



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems no time since Christmas and here I am including diary dates for April, as well as adding the Easter holidays!



We have now received written feedback from our recent School Review. The results of this review are generally very positive; however, as we know

from our own self-evaluation, there is always scope for improvement.

The report highlights the following:

Key Strengths

- The Head Teacher who values her team and knows the school and community well.
- The level of professional commitment from school staff towards the pastoral and learning needs of pupils.
- The polite and well-behaved children who are well-cared for by staff.
- There are examples of good classroom practices in learning and teaching.
- Involvement of the community and parents to support and improve the curriculum opportunities offered to children.

Areas for Improvement

- Consider the use of practitioner enquiry to provide additional measures of the impact of initiatives and approaches upon outcomes for children.
- Encourage children to be more independent and to develop skills to lead their learning.
- Increase challenge through consistent use of approaches to planning for differentiated learning.

- Through future moderation activities and professional dialogue, increase the rigour of using assessment to inform the planning of pupil learning.
- Develop a sustained whole-school focus on equity and excellence, through self-evaluation and robust evidence, to demonstrate impact for learners.

These key messages will form the basis for our next School Improvement Plan. The full report, including feedback on our nursery, is available on the School Improvement Plan page of our website.



PARENT PARTNERSHIP



The next meeting of the Parent Partnership takes place in the Staff Base at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18th March. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



HOLIDAY



The school will close at the usual times on Friday 7th February and re-open for pupils at 08:45 on Tuesday 18th.

A reminder that Friday May 8th has been set as a school holiday in commemoration of V.E. Day.

SCHOOL EXPANSION UPDATE

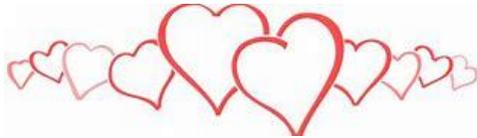


We are delighted to announce that work will start shortly. It will be undertaken in three phases:

- Phase 1 - The nursery and front entrance extension works will be from 02.3.20 to 15.10.20*.
- Phase 2 - Internal refurbishment work will be from 29.6.20 to 19.08.20*.
- Phase 3 - Games Hall and classroom extension works will be from 2.03.20 to 26.03.21*.

*Dates are for guidance only.

All of the above will involve some disruption to our normal service as well as the relocation of classes; however, you can rest assured that we will do all we can to keep this to a minimum.



BUILDING RESILIENCE

This month we are focusing on Keeping Connected and the importance of having a back-up team. The children will learn that:

- relationships are important for health and wellbeing
- belonging to a group can be a good way to build friendships
- good relationships are a two-way thing.



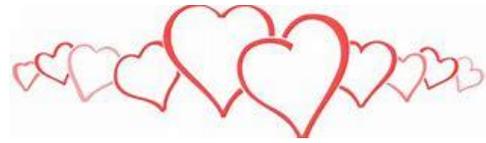
SAFER INTERNET DAY



This takes place on Tuesday 11th. 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/2020> for more information.



HEALTH INFORMATION



MUMPS is currently circulating in the community at a higher than usual level in Lothian. Most cases are young adults, older than school age, but we are starting to see cases in school children.

Mumps is a viral infection which is not usually a serious illness but it can take up to ten days or more to feel better. The infection can be easily spread from person to person by direct contact with saliva or droplets of saliva (e.g. via coughs and sneezes) from an infected individual.

The signs, symptoms of mumps include:

Fever

Headache

Swelling of parotid glands on one or both sides of the face ('like a hamster')

Pupils with symptoms of mumps should not attend school until they are recovered and at least five days after the parotid (facial) swelling began.

THREAD WORMS: We have been made aware of a couple of cases of these. If your child does have them you can buy medicine for threadworms from pharmacies. This is usually a chewable tablet or liquid you swallow. Treat everyone in your household, even if they do not have symptoms. Tell the pharmacist if you need to treat a child under 2, or if you're pregnant or breastfeeding. Treatment might not be suitable and you may need to speak to a GP.

Medicine kills the threadworms, but it does not kill the eggs. Eggs can live for up to 2 weeks outside the body. Good hygiene practice can help to prevent the spread.

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

AROUND THE CLASSES



The Nursery children have been enjoying learning about winter, since our return after the Christmas break. We have been discussing the changes in the environment and have had fun making our own ice to explore. We are all crossing our fingers for snow so we can build snowmen - the children may just get their wish. Throughout the month we will be learning about the importance of festivals such as Chinese New Year and, for Scotland, Burns Night. Along with creating Chinese items at the creative area and having some traditional Chinese food to taste, we have been invited to watch the primary 6 children perform a Chinese dance. We will be learning about Robert Burns and all things Scottish, the children will be creating Scottish artwork, trying out Scottish dancing and having some tasty Scottish snacks. We would like to remind all parents to ensure that lunches are pre-ordered prior to arriving at nursery and that, if you require your child to have a Friday packed lunch, these need to be ordered the Sunday before.

