



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



I would like to extend a warm welcome to pupils, parents and staff, both new and old, to the start of a new session at Gullane Primary. This is going to be a very exciting year for us as we eagerly await the building of our school extension.

Following recent reflection, we have taken the decision to simplify our schools rules to one - RESPECT. All members of the school community will be encouraged to show respect for themselves, for others and the environment. We would appreciate your support with this at home.

We have had a couple of staffing changes. We would like to welcome Mrs Revell who takes up the role of probationary teacher in P4. Ms Collins has returned from maternity leave to teach P7. Miss Gordon has joined us as a supernumerary teacher. Mrs Roberts, Music Specialist, has extended her reduced hours and Ms Askew will be filling her role. Ms Swaney will return from maternity leave on the 25th and will share P2 with Mrs Shepherd until such times as we recruit a teacher to fill the other half of her post.



Mrs Cooper was due to go off on maternity leave on Friday 23rd August but we are delighted to announce that she gave birth to a daughter on Thursday 22nd!!

We wish them both well.

I will continue to hold a drop-in session between 08:45 and 09:45 on a Wednesday morning; however, it is always more productive if I have an idea of your query/concern before then.

As always, if you would like to become more involved in the life and work of your child/ren and the school we would be delighted to hear from you.

Leonard M. McCullivray

<http://www.edubuzz.org/gullane/>

ONLINE PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL



As you may be aware, payments to school can now be made online. All other payments made to the school should be **brought in by pupils in an envelope**, with their name, class and reason for payment clearly marked on the front, to be handed to the **class teacher**. (NB: Permission slips for trips etc should not be placed in these.) Payments **will not** be accepted at the reception desk as this increases the chances of money going missing or being misplaced. Please ensure that all monies are correct as **we do not give change for any payments made to the school**. Cheques should be made payable to East Lothian Council. Payments for the PTA should be made payable to Gullane PTA.



CONTACTING THE SCHOOL



Should you require to speak to your child's teacher, or any other member of staff, you should, in the first instance, contact the school office on 01620 843455. 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.

We will use text messaging and email as our preferred means of communication. It is therefore essential that you keep us informed of any changes to either your email address or mobile telephone number. Our website is also a good source of information.

To assist in the smooth running of, and minimise disruption to, the school, it would be most helpful if children could be sent to school with all the equipment they require for the day, including knowing the arrangements for pick-up time.



PARENT CARER COUNCIL

The first meeting of the Parent Carer Council takes place in the Staff Base at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 11th September. Items for the agenda can be given to any

PCC member.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend.



HOLIDAY

The school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 13th September. It will re-open as normal on Tuesday 17th September.

Please note - Two additional in-service days for school session 2019/20 have now been approved by the Scottish Government. The first of these additional days is Monday 21 October 2019 to align with the South East Improvement Collaborative authorities to support collaborative working, with the East Lothian in-service day moving from Monday 21 October 2018 to Tuesday 22 October 2019. The second additional day will be Tuesday 7 January 2020.

See our website for this session's holiday dates.



CHILDREN'S ABSENCE



If your child is unable to attend school please inform the school office by telephone, preferably between **8.30am** and **9.00am**. Failure to inform

us of your child's absence will initiate a text/phone call to you so that we can check on your child's safety. If we are unable to contact you the absence may be passed to ELC's Children's Wellbeing Team. **On return, your child should bring a letter confirming the reason for their absence.**

Planned absence eg holidays, should be requested as far in advance as possible, preferably two weeks before.

BIKEABILITY TRAINING

Parent Volunteers urgently required



This training is undertaken by our P5 and P6 pupils over the course of a school session. We now rely solely on volunteers to carry it out and if they do not step forward we will not be able to provide this very

important, potentially life-saving, training.

If you feel you could give up some time to be trained and a few mornings a year to deliver this training in school we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office to register your interest.

Thank you.



