



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION WORK



Welcome back to what has been a very strange start to a school session. At the moment, we are still getting used to the 'new normal' and trying to adjust to the new guidelines, which change on a regular basis. The most obvious impact in school is that class 'bubbles' are not able to mix and this means that we cannot come together as a school for assemblies etc. It also means that, in the meantime, *adult visitors to schools should be strictly limited to those that are deemed essential to support children and young people.* Unfortunately, as well as not being able to hold face-to-face meetings with parents, we will not be able to have parent helpers in school. We are currently awaiting guidance on how we should hold what would normally be face-to-face reporting session to parents.

We would like to welcome Mrs Hill who takes up the role of probationary teacher in P6. Mrs Cooper has returned from maternity leave to teach P1/2 in partnership with Mrs Hope. Mrs Revell has returned to join us, part-time, as a supernumerary teacher..

Deonaid M. McCullivray



HOLIDAY

The school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 18th September. It will re-open as normal on Tuesday 22nd September.
See our website for this session's holiday dates.



This time last session, we were looking forward to the start of work on the extension to the school; however, planning issues and then COVID-19 pushed that back. We are now at the beginning of the build and Grahams are currently putting in drainage pipes prior to starting work on the foundations. So far, we have found the builders to be very considerate in keeping noise to a minimum when the children are in class. There will be some internal works required to put in electrical cables etc. but this will be done at weekends or during holidays. Due to the work being done on the new nursery, our Support for Learning room is now out of use so Mrs Jones has based herself in the upper library.



We would remind all parents/carers and children of the need for caution when travelling around the school whilst construction work is taking place. If you have to drive in and around the school please take note of the unofficial one-way system shown on page 5.



ONLINE PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL



As you are aware, payments to school should be made online only via Schoolpay. If you have not activated your account, please contact the school office who will provide the relevant information.

Payments for the PTA should returned in a sealed envelope clearly marked Gullane PTA and cheques 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 continue to 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 via Google Meet 7.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd September. A link will be sent out nearer the time. Items for the

agenda can be given to any PCC member.

All parents/carers are welcome to join.



CHILDREN'S ABSENCE

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

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

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

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.



SCHOOL LUNCHES



Although our normal school meals service is currently unavailable, I'd like to highlight that our catering team continue to prepare delicious packed lunches, which can be delivered daily by our catering teams to classrooms in school.

The packed lunches, which offer a choice of two filling options, are available to those eligible for free school meals, as well as those who wish to purchase and pre order via SchoolPay.

Find out more about eligibility for and how to apply for free school meals.

In line with council procedures, which reflect increases in costs including inflation, the price of school meals has increased this term by 5p - taking the cost to £2.10 in primary schools and £2.35 in secondary schools.

We will provide a further update on school catering options in due course.



LEARNING CONVERSATIONS



Last session we changed the format of our parent/carer meetings to become a learning conversation between learners, parents/carers and teachers.

Unfortunately, due to school closure, we were only able to hold two out of the three planned sessions. It would be our intention, once again, to hold three meetings with proposed dates of:

- Tuesday 13th October and Thursday 15th October
- Tuesday 2nd February and Thursday 4th February
- Tuesday 25th May and Thursday 27th May

Prior to each Learning Conversation, you will be given a brief written report and you will receive a report that summarises your child/ren's attainment in June. As mentioned earlier, we are still awaiting guidance on how to hold what would have been a face-to-face meeting.

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.



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.

FLU IMMUNISATION



Pupils of Gullane Primary will be offered the opportunity to have one of these on Friday 9th of October. Consent information has already been sent home. For further information on the programme please visit - www.nhsinform.scot/childflu.



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.



ALLERGIES



As we have a few pupils who are allergic to nuts, we would ask that packed lunches and snacks do not contain anything with nuts. Please note - This also applies to food packaging sent in for junk modelling e.g. no Crunchy Nut Cornflake boxes. We appreciate your support with this.



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.

DOGS



In the interest of health and safety, we would like to remind you that dogs are not permitted on any part of the school grounds. We would also request that no dogs are tied to the school fence or those of our neighbours.



AROUND THE CLASSES



It is so lovely to be welcoming back our families to Gullane Nