



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019

Dear Parents,

After a slightly bumpy start, all classes have settled into their new classes and routines.

We would like to say farewell and thank you to Mrs Cameron who has moved to a position at Pinkie St Peter's School. She has been a great support to the school for a number of years and she will be missed.

We have welcomed Ms Swaney back to school and said goodbye to Mrs Shepherd. Mrs Downey will be working with Ms Swaney following the break.

Elections have taken place for our House Captains and Pupil Councillors. This year's House Captains have come up with a number of ideas to engage the school. They will also work alongside the Pupil Councillors to support them in their work.

Our first round of Learning Conversations takes place on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October and we are looking forward to welcoming both you and your child/ren to these.



OCTOBER HOLIDAY

The school will close at the usual time on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October and re-open for pupils, as normal, on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>.



PARENT CARER COUNCIL

The next meeting which takes place in the Art Room at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 13th November.

All parents/carers are welcome.



WORLD OF WORK CLUBS

Starting on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> of October, we will begin running our WoW clubs again. This session we have the return of our popular art, cooking, community, Lego, outdoor, and science along with new games and IT clubs.



If you have any time that you could spare to support these clubs we would be delighted to hear from you. Indeed, if you have a skill you would be willing to share with our children we would be happy to support you.



P1 ENROLMENT



This will take place on Thursday 7th November. Times will be 08:30-09:00 and 14:30-15:30.

East Lothian Council do provide an information leaflet which you should receive soon. What we require on enrolment day is a **birth certificate** (not required if your child is in our Nursery), a **recent utility bill** (dated within the last 6 months), and your most recent **council tax assessment letter** (if you do not have this you must obtain a copy of this from East Lothian Council). **This is essential.**



SCHOOL EXTENSION



As you will probably be aware, there has been a delay to the start of work to extend the school building. New plans have to be submitted for consultation and then approval. It is still hoped that the new nursery will be ready before the end of this session and the new classroom for the start of next.

## ALLERGIES



As we have a few pupils who are allergic to nuts, snacks or foodstuffs containing nuts are not allowed in school. Please note that this also applies to food packaging sent in for junk modelling eg no Crunchy Nut Cornflake boxes. We appreciate your support with this.



## DRESS FOR THE WEATHER



Now that autumn is upon us, and the weather becomes colder and damper, it is essential that all children are sent to school with a warm, and waterproof, jacket or coat.

We would also ask that children have appropriate clothing for taking part in outdoor PE.

The weather in Scotland is very unpredictable and what might start off as a nice day may well not end up that way!



## HEAD LICE



We would like to ask all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week. Parental vigilance plays a vital role in keeping the spread of this problem under control.



## AROUND THE CLASSES



The children have all really enjoyed learning all about themselves and discussing their families. We have begun making a family tree with sticks that we found whilst out doing our Fit Fifteen. Parents should have received a letter about this, if you have not please speak to a member of the team. We have been talking a lot

about our health and wellbeing indicators and have introduced soft toys relating to SHANARRI. We have Safe Sid Spider, Healthy Harry Hedgehog, Achieving Amber Angelfish, Nurturing Nancy Narwhal, Active Archie Alligator, Respected Robbie Robin, Responsible Rosie Rabbit and Included Isaac Iguana. You will hear your children talking about this.

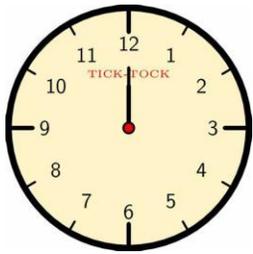
As part of our long term plans and the children's interests, our thematic learning has moved onto harvest. There are opportunities to read fiction and non-fiction stories. As part of our health and well-being area, we will be learning about where foods come from, exploring these through our senses and discussing why these foods and grains play an important part in our diet by helping us grow strong and healthy. There will be art opportunities for your child to make images and objects relating to harvest and the chance to explore vegetables and grains through sensory fun.