LEARNING CONVERSATIONS



We are changing the format of our parent/carer meetings to become a learning conversation that includes your child/ren in discussing their progress and next steps. Prior to each meeting, you will be given a brief written report and, at the end of the session, you will receive a report that summarises your child/ren's attainment. Learning Conversations will take place three times a year on:

- Tuesday 8th October and Thursday 10th October
- Tuesday 4th February and Thursday 6th February
- Tuesday 26th May and Thursday 28th May

If at any point in the session you wish to discuss your child/ren's progress, or other matters, we will do our best to accommodate your request.



ASSEMBLIES

Parent/carers are welcome to come along to their child/ren's class assembly.

Class assemblies will take place at 9.00 am on Thursday mornings as follows:

- 12th September - P2
- 10th October - P4

- 24th October - P7
- 14th November - P3/4
- 16th January - P5
- 20th February - P1
- 12th March - P6
- 14th May - P3
- 18th June - P7 Leavers' Assembly



PE KIT



In accordance with Scottish Government guidance, all children in Gullane Primary receive two hours of PE. There may be occasions when your child will be taking part in PE outdoors when the weather may be cold, wet or windy. For outdoor activities pupils should wear a tracksuit or jogging bottoms and sweatshirt, extra socks and outdoor trainers. Rain jackets, hats and gloves should be worn when appropriate. It is important that pupils are ready to take part and also that they have a change of clothes and a bag to put wet gear in, so that they are comfortable for the rest of the day. We would appreciate your support with this. Please ensure that your child has a full named kit, including gym shoes/indoor trainers, shorts and a t-shirt (this should cover your child's midriff), with them at all times. Please note: In the interests of health and safety **no jewellery should be worn on gym days.**



SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL



Welcome back to a new year of school. Just a reminder about safety when crossing the road. Children should dismount from bikes and scooters and walk across the road and wait until they are past the yellow grit bin (on the way to school) before getting back on so that people aren't waiting on the road. We've already seen several children fall on the road this past week, I would ask that you wait until told it's safe to cross as there have been several near misses (thankfully <http://www.edubuzz.org/gullane/>)

only involving myself) this last year due to drivers not paying attention, which was very scary. Now that the serious bit is out the way, I look forward to another year of seeing all those smiling polite faces again and welcome to all the new ones. Stuart, the lollipop man (School Crossing Guard)



WATER



We would ask parents to ensure that children are sent to school each morning with a filled, named water bottle. This can be refilled, if required, during the day. **Please note** - only water should be provided as sipping fruit juice, fresh or diluting, can lead to tooth decay.



MOBILE PHONES



There is no need for children to have mobile phones in their possession during school hours. Children who require a phone for use outwith school hours should hand their mobile in to the office at the start of the day. Any child who is found to have a phone during school hours will have it removed. The school takes no responsibility for children's mobile phones.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS

After school clubs for the North Berwick cluster can now be booked online using the following link: <https://www.activeeastlothian.co.uk/clubs/north-berwick-active-schools-primary-271>

You could also contact our Active Schools Coordinator, Stewart Sands at ssands@elcschool.org.uk Or by telephoning: 07976 377956

PUPIL PROPERTY



In order to ensure that your child returns home with all their belongings, we would request that you write their name on all of their property. We had a very large number of unclaimed items at the end of last session.

Children should not bring toys etc. to school unless requested to do so by their teacher. We cannot take responsibility for loss or damage to such items.



AROUND THE CLASSES



The Nursery Team would like to welcome all of our children, both old

and new. We are very pleased to report that the children have all settled well. We have been learning 'All About Me' and the children have been enjoying sharing fun facts about themselves and reading stories. The children will be discussing rules and the importance of them in line with our SHANARRI indicators. We are looking to develop our outdoor area, so please look out for information soon. We are planning on doing Fit Fifteen, with Primary 6, most weeks on a Wednesday morning and making use of the gym hall on a Thursday morning. Please ensure that your child has suitable footwear for these activities. Within the next few weeks, we will be looking at starting our lending library on a Tuesday. If there are any changes to your child's medical/dietary/ allergy forms please discuss this with a member of staff so we can keep our information up to date.