The Nursery Team



P1 are enjoying looking into life in the past. It has been really exciting looking at all the artefacts you have kindly sent in. Thank you for your support with this, it would be great if you could send something in if you haven't already done so. We are also wanting pictures of the children and their grandparents and also a picture of that grandparent as a baby. It is a really valuable learning experience for children to find out something and then talk to the class about it. We are looking forward to seeing grandparents on Tuesday 4th February 11:00-12:00 (please enter by the P1 door). In numeracy, we are adding and subtracting. We are thinking about the many strategies we can use to help us. We will also be improving our data handling

skills. We are going to be making number track games to share with friends.

In literacy, the children are still enjoying our Jolly Phonics work and are doing well at remembering all the spelling rules. On a Wednesday, the children have a chance to apply their knowledge when writing about a given picture.

Our writing this term is based on structuring a story; the children are thinking about who is in their story and why they are doing something.

In health and wellbeing, I am sharing moral stories and the children are being encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences. Everyone is enjoying learning skills in basketball, football and hockey this term.

The class are doing great work with the chrome books. We have spent some time logging on and exploring the keyboard and the track pad and we are working on opening a document and inserting a picture.

Mrs Grainger



P2 will be learning about Our Environment. Our focus will be on how people 'reduce, reuse and recycle' and how people can change their local environment through their actions and choices.

In Literacy, the children will explore a variety of genres in writing such as letters, reports and poetry. Throughout these experiences we will continue to work on improving punctuation and writing clear sentences with joining words.

We will continue with Show and Tell this term; the children are responding well to this and are making good progress in this area of Listening and Talking.

Reading - Library once a week to encourage enjoyment and choice, guided reading with parents/teachers which will help with fluency and comprehension skills and shared text which will link to our topic and encourage higher order thinking skills.

In our number work we will be learning about place value and multiplication and division - looking at counting on and back in 2s and sharing into equal groups, linking it to their knowledge of doubles.

Through health and wellbeing we will continue to explore resilience with a focus on friendships.

In P.E, the class are practising skills such as throwing and catching, dribbling and dodging and putting them into a small game situation. We will have a short block of P.E with our specialist this term, which is very exciting!

Our library time continues to be 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 settled back to school well after the recent holidays and are working very hard.

For our Inter-Disciplinary Learning, we are continuing to compare our lives with that of a child in Victorian Times. We have been focussing on what it was like to be in a

Victorian classroom and are looking at the jobs that Victorian children did. We will also look at toys and games. Over the last few weeks, the children have all produced some amazing writing on what their thoughts might have been if they were a Victorian child either at school or working. Mr Connell is working with the children to produce a drawing of a Victorian pupil. We have been considering ways to raise funds for an educational excursion to the Victorian school in Leith sometime after the Easter holidays. We are going to host a Victorian Tea Party and hope that parents/relatives can come along. The provisional date for this is Thursday 12th March - the children will be giving you more information when this has been organised in class.

In Literacy, we will be focussing on different homophones for spelling, such as to, too and two until the February break, after that we will return to learning a different sound each week.

The class are enjoying their Building Resilience lessons and are producing a family tree poster and a t-shirt design about their back-up team. They will then choose one of these items to do as a short talk to the class.

In P.E, our focus on a Monday will be ball handling and other skills and on a Thursday our emphasis is on Fitness.

In Numeracy, we have continued to look at ways to split numbers (e.g. $275 = 200 + 70 + 5$) and our main focus this term will be to become more confident with addition and subtraction facts to 10 and 20. We will look at different materials and strategies to support us with this and some of us will be investigating how these can help us solve bigger calculations. Mrs MacIver has been teaching the children Data Handling In Technologies, the children are continuing to enjoy various Google Classroom tasks shared with them, both at home and school, and are learning how to use Google Slides and Jamboard. We also will be doing some basic coding lessons.

Parents are reminded that weekly homework and any important information is posted in Google Classroom under 'Classwork' and 'Homework.' Asking your child at the start of the week to log and check this with you should remind you of any homework for that week or future dates. There are many other resources under 'Classwork' to enable your child to show you things they are doing in class.

Thanks as always for your ongoing support. I look forward to sharing our February Learning Conversation with you and your child.

