



## GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL MARCH/APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that, despite the very stormy weather, you managed to enjoy the February break. It seems no time at all since Christmas but here we are in March. The lighter nights, and better weather (?!), hopefully, mean that the children will be able to get out more and enjoy the fresh air.



We send congratulations and best wishes to Ms Swaney who got married over the holidays and will now be known as Mrs Hope.

Seonaid McGillivray



### PARENT PARTNERSHIP



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



### EASTER HOLIDAY



The school will close at the usual times on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and re-open at 08:45 on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Please note the school will also be closed on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

### BUILDING RESILIENCE



RESPECT YOURSELF

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of March, we will launch Unit 3 of the above programme. The main focus of this unit is on the importance of recognising and valuing ourselves as individuals. People who respect themselves, like themselves. They have a core set of moral values that are not based on what they can or can't do, or in comparing themselves to others. Nobody's perfect but learning to accept ourselves warts and-all, identifying our strengths and looking after ourselves and our bodies increases our enjoyment of life and wellbeing. Research is clear that looking after our body is also of paramount importance for our health. Good sleep, nutrition and exercise have all been correlated with better mental and physical health outcomes.



### APPOINTMENTS



In order to ensure that all children have minimal interruptions to their learning, we would appreciate it if medical, dental and other appointments could be made outwith school hours. It can be disruptive to a class when a child returns from an appointment part way through a lesson and requires the attention of the teacher to 'bring them up to speed'.



## GENERATION SCIENCE



Thanks, once again, to the generosity of 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 the children will find them as educational and enjoyable as they did last year.



## WELL DONE!



On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of February, Edward, Emma, Matthew and Ruby represented Gullane Primary School at the Rotary Club School Quiz. We are delighted to inform you that they came second; missing out on the top spot by one point! Congratulations also go to Finlay, Finlay, Holly, Jess and Kirsten who represented the school at the East Lothian heat of the Euroquiz. The team came first and will now represent East Lothian in the national final to be held in the Scottish Parliament in June. Well done!



## RAINBOW BAKE SALE



Thank you to our House Captains, Amber, Daniel, Edward and Emma, for organising our recent Rainbow Bake Sale. The event raised £246.71 for Cancer Research. Well done also to those who contributed to the success of this event.



## INTERNET SAFETY



It has come to our attention that some of our pupils are using apps that are not appropriate for their age eg TikTok. This, along with FaceBook and Instagram, has an age restriction of 13. The minimum age for the use of WhatsApp is 16. There are hidden dangers to all of these applications and we would ask parents and carers to take a look at the Think U Know website for information on how to keep their child safe online.



## ELC INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SHOWCASE



Instrumental Music Showcase concerts will be held on two evenings this year rather than the traditional one. The concerts are on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March in Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March in North Berwick High School. Both events commence at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased via the Brunton Theatre Box Office.



## AROUND THE CLASSES



The nursery children and team have been talking lots about the wellbeing indicators of Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respect, Responsible and Included. The children have shown a really positive interest in our wellbeing family and there is a board within the cloakroom if you would like to meet them too! In line with this thematic learning, we will be discussing what each of the indicators mean, as well as taking part in fun crafty activities and sharing stories. We would like to welcome parents into nursery for Stay and Play sessions. These will run between Monday and Friday for four weeks beginning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March - information and sign-up sheets are in the

cloakroom area. At the Stay and Play sessions there will be the opportunity to take your child's learning story home.

As the daffodils and snowdrops are starting to bud, we will be moving onto spring; discussing the changes in the environment, reading spring stories and creating spring crafts.

World Book day is on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, if your child would like they can wear their pyjamas and bring in their favourite book to share.

Just a small reminder to all parents to ensure that they have ordered their child's lunch. Friday packed lunches need to be ordered by Sunday.

The Nursery Team



P1 would like to thank all those who supported us with our class museum. The artefacts you sent in with the children were fabulous and the children loved sharing their knowledge and family photos

with the class and then with their grandparents. Special thanks also to Mrs Elderfield for baking with the children and organising our museum café on the day. We have started our new topic on toys and we will be learning about different types of toys, what makes them go and the forces that power them. We also have an exciting science workshop based on vibrations.