Parents/Carers are always welcome to come into the nursery for part of a session. If you are interested there are calendars within the cloakroom area to mark your preference or you could speak to a member of staff.

Thank you



P1 are doing a great job at remembering all of our class routines and are becoming more independent every day. All

the children are getting to know each other and are enjoying playing at playtime and lunchtime.

We are learning about our local community and I have been asking the children what they know about Gullane and what they want to learn about it. The children have enjoyed looking at a large map of the area to find local landmarks. Everyone knew where the chip shop was situated! We will visit the library later in the term. I mentioned at our Meet the Teacher evening that I would be keen for parents to come into school to talk to the children about their work, as we are learning about the World of Work. If this is something you would like to do please let me know what your job is and a time that suits you to come into school.

Number work is going well and we are learning to recognise and order numerals to 30. We have spent some time writing numbers 1 to 10. The children have enjoyed sharing, grouping and counting objects.

We have been reading some Oxford Reading Tree books in school and I will send individual reading books home around the September weekend with a keyword bag. To start with will be the family names and some commonly used words. Thanks to everyone for keeping up with the sounds homework. I understand it's a lot to do when your child has just started but the extra input at home is invaluable and really helps the fine motor control.

I am looking forward to a good year ahead; the children have made a fantastic start.

Mrs Grainger



P2 have made a good start to the session.

Over the next few weeks we will be learning about festivals and celebrations starting with the Edinburgh Festival and looking at celebrations that happen at different times of the year. This will link with our work on Time and will, hopefully, inspire us to create an assembly to share with you on Thursday 12th September. We will also be creating art work, dance routines and festival themed food!

We have started to develop our storytelling skills through stories and are using these skills to help make story maps and improve our writing too.

We now have Mathletics passwords which will be starting in class this week and sending home if you would like to do more.

New reading books will come home on a Monday - please send your child to school with this book every day. The children will be choosing a book from our library each Friday too.

Our class rule is to show RESPECT so please reinforce this at home by recognising respectful actions, looking after property, using manners etc.

Learning Journeys will be sent home every week or so, please encourage your child to share their work with you. They choose something to write and draw about. Feel free to add your comments and return to school on the Monday, thank you.

Mrs Shepherd

independently and find our way around the Chromebooks and Google Apps.

The children have been issued with their passwords for Mathletics. This site can be used at home and school to support your child's learning and it would be useful if you could assist them to log on and use it. Sometimes I will assign Mathletics tasks for homework but your child can log in and play the Maths games anytime they/you wish.

Later on in the year, the children will be able to access their Google Apps and Google Classroom from home but I will let you know when they can do this. I look forward to working with you and your child.

Mr McEwan



P3 children have settled in very well to their new class and I have enjoyed working with them. It was good to meet some of you at our recent Meet the Teacher session.

We have our own class blog at www.edubuzz.org/gullane/p3 which we will use to share useful information and our learning with you. You can sign up at the P3 website and the main school blog for emails when new posts have been published. Remember, the Google Calendar can also sync events to your tablet, phone etc.

In Numeracy, the children will be revising counting, ordering, reading and writing numbers to 100, 120 with some looking at numbers beyond these. They will also be practising addition and subtraction facts to 10 and 20, counting in 10s and identifying the value of tens and ones in 2-digit numbers, with some doing hundreds as well. Mrs MacIver will be working with the class on shape and they will be investigating calendars with me.

We will start the session by looking at helpful behaviours, along with rights and responsibilities and power and decision making. In Health and Wellbeing, Mrs MacIver will be focusing on Keeping Safe and looking after ourselves. I will be looking at 'We are Unique'. In Science, the children will be looking at the three states of water. In ICT, we will be spending initial lessons creating our own safe passwords and making sure we can log on



P3/4 are wished a very warm welcome to the start of a new session. The children have settled really well into their new location at the upper part of the school. They have a bright and supportive classroom and seem happy to be back at school. They are a ray of sunshine.