Once we return from the October break, we will be looking at autumn. This will include discussing the changes that we can see around the environment and having lots of opportunities to explore the local grounds looking for autumn treasures. We will also have a nature box in the cloakroom area for special natural items that your child may like to share with the class. The children are welcome to dress up on the day of Halloween although we ask that children do not wear masks or face paints as this can upset the other children. We will make a sweet treat and play party games in the hall. With the dark nights coming, we will be discussing night and day and how to stay safe in the dark. This naturally leads onto Road Safety and we will be participating in Road Safety Week which is the 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of November. Children will enjoy being creative at the art table, taking part in road role play opportunities, sharing their experiences and learning new information through books and the internet.

We are having a stay and play morning on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Parents/Carers are invited to spend some time playing alongside their child in the nursery environment. These drop-in sessions will run from 08:30 until 09:30. If you have any questions please speak with a member of the nursery team.

We look forward to starting our 1140 hours provision following the break.

The Nursery Team



P1 were very excited to take their first reading books home recently. They are enjoying the stories about Kipper and his family. They are starting to recognise the names of the people in the

family. It has been a busy time learning 3 new sounds a week since the start of term and I would like to thank you for working with your child at home on all initial sounds. We are working very hard on our word building - sounding out each letter and reading the word.

In number, we are writing, ordering, and reading numbers. We do our number activities in different ways. We learn through play, practical activities and we use jotters to record our work. After October, as the days get shorter, we will be learning about time. Clock times, daily timetables, days of the week, seasons and months of the year.

We are still really interested in learning about people who help us and the world of work. Thank you to all the parents who have been into class to talk about their jobs, the children have found this very interesting. We already have more volunteers for after the October break.

The children have enjoyed art and have taken care to produce some lovely line drawings this term. PE has been great, all the children are good at listening to instructions in the hall and we have played some fun games and are now developing our movement skills. We are using the large equipment to jump and balance.

Mrs Grainger



P2 have welcomed me back to school with lots of enthusiasm and seem to be happy during their learning time. It has been lovely getting to know them.

Through our IDL, the children will be learning all about Pirates.

Throughout this topic they will

be focusing on life in the past, comparing other people's life to their own, mapping skills and how weather affects their day to day life.

We will continue writing imaginative stories with a focus on punctuation and writing simple sentences.

When listening to stories, the children will be asked a variety of questions to show an understanding of what they have heard. In reading, we will hopefully enjoy a variety of books and further develop a love of stories. Our library time, which will encourage reading for enjoyment and a love for stories, is a Friday morning. In numeracy, the focus will be on lots of repetition on numbers to 100 and number bonds to 10. The children will also be exploring patterns, copying, continuing and creating their own.

The class will learn about internet safety and knowing what to do or who to tell if they come across anything we think is not appropriate.

In Health and Wellbeing, the children are exploring emotions and ways of sharing them. Our Circle Time focus will be on friendships and how to cope when things go wrong. In P.E, the class are learning to use large apparatus carefully.

It has been a pleasure to come back to such a lovely class.

Miss Swaney



P3 have been working hard the past few weeks, and it is great to see the progress that is being made.

We are continuing to work through the Rainbow Spelling Common Words at

home and school, and have also recently started learning a sound a week. Homework is available on our class blog. The minimum expectations are that reading will be done daily and one spelling task completed a week. Rainbow words and Athletics can be done when time permits.

In Literacy, we have been writing lists with a partner in Google Docs to plan a party, created an imaginary pet and also thought about what would happen if our favourite toy came alive. We are in a good routine with the volunteers who are assisting with reading on a Thursday, and I greatly appreciate their help.

A few weeks ago, we joined with P3/4 when Shonagh, our visiting drama specialist, came to visit. We also took part in a table tennis taster last week. The children had great fun and photos of both lessons are on the school and class blog. If you are accessing our class blog ([www.edubuzz.org/gullaneps3](http://www.edubuzz.org/gullaneps3)) on a mobile,

you may have to scroll to the end to sign up for email updates.

As a class, we are becoming much more confident using Chromebooks. We have been learning how to access work in Google Classroom and share documents together.

We have had some interesting discussions in our 'Rights and Responsibilities' lessons and many of the children have been stretching themselves with their numeracy skills.

The children have been producing some wonderful art work during their sessions with Mr Connell. After break they will be having PE and music once a week with our specialists.

