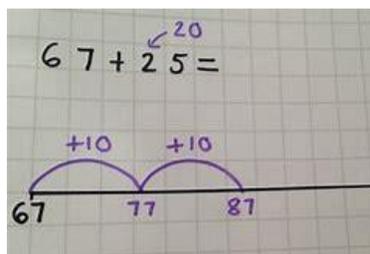
Museum in their classroom where they spoke knowledgeably about their learning, showcasing their art and technology activities also. Both events were a complete success and the children even shared some foods the ancient Egyptians would have eaten such as figs and dates. Many thanks for your support in helping this to be a great success.

We are going to focus on personal safety for the remainder of the term looking at electricity, creating circuits resulting in an illuminated Christmas display for the classroom.

We will continue to look at the properties of both 2D and 3D shape as well as units of measure; we started looking at volume during the Halloween week when the children had fun creating potions using ml and litres. So if you're baking at home over the festive season or even at bath time try looking at the measurements on the packaging to highlight the use and purpose.

I wish you all a healthy and happy festive season

Mrs Cowie



P4 have had a busy term since returning after the October holidays. Continuing on from our work on place value, and rounding, the children

have been working on addition using partitioning and empty number lines to help them to work with bigger numbers. In maths, they have been collecting data and plotting the results in bar charts. Our class novel, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, has provided the basis for some interesting discussion and debate and a closer examination of the text, including the characters and how the author reveals their characteristics.

We started our new topic, Ancient Egypt, recently. We are all very excited about it and so far we have enjoyed learning when and where the ancient Egyptian period took place, including looking at BC and AD dates, who the different groups of people who lived in ancient Egypt were and studying and making some of our own artefacts.

Along with the rest of the school, we've been talking a lot about resilience using circle time to discuss what being resilient means and identifying and sharing some of our own strategies that we can all use to help us deal with life's ups and downs. The children have also enjoyed sharing their home learning resilience posters.

In P.E., the class has been learning and practising ceilidh dances with Miss Gordon. We've also been improving our throwing and catching skills. With Mrs Askew, our music specialist, P4 has been working, with enthusiasm, to learn their songs for the Christmas concert.

Thank you to all our parent helpers for your continued support in school with reading, and Merry Christmas to all when it comes.

Mrs Revell



been learning some German and learning about some

P5 are very busy working on their products for the German Christmas Market, which the class will host in the school hall on Wednesday 4th December from 9.15-11.15am. The children were each given £5 from Virgin Money and have to aim to make it grow through a product or service. As the class have

of the customs and traditions of Germany, a Christmas market was the perfect context for learning about setting up and running a small business. The classroom has been a hive of activity this week, with the class preparing chocolate lollies, gingerbread hearts, tree decorations, fudge, Christmas themed friendship-bracelets, to name but a few of the stalls that the children have chosen to run. The other classes in the school will each have the chance to explore the wares on offer at the market, but P5 would like to extend an invitation to all parents/carers to visit as well.

As part of the whole-school programme looking at building resilience, P5 have been exploring friendship and how to develop strategies to help cope with challenging situations. We used friendship as a stimulus for some poetry writing in Literacy, with fantastic results that are now on display in the classroom. We have also been learning about adults that can help in time of anxiety or worry.

In numeracy, we have been exploring lots of different strategies, both written and mental, that can help with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

We have further explored these whilst learning in algebra, where the children are using the strategies to help find missing values in algorithms and worded challenges. Mrs MacIver currently has the class for a session of Maths each week, and she has been teaching the children about symmetry and coordinates.

In preparation for the Christmas party, Miss Gordon has been putting the class through their paces in social dancing, and the class have already mastered the *Gay Gordons*, the *Virginia Reel* and the *Flying Scotsman*. For our second session of PE, we have been focusing on fitness through high intensity interval training and CardioTennis.

Mr Adamson



discrimination was like in the past compared to today

P6 are having a busy time. We have spent the last few weeks learning about the issues of negative discrimination and stereotyping. We have looked at what

and have been finding out about many influential people who are fighting/have fought against it. This also inspired us with our activities in drama and with our poetry writing.