In numeracy, we are carrying on with number sequences, numbers before and after. We are spending time on developing addition and subtraction strategies. We will also be learning to group and share. We have enjoyed learning about data handling and will be thinking about positional language using Bee-Bots.

In literacy, we are doing some personal writing based on our feelings. We are continuing to learn our key reading words and tricky words to help us as we read and write. We are enjoying writing about a given picture, using the Jolly Phonics activities.

On a Friday, P1 and P2 are going to be spending time learning outdoors, within the school grounds. Please make sure your child has a warm coat and hat. Thank you!

Mrs Grainger



P2 enjoyed the trip to the recycling centre and learned lots of new things. We will shortly be moving on and learning about Local Landscape - exploring our natural environment and discovering living and non-living things.

In Literacy, the class has been exploring non-fiction text within reading groups. We have also used them to learn more about the environment and recycling. We are continuing with Show and Tell this term and using our WOW clubs as our topic. We will be writing poems this term and experiencing writing acrostic and short rhyming poems. Our library time continues to be a Friday morning where children are enjoying choosing books for enjoyment.

In our number work we will continue to learn about multiplication and division - looking at counting on and back in 2's and sharing into equal groups, linking it to their knowledge of doubles. We will also be learning how to ask questions to gather information and show our findings in different ways such as classroom signs and bar charts.

In Health and Wellbeing, we will continue to explore resilience with a focus on friendships.

In P.E we will continue practising skills such as throwing and catching, dribbling and dodging and putting them into a small game situation.

The class has a block of music with our specialist, Mrs Askew, which will be every Friday morning for the next six weeks.

Mrs Downey and Mrs Hope



P3 are continuing to learn new things and have been excited to welcome two new pupils to the class.

As part of our IDL, we are enjoying preparing for our Victorian Tea

Party, which will take place on the afternoon of Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. Tickets are on sale at £5, with an initial maximum of 3 per child. Requests for tickets, along with the money, should be returned, with the form on the letter that your child created, by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Once we have our numbers we can then decide if there will be any more for sale

and if this will pay for or subsidise our trip. As well as planning the sandwiches and other foods for the tea party, we are deciding what information we would like to share with you about the Victorians and how we will do this. We would like to thank those parents who have said they can supply us with crockery, cake stands or table cloths. We will contact you if we require them the week before. Our visit to the Victorian School in Leith has been booked for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. More information about cost, if any, will follow soon.

In Literacy, we are returning to learning a spelling sound each week and words will be copied into your child's homework jotters each Monday. Homework tasks and information for the week will continue to be posted in Google Classroom. New Mathematics tasks have been assigned, and children can continue to practise Rainbow Spelling words. We are starting to do dictations that are due again.

The children are enjoying exploring Forces with Mrs MacIver on a Tuesday and looking at Time and other aspects of Maths on a Thursday.

In ICT, along with starting Coding lessons, we will be looking at Internet Safety and have been having discussions about password safety as well as why we should not be using apps and other platforms that are designed for older children. We will be finding out what to do if someone is mean to us online.

Thanks, as always, for your ongoing support. It was good to connect with you and your child at our recent Learning Conversations, and I look forward to, hopefully, welcoming you or some other family members to our Victorian Tea Party.

Mr McEwan



**P3/4** have been running their Fruity Booty smoothie stall for over a week now. I'm sure you will have heard lots of information about their experiences and that they are now making a comfortable profit. Final figures will be shared when we have calculated our incomings and outgoings. I would like to thank you all for supporting this enterprise, with an extra special thanks to all the adults who have indeed made this a positive experience for the children.

We are still to be practising the multiplication facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 x table and this will support the children's understanding of division which we will be moving onto soon. We have been practically applying our money skills within our enterprise.

A final message of appreciation to my class who I am ever so proud of for continuing to shine.