Thanks as always for your support and I look forward to seeing you at our Learning Conversations.

Mr McEwan



**P3/4**, having navigated their way across the seven continents, are now travelling back in time to explore the life and times of Ancient Egypt. The children are

familiar with the features of an atlas and can apply these skills to find out about land areas and climate zones; using coordinates to locate countries within it. Our current study will help us to develop our archeology skills; questioning a range of evidence and develop our decision making skills to enable us to understand how we know, and what we can learn from the past. This will include comparing aspects of people's daily lives in the past with their own by using historical evidence, finding out about a significant individual from the past, whose actions have influenced the past and informed the future. We hope to share this knowledge with you during our assembly and then invite you to our classroom museum afterwards.

We continue to build our understanding of number, developing our mental processing - skills and speed, building upon strategies such as rounding, doubling and estimating. The children have a sound understanding of the value of a digit and will use these skills to work with numbers to 10 000 focusing on addition and subtraction up to the Christmas break. We will also be looking at the ancient Egyptian number systems as well as the properties

of 2D and 3D shapes using the appropriate vocabulary: corner, side, angle, face, edge, vertex, vertices, flat, curved and straight. This will be useful whilst studying the ancient pyramids.

Continuing to read and explore further the areas we're covering in class will help to deepen your child's understanding of the world. Thank you for your support and we look forward to sharing our learning with you again soon.

Mrs Cowie



**P4** have been learning a lot this term. We've been learning about around the world! We have been learning about continents especially. Our

assembly on the 10th of October is going to be about around the world. We have been doing dances for the Colosseum, The Great Wall of China and The Pyramids. As well as around the world, we've been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We've been learning about shapes like spheres, square based pyramids and cones etc. Next term we are going to be learning about the Egyptians.

In RME, we are learning about Hinduism right now. With Mrs MacIver, we have also been doing orienteering. But since the weather has been bad we are doing something really cool! We've been painting stones and we are going to be hiding them soon! If someone finds one, when they turn it over they will see that they need to return it to us for a house point.

By Rachel



**I Spy an Ecosystem!**

**P5** are busy researching a UK ecosystem and will compare and contrast this another outwith the UK. This will cover weather and climate, plant and animal identification and classification, food webs, evolution and extinction, and environmental issues, and the groups are working collaboratively in Google

Classroom on Slides that they will present to the class.

The class have also been finding out about the six biggest religions in the world, researching the main tenets of each before choosing one to look at in more detail, and then designing a poster that was presented to the class.

The pupils have also been busy working on the early stages of learning about setting up and running a small business. For this, I registered with the Virgin Money initiative, which gives each child £5 and they have to make it grow. The children have chosen a German Christmas Market as the context for their businesses, and are currently putting together ideas for the products and services they will produce or offer. The children will host an event for the other classes and parents/carers later in the term.

Each child has presented a chosen sciences demonstration, as part of a home learning task. Wow! I have been so impressed with the standard of the presentations! We have had demonstrations that have shown chemical reactions, static electricity, magnetism, air pressure, density, gravity, pH testing of acids and alkalis and growing crystals to name but a few. Every pupil has done a fantastic job. Bravo, P5!

Mr Adamson



P6 are learning about democracy and Scottish Parliament at the moment. We had an education officer from the Parliament Outreach Service visit us last week which the children and myself thoroughly enjoyed! He

was very impressed at how much the children already knew and taught us lots more about Parliament itself, the role of an MSP, political parties, how to write a manifesto and some tips on how to run an election. The children would now like to run their own P6 election. They have formed and named their 'political parties', designed a logo and are now planning their campaigns. They are to plan a 'P6 pupil takeover day' where each party needs to come up with lessons for the WHOLE day. The children were hoping to have a day of 'fun things'

until they realised their 'electorate' will include P6 and P7 pupils, P6 parents and STAFF, so they are re-thinking their ideas to try to win the most votes. Look out for campaign materials and manifestos soon. MSP Iain Gray is also coming in to visit us soon and we will get to ask him lots of questions which is also very exciting! In maths/numeracy we have been developing knowledge and understanding of place value concepts and looking at properties of 2D and 3D shapes in more detail. Our literacy focus is to try to be more descriptive and detailed in our writing. We are doing this by adding powerful adjectives, adverbs, subordinate clauses and using a thesaurus to up-level vocabulary. This is making a big difference!