At the moment, we are learning about a healthy diet, nutrients and how to balance them correctly, using advice from the NHS Eatwell guide. We have been creating our own very elaborate menus, adding extras and making substitutions to ensure they are balanced.

In maths and numeracy, we are developing skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as calculating the area and volume of shapes.

We are looking forward to the Christmas show and performing a couple of songs with P5. If possible, we would like everyone to wear black /dark trousers/skirt and a white polo shirt/shirt/blouse for the performances, with a little bit of tinsel if you choose!

Mrs Gordon



great efforts
fabulous
dinner. The
terrific hosts
great



P7 have been working so hard over this term and are looking forward to what is yet to come in the run up to Christmas. Firstly, a huge thank you to the class for their

in running a
Albert Roux
children were
and I received
feedback from

the head chef. An amazing £2,000 was raised for the Jess Mackie Memorial Fund and I thank the P7 families greatly in their support with this. Well done, everybody!

The children have two upcoming cluster events - a ceilidh at NBHS and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Experience which is organised through Edinburgh College and takes place on Thursday 12th December. We have been given STEM booklets to work through in preparation for this and the class have been enjoying these hands - on activities.

Back in the classroom we have been developing our knowledge of shape, both 2D and 3D. We have learned about more complex shapes and looked at the defining features of these and the correct

language for the various components, as well as practising how to draw these shapes accurately using mathematical equipment. Within this focus we have also linked our maths to art and created striking rotational symmetry patterns and bold tessellations.

Our WW2 IDL is coming to an end and our classroom is filled with informational posters and detailed class work. The class have thoroughly enjoyed the topic and I have been very impressed at the quality of their significant individual home projects.

Thank you for your continued support. As ever, if you have any queries or concerns then please do get in touch. I look forward to seeing you next week at our Christmas Concerts. The class have been rehearsing well and it is sure to be a great show.

Miss Collins



Merry Christmas

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Wednesday 4th: 13:30 Christmas Concert
 - Thursday 5th: 18:30 - Christmas Concert
 - Wednesday 11th: P5 German Christmas Market
School Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day.
13:30 WoW Clubs 6/6
 - Thursday 12th: P7 STEM event
 - Friday 13th: Visit from North Berwick High School Brass Band
 - Tuesday 17th: PM - P5, P5/6, P6 and P7 party
 - Wednesday 18th:
AM - Pantomime, Pinocchio
PM - P3, P3/4 and P4 party
 - Thursday 19th: 09:30 Church service. Due to issues of space, this will be for pupils and accompanying adults only.
AM - Nursery party
PM - P1 and P2 party
 - Friday 20th - Flu immunisation
- School closes at the usual time**
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WEDNESDAY 8th JANUARY 2020: School re-opens at the usual time

- Tuesday 14th: P4 10 week swimming block starts. If you are able to accompany these children please let us know.
 - Thursday 16th: P5 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 09:00.
 - Wednesday 22nd: 13:30 WoW club 1/6
 - Wednesday 29th: 13:30 WoW club 2/6
 - Thursday 24th: P1/2 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 09:00.
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- **Tuesday 4th FEBRUARY:** Learning Conversations
- Wednesday 5th: WoW club 3/6
- Thursday 6th: Learning Conversations
- Friday 7th: Muirfield event
- Monday 10th to Friday 14th inclusive: **HOLIDAY**
- Monday 17th: In-service day
- Wednesday 19th: P7 to visit Risk Factory
- Thursday 20th: P1 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 09:00.
- Wednesday 26th: WoW club 4/6



COMMUNITY NEWS

PTA Cinema Afternoon

The PTA are holding a Family Christmas Cinema event, showing ELF, on the afternoon of Sunday 22nd Dec in Gullane Village Hall.

Popcorn, pizza and Christmas treats will be on sale.

Tickets cost £3.50.

All children must be accompanied by a paying adult