Prior to the summer break, we had a chance to share our interests and choose a focus for our learning for the first term back. As well as the main areas of learning, the children have shown an interest in finding out more about the world and, as part of the First Level Curriculum for Excellence outcomes, we have begun by developing our mapping skills, using an atlas to locate countries around the world using coordinates; finding out about the seven continents and a country within each continent. We will then move on to exploring the life and times of ancient Egypt, a popular choice.

The children will benefit from practising reading their group and individually chosen library book and they will also come home with individual words cards to practise as often as possible to continue to extend their vocabulary. We are focusing on developing our handwriting; ensuring letter formation along with spelling strategies continue to improve.

In numeracy, we are recapping knowledge of number bonds e.g. $7+3$, $8+2=10$ as this supports mental processing speed to numbers to 10 000. ($177 + 23 = 200$ the bonds $7+3$ making the ten adding to the 20 making 30 adding to the 70 to make a second 100, all this going on mentally to reach the correct solution). We will also develop the understanding of place value through addition and subtraction processes.

Mrs Simpson (Wednesday morning) will be focusing on Time and Shape up to the Christmas break.

You should all have received an individual class newsletter from me that also asks for any help or expertise you are able to provide across the session (along with a reply slip). This, as always, is greatly appreciated and I look forward to sharing our learning with you.

Many thanks,
Mrs Cowie



P4 have had a great start to the new school year and have settled in well to their new classroom. So far, we have been talking about our rights and setting up our class charter, which we have all signed.

The class has been learning about the different continents as part of their Around the World topic. We have discussed what we know and what we want to know and have initially been focusing on climates and weather before going on to look at countries in more detail. Our focus in numeracy is on sequencing numbers to 1000. In spelling, we have been revising some common words, especially words that are exceptions to the usual rules. Thank you to the parents who have offered to help with reading sessions. I will be in touch soon to organise a rota.

Mrs Revell



P5 pupils have settled in well and have made a great start to the session. I am very much looking forward to working with the class in what

will be a very busy, productive and fun year.

I met with the class prior to the summer break, when we discussed how they wanted the year to be, what they wanted to achieve in P5 and how to have a successful session. Last week, the class grouped all of their responses, enabling us to establish an agreement of the standards and expectations for the classroom for the year, this being 'Respect yourself, respect other, respect the environment'.

We have started looking at hemispheric specialisation of the brain. A simple demonstration showed the children the difference that language processed in the left hemisphere has on the emotion

created in the right hemisphere, and we have looked at words that can create a negative emotion, replacing these with positive words with the same meaning, with a view to building more confidence and self-esteem and thereby raising attainment and success.

Having been given some of the Sciences Experiences and Outcomes, the children have chosen to find out about a UK ecosystem, and to contrast this with the ecosystem in a rainforest, and the pupils will be researching and presenting information in a variety of ways.

In Technologies, we've started to learn some coding using BBC micro:bits, building on the knowledge developed in previous sessions in Scratch programming.

We have started to learn some basics in German, with vocabulary and oral skills being built on a daily basis through our regular work and routines.

Mr Adamson



P6 have had a great few weeks back to school and are off to a flying start! Firstly, thank you so much to the parents who came along to the 'Meet the Teacher' evening, it

was lovely seeing some familiar faces and meeting some new ones too. Don't worry if you weren't able to come, you should have received the P6 class newsletter which has the main information on it (if you haven't, let me know and I will send one home).

In class, we are doing a little Health and Wellbeing focus at the moment on RESPECT. The children have been identifying a huge variety of respectful /disrespectful behaviours in school, in the community and at home! We will also look at friendship issues, how to avoid/manage/fix them and making sure the children know who they can talk to for help and support.

We are also going to be learning about democracy and more specifically Scottish Parliament this term. The children are keen, not only to learn about it, but to possibly try out some activities in the classroom like running our own little election, try out some debating etc. I will see if a little visit to the Parliament itself may also be possible?

The children will continue to work on numeracy and literacy skills and seem to be enjoying our S.A.R

reading sessions in class. They are doing well so far, at remembering to do their minimum of 3 reading sessions at home too - a fabby start!!

Mrs Gordon



P7 are shaping up to be a fantastic year group and have started this session with great enthusiasm and positive attitudes.