I look forward to seeing all the P6 parents at our Learning Conversations.

Mrs Gordon



P7 have been enjoying a very busy term so far. To extend our knowledge of electrical circuits we created motorised fairground ride models. The children came up with amazing ideas and showed great

creativity, problem solving strategies as well as good teamwork. Photos will be posted on the school website in due course. We now move on to our next IDL topic, which is World War Two. We have already started by discussing what we know and have looked at which areas of the subject we wish to research in groups. Our assembly on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct** will be based around one particular element or event of the war. We are also looking forward to our trip to the National War Museum on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct**. If you have any stories or items related to the war, or indeed if there are any family members who experienced the war in any way, I would be more than happy to have them share experiences with the class if they so wish to do so.

In maths and numeracy, we have revisited and extended our knowledge of multiplication and division through practice of more advanced problems (multiplying and dividing by 2 and 3 digit numbers). We have related this to word based problems and used the CUBES strategy to help us. Our next focus in

maths will be time. We will continue to practise skills in numeracy on a regular basis.

In health and wellbeing, our next P.E focus will be fitness through which the children will build on their stamina, strength and flexibility in circuit training, aerobics style training and even some yoga.

The class have begun their preparation with Greywalls chef, Ryan McCutcheon, for the Albert Roux charity dinner in November. They thoroughly enjoyed the first session in which they tasted a handful of different jellies and had to use their sense of sight and smell as well as taste to determine the different flavours. They now have three more sessions to follow that will give them the experience of preparing and making food, contributing to a menu with healthy and seasonal ingredients as well as good hospitality. We discussed local causes and the children have decided that proceeds from this year's Albert Roux dinner will go to The Jess Mackie Memorial Fund which was set up in collaboration with the Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity.

Miss Collins

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>: Albert Roux dinner
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November: WoW Club (5 of 6)
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>: P7 Ceilidh at North Berwick High School
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup>: Flu immunisation



- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> **DECEMBER**: \*Afternoon Christmas concert
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>: WoW Club (6 of 6)
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>: \*Evening Christmas concert  
\*Please note: Each family will be allocated an afternoon and an evening ticket for the concert. (You may choose to swap tickets with friends/other parents; however, the school will not be able to do this for you.) Additional tickets **may** be available through a ballot.
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>: P7 attend STEM event
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>: AM - Pantomime (in school)  
PM - P5, 6 and 7 party.
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>: AM - Nursery party  
PM - P1 and 2 party
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup>: P3, 3 / 4 and 4 party  
**School closes at the usual time**



## COMMUNITY NEWS



### DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> **OCTOBER**: 18:00 - 20:30 Learning Conversations
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>: P4 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are

welcome to join us at 9.00 am.

P7 to visit the National War Museum

16:30 - 19:00 Learning Conversations

- 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> inclusive: **HOLIDAY**
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>: In-service days. School closed to all pupils.
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>: P7 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>: WoW Club (1 of 6)



- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> **NOVEMBER**: Luffness Fundraiser
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>: WoW Club (2 of 6)
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>: P1 enrolment
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November: WoW Club (3 of 6)
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November: WoW Club (4 of 6)

### LAW AFTER-SCHOOL AND BREAKFAST CLUB

We are open every day of the holidays including both in-service days. The activities on offer are as follows:

- |           |   |             |             |     |
|-----------|---|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Monday    | - | board game  | tournament  | day |
| Tuesday   | - | adventure   | and explore | day |
| Wednesday | - | nature      | craft       | day |
| Thursday  | - | classic     | cartoon     | day |
| Friday    | - | woodland    | fun         | day |
| Monday    | - | mini beasts | and fairy   | day |
| Tuesday   | - | Halloween   | fun         | day |

We are based in Law Primary School, and run from 8am to 5.45pm. It costs £25 per day per child and that includes breakfast, a morning snack and an afternoon snack. We are open to all school age children. If you would like more information contact Daisy at [law@eloscn.com](mailto:law@eloscn.com)