Mr McEwan



P3/4 have a huge interdisciplinary learning focus this term on Food and Health; developing healthy choices as well as learning about inheritance

and body systems. On this note, many thanks for sharing your special family photos - we have enjoyed comparing characteristics and discussing commonalities highlighting how we share similar genetic markers.

You may have heard that P3/4 and P4 have been successful in our application for Virgin Money 'Make £5 Grow' initiative. This is giving us the opportunity to develop our business and enterprise skills. When asking the children what this may include they said... *we will use our technology skills to do safe searches*

on buying the things we need, finding out about smoothie recipes, choosing healthy food and looking at sensible costs of foods and recyclable cups. We will have to look at advertising the event and how to make a good promotion poster, we will also have to organise who does what. The children also mentioned that we will be building resilience (like Skipper) in overcoming all the ups and downs that we come across. (All from the children). So once we do our research into consumer demand (we have learned to create questionnaires using Google Forms, asking pupils across the school about their favourite flavours of fruit juices and smoothies) we will be doing marketing with a view to running a fruit juice/smoothie/ice lolly stall, possibly over a week or two, either before or just after the February break.

The P4s have had a successful start to their 10 week swim block with all the children's confidence growing in and around the water already. Whilst they are off swimming the P3s are doing a mini science topic about Forces, with a focus on materials and magnetism.

Keep practising the 2, 3, 5 and 10 x tables. I'm sure you'll have heard of Harry's 3 x table song - a must to help retain the patterns of 3.

Fingers crossed for a productive and profitable term

Mrs Cowie



The children have had fun measuring all kinds of distances both indoors and out, with Mrs MacIver.

Our Egyptian topic has now come to an end and we have recently begun our new topic, Keeping Myself Healthy. This topic will cover a variety of curricular areas including: P.E. - where the children will be working on improving their own fitness levels; Art - where they have already begun drawing different

kinds of athletes with Mr Connell, as well as, Technologies, Science, Literacy and Maths. As part of their learning in this area, the class will also be hosting a joint enterprise with P3/4 later during the term. Watch out for more info!

Mrs Revell



P5 will be working on a STEM (Sciences, Technologies, Engineering and Maths) activity, where we will be constructing a paper rollercoaster, over the next three weeks. This will involve learning

about forces and movement, with a focus on energy.

In numeracy, we are continuing to develop and apply strategies in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and ways of recording solutions to challenges. In maths, we have been working on perimeter, starting with practical activities to help develop a sound understanding of what this is, before measuring and then calculating the perimeter of objects and shapes. The children are also furthering their knowledge and understanding of time, converting between 12 and 24 hour clocks, calculating time intervals, and interpreting and using calendars and timetables.

In Health and Wellbeing, we are continuing with the 'Building Resilience' work, that the school began last term. The focus this term is 'keeping connected', exploring the importance of relationships and the contribution other people make to our wellbeing. The pupils are also learning about strategies to help them stay safe when online, and also what to do in emergency situations. In PE, Miss Gordon is working on fitness with the class, and we are developing skills in target games in the second weekly session.

We are learning about The Highland Clearances as our first interdisciplinary learning experience of the term, finding out about the impact this had on the people and land at this time in Scotland's history. We will be further developing IT and literacy skills as we work, and this will be our focus in creative writing before the February break. We hope you enjoyed hearing about the pupils' learning so far in this at the class assembly. Thank you for the super support in coming along to this assembly.

Mr Adamson



P6 have started the term off learning about China. We have been finding out about the physical geography of China and the huge variety of natural features there. The children are also fascinated by all the different tourist attractions and, as well as researching these, we have been discussing the positive and negative impact of tourism. We have been learning some basic Mandarin in class and should receive some more lessons after the February break from an expert. The children have been loving trying to create huge dragon costumes to use in our Chinese New Year 'Dragon Dance' celebrations, and are becoming quite the experts in the use of mod roc, masking tape and cable ties - thank you to those who donated bed sheets, they are quite unrecognisable now! We are going to share some of our learning at our assembly on the 12th March and, if the costumes stay in one piece, they may make a reappearance! (P6 parents may want to pop this date in the diary - it would be lovely if some of you could join us then)

In maths and numeracy, we have started off the term developing our knowledge of fractions. The children have been strengthening their understanding of what fractions represent and can find equivalent and simplified fractions. We will continue with this and learn how to add, subtract and multiply fractions, then relate all this to decimals and percentages.

In literacy, with our writing, we have been using some of the resources the BBC provide for the 500 words competition. Some excellent advice from some authors online and lovely to hear some of the winning entries from last year. All the children are currently writing a short story (500 words or less) and then can decide if they would like to submit it to the competition. This is really helping develop editing and self-editing skills too.

Our 'Health and Wellbeing' is mainly focused on the 'resilience' school programme for this part of the term. We are looking at support networks and our 'back up' teams - who we can turn to when we may need a little support in life. This also helps us think about friendships and to focus on being a kind, supportive friend.....something we regularly discuss!

Mrs Gordon

G Suite

P7 have another busy and fun filled term ahead! I hope that you were well

fed and rested over the festive period. I also extend a warm welcome to Miss Emma McKendrick who is a final year teaching student from Edinburgh University. Miss McKendrick will be working with our class throughout term two and is already getting to know the class well.

P7 have kicked off this term by fine tuning our digital literacy skills through use of various programmes in Google Suite (Chrome Musiclab being a favourite) and have been developing their knowledge and application of coding by experimenting with Microbits and Spheros. We will be moving on to animation, which will be linked to short story writing.

In maths, we have been working on reading and plotting coordinates (in four quadrants), as well as reading and marking bearings and will be applying these to map skills. Our next numeracy focus will be money through which we shall be applying learning to real life situations - savings, banking, budgeting, profits, tax, and exchange rates. This will be explored through an enterprise type task.

Currently, the class are busy creating wonderful short stories that will be entered into the BBC Radio 2 500 words competition. They are looking great so far! Remember, these can be accessed through Google drive and worked on at home too should there be any inspiration to do so!

Quick reminders:

- P.E days -Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Thank you to those who are already bringing in a full kit. Please remember that indoor gym shoes or trainers are required.
- Risk Factory - Our trip is around the corner on February 19th. I have received a lot of forms; however, I would request that any outstanding forms are returned as soon as possible, thank you.

A good start to the new year, P7, well done. 😊

Miss Collins



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Tuesday 4th: Learning Conversations
 - Wednesday 5th: WoW club 3/6
 - Thursday 6th: Learning Conversations
 - Friday 7th: Rainbow Bake Sale
 - Monday 10th to Friday 14th inclusive: **HOLIDAY**
 - Tuesday 11th: Safer Internet Day www.saferinternetday.org.uk.
 - 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: P1 and P7 Tempest photographs WoW Club 4/6
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- Monday 2nd **MARCH**: Generation Science workshops for P1, P2 and P3.
 - Wednesday 4th: Generation Science workshops for P3/4, P5 and P6.
 - Thursday 5th: Generation Science workshops for P4.
 - Wednesday 11th: WoW Club 5/6
 - Thursday 12th: P6 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 09:00.
 - Friday 13th: Craigiellaw event - Treasure Hunt
 - Wednesday 18th: WoW Club 6/6
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- Friday 3rd **APRIL**: END OF TERM
 - Monday 6th to Monday 20th inclusive: **HOLIDAY**
 - Thursday 23rd - Joint House Captain event
 - Wednesday 29th: WoW Club 1/6



COMMUNITY NEWS

PTA

Happy New Year from the PTA! Can we first of all say a big thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Movie Afternoon in December - we hope you all enjoyed it!

We wanted to remind you all of the 2 PTA events left for this school year:

- Race Night which is on Saturday 29th February in the Village Hall. Gallop along and check out the runners and riders, sponsor a horse or just take a punt on the races. Prizes for the winning owners for each race!! There'll also be our annual PTA auction with some amazing lots up for grabs, and a cash bar. Tickets are £5, available via the PTA website (www.pta-events.co.uk), from the Old Smiddy or email us at gullanepta@gmail.com
- Our last event of the year will be the Summer Fair on Saturday 30th May. More details to follow but if you can put the date in your diary and cross your fingers for some sunshine after last year's washout!!

Thanks for your support, the PTA



GULLANE COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S HUB

There is still some availability at

- Breakfast Club (7:15am - school/nursery/playgroup drop off, Mon - Fri)
- Playgroup (9am - 11:30am/1pm/2:30pm, nursery pick up/drop off available, Mon - Thurs)
- After School Club (school pick up - 6pm, Mon - Fri)

Holiday Club is also available to book now for Easter and Summer. 8am - 6pm on selected weeks.

Please note, all 3 and 4 year olds can access up to 1,140 funded hours of childcare per year through the Gullane Community Children' Hub Playgroup or as part of a blended model with Gullane Nursery or other partner funded childcare providers (e.g. childminders or nurseries).

For more information or to book, please see their website www.GullaneCCHub.org, phone 01620 844 609 or e-mail admin@GullaneCCHub.org