Mrs Cowie



**P4** has been delighted with the success of the P3/4 and P4 smoothie sale. After paying back the Make £5 Grow investment, we will have more than doubled our money. The children will now help to decide

what they want to do with the money raised. It has been a fantastic learning experience as all the children have been involved in every aspect of the enterprise from working out what we can afford to buy with our £5 per head budget, to market research, taste-testing, advertising, making and selling the smoothies, counting up our takings and working out our profits. They have loved running the sale and we will continue to develop our learning in enterprise through our class project work.

Continuing our interdisciplinary learning topic, Keeping Myself Healthy, the class have also been thinking about food and health. We have looked at what makes a healthy diet, what types of foods are in different meals and considering how we might make more healthy choices. In science we have begun exploring biological systems starting with microbes and we will continue by learning about the major organs in the body.

In P.E., we are following our fitness programme and are focusing on improving our speed, strength, flexibility and stamina. The children are finding it challenging but hopefully will be rewarded by seeing an improvement in these areas when we re-visit our pre-programme assessment at the end of the block. The class continues to enjoy their swimming lessons on Tuesdays and always come back enthused about what they have been doing.

The smoothie sale has provided an excellent opportunity for us to practise our money skills. We have been working hard on counting and recording

money accurately, converting pounds to pence, working out change and solving money problems. Practising the 2, 3, 5, and 10 times tables at home would be helpful for our multiplication learning in class.

Finally, we have been looking at persuasive techniques in literacy, putting them to use by trying to persuade other members of the class and writing our persuasive smoothie adverts. It's certainly been a busy, but very productive, return after the holidays!

Mrs Revell.



P5 children have been working on short stories for the BBC Radio 2 500 Words Writing Competition, and they began and

completed the task in Google Docs, allowing access to their stories at home as well as in class. The word limit has helped the children to further understand the importance of being selective and thoughtful with their choice and use of language, and the use of IT has helped to focus on immediate editing of work. Fingers crossed that we may see some of the stories selected for the next round of judging!

In Maths, the class have been continuing to work on time, interpreting timetables and calculating time intervals, and converting these between minutes and hours. We will soon be starting work on calculating area, and will be outside putting this into practice when the weather allows. Work in Numeracy continues to focus on the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), and the children have daily challenges to extend and deepen their knowledge and understanding, with whole-class sharing of strategies to solve these.

In our first piece of interdisciplinary learning (IDL) this term, we continue learning about the Highland Clearances, through our class novel, 'The Desperate Journey', and through tasks across different areas of the curriculum. For example, the children have been learning map skills using Ordnance Survey maps, from points on a compass, understanding the

key and features of a map through to being able to give and find six digit grid references. Folding the Ordnance Survey maps correctly is a skill yet to be mastered... Our second focused area of learning through IDL is forces in Sciences, and the children will be learning about friction, air resistance and buoyancy through some designing and building tasks, with aircraft and boats being the chosen context.

In Health and Wellbeing, the class have been continuing the school-wide programme of 'Building Resilience'; the focus for this unit being identifying people who can help when help is needed, and the children have individually made a back-up team, recognising the qualities and skills that different people have as members of that team. We have also been learning about stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination, linking the learning here to events in history and current affairs. In PE, we have just started First Club Golf. I will deliver six sessions with the class before we go to the Children's Course, here in Gullane on the afternoon of Wednesday 25 March, where we will meet the golf Development Officer and some of the pro-golfers for a round on the course. We are looking for some volunteers to accompany the class for this, so please let me know if you are available to help with this. Thank you in advance.

In Technologies, the class have started a block of work to extend their knowledge and learning in coding, and have been thoroughly enjoying learning to put together sets of instructions using the code.org website lessons. They have particularly enjoyed the Dance Party context for this, although I have to confess that thirty three different dance tracks isn't the highlight of my week!

Mr Adamson

官官  
话话

P6 have come to the end of our IDL on China and are really looking forward to sharing some of our learning with the school and P6 parents at the assembly on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 9am.

We are currently working in groups and deciding what and how we would like to do this! We have also started our block of 6 Mandarin classes with a Mandarin teacher on a Monday afternoon - great fun!