We have an exciting and busy year ahead of us and the children are enjoying some of their new responsibilities. Every day some of class go to the infant playground to help their P1 buddies settle in. The children love the buddy system and are looking forward to our learning sessions with P1, which will take place on Friday mornings.

We started our first week with a study of the American artist, Chuck Close. We analysed his unique style for creating portraits. We then created our own vision of these portraits, which we have turned out to be very effective and eye-catching!

The children will be building on their knowledge of electricity through our first science focus; creating a motorised fairground attraction. We will learn about how to use electricity safely, scale modelling and how to create technical drawings, as well as writing a scientific report. I am looking forward to seeing what wonderful creations they come up with.

In Health and Wellbeing, we have revisited the 'growth mindset' and looked at how we can adjust our outlooks with an aim to raise self-esteem and confidence. We have started the Headstrong programme that focuses on emotional and mental health and allows the children an opportunity to explore some of the issues related to this. Our class novel this term is 'Wonder' by R. J Palacio, which ties in nicely to some of the discussion points from these sessions. Miss Gordon, our P.E specialist, has started with hockey and I will reinforce some of the skills learned during our class sessions. We are also participating in a 'Fit 15' session twice a week.

In maths and numeracy, we will continue to extend understanding of place value as well as develop strategies for addition and subtraction of larger numbers.

It is wonderful to be back in school, and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my class. A great start, P7, well done!

Miss Collins

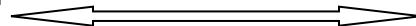
<http://www.edubuzz.org/gullane/>

DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Tuesday 3rd SEPTEMBER: 18:00 - 1140 hours meeting in school hall
- Thursday 12th: P2 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.

- Friday 13th: HOLIDAY
- Monday 16th: HOLIDAY
- Wednesday 25th: Individual and family group photographs.



- Tuesday 8th OCTOBER: 18:00 - 20:30 Learning Conversations.
- Thursday 10th: 16:30 - 19:00 Learning Conversations.
- Monday 14th to Friday 18th - HOLIDAY
- Monday 21st: In-service day. School closed to pupils.
- Tuesday 22nd: In-service day. School closed to pupils.
- Thursday 24th: P7 Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.



COMMUNITY NEWS

GULLANE BEAVERS

Beaver Scouts are for boys and girls aged between 6 and 8 years old. This is the youngest section of Scouting. Gullane Beavers meet most Friday nights during term time between 5.30pm and 6.30pm in the Village Hall. We do lots of fun activities including games, outdoor activities, crafts and visits to local places of interest all based around the children earning badges devised by the Scout Association. Children's names can be placed on the waiting list as soon as they turn 5. If you would like to place your child's name on the waiting list (or if you would like further details) please e-mail gullanebeavers@outlook.com with your child's name and date of birth. Please note that we are currently full for P3 & P2 aged children but can still accept names on the list for P1 children at this time.

GULLANE PARISH CHURCH

Gullane Parish Church invite you to join our junior church programme.

JAM club, for children aged 3 and over, will begin on Sunday 8th September at 09:40 in the Church. The children will share the first 10 minutes of the service then go to the Church Centre for stories, games and crafts, based on the theme of the day. A crèche for younger children is also available.

For more Information www.aberlady-gullaneparishchurches.org.uk www.facebook.com/aberladyandgullanechurchforchildren



GULLANE COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S HUB

Gullane Playgroup and Gullane After School Club merged in August to form the Gullane Community Children's Hub. They will be holding an Open Day/Family Day on Saturday 7th September from 2-4pm. Activities, crafts and homebaking for all the family and an opportunity to meet the staff and committee. They will also be holding their AGM immediately following this, at 4pm. All are welcome. Please come and support this new community organisation.

There are still some spaces at both Playgroup (including the new pick up from School Nursery and Afternoon Playgroup sessions) and After School Club. They will also be setting up a Breakfast Club in September. Please follow them on Facebook and Twitter @GullaneCCHub or e-mail them at admin@GullaneCCHub.org for more information or to register. Ad hoc spaces also available.