We are starting a new IDL, 'All About Me', which will cover a variety of science based topics, including learning in more detail about our different body systems and organs. We will also look at our sensory organs as well as a little genetics and inheritance. Part of this will include work on 'Sexual Health and Relationships,' which covers a wide variety of topics, mainly using resources from the RSHP website - [rsHP.scot](http://rsHP.scot). (Further information about this programme is available in the Parents Information section of our website.) We are also looking forward to our science workshop all about sound waves and vibrations.

In Health and Wellbeing, we will continue to work through the Building Resilience programme and are doing a focus on kindness and empathy within friendships and relationships.

In maths and numeracy, we are continuing to work on fractions, decimals and percentages. We are also developing knowledge and calculations using 'time' and will be learning more about patterns, angles, symmetry and transformation.

Having looked at some World Religions in RME, this term we are going to be learning more about Christianity - Ten Commandments, important Christian stories and celebrations etc.

With 500 word stories submitted, for those who chose to, we are going to continue to learn some more techniques to help develop our writing skills and practise some different writing activities - book reviews, newspaper reports, detailed instructions, letters, diary entries etc.

More and more of our homework tasks and class activities are on Google Classroom so please remind your child to keep checking! We look forward to seeing some P6 parents at our assembly and thank you again for all your help and support.

Mrs Gordon

best to look after themselves and others in these events. I would say more but the children have been told to protect the mystery for future pupils.

In science, the class are currently learning about the three states of matter in greater detail and considering their properties (particle size and movement), as well how to change these states and use scientific terms (evaporation, dissolving, solvent, solute, effervescence, soluble and insoluble). This has been explored through a variety of very hands on experiments! We will be concluding this focus with a visit from Generation Science who will lead the children through a workshop entitled, 'Fizz! Boom! Bang!'

The class have chosen 'The Middle Ages' as their next IDL topic. Within this they shall learn all about grisly life during this time in Britain - the feudal system, conflict within the monarchy, the crusades, the Magna Carta and, of course, the Black Death. It's sure to be a very cheery time! This theme will also inspire a lot of their literacy work through story writing and by learning about folk tales and legends from the period.

Miss Collins



P7 are continuing to work hard and develop their skills across the curriculum. They recently attended

The Risk Factory, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole class. This gave them an opportunity to learn about potentially dangerous situations and how

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



- **MARCH** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>: WoW Club (5 of 6)
  - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>: P6 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
  - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>: WoW Club 6/6  
7.00pm Parent Partnership
  - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>: Launch of Unit 3 Building Resilience
  - Friday 20<sup>th</sup>: Craigiellaw Treasure Hunt
  - Monday 30<sup>th</sup>: House Captains' Basketball Tournament
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- **APRIL** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> inclusive: HOLIDAY
  - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>: WoW Club 1/6
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- **MAY** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - May Day Holiday
  - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>: WoW Club 2/6  
7.00pm Parent Partnership
  - Friday 8<sup>th</sup>: V.E. Day Holiday
  - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup>: P7 visit to Dounans Outdoor Centre.
  - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>: P3 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
  - Monday 18<sup>th</sup>: In-service day. School closed to all pupils.
  - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>: WoW Club 3/6
  - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>: Learning Conversations
  - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>: Jobs Kingdom event at Queen Margaret University for all P5 pupils.
  - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>: Learning Conversations
  - Friday 29<sup>th</sup>: Kilspindie event
  - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>: School Fair



## GULLANE COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S HUB

BOOK NOW for Easter Holiday Club

When: Mon 6<sup>th</sup> - Thur 9<sup>th</sup> April, 8am - 6pm

Cost: £30 full day, £15 half day (1pm half day start/finish)

Sibling discount available.

Summer Club booking also available. More details available on the website.

Early bird and sibling discounts available.

More information and booking form available at [www.GullaneCCHub.org/holiday-club](http://www.GullaneCCHub.org/holiday-club), call 01620 844 609 or [e-mail admin@GullaneCCHub.org](mailto:admin@GullaneCCHub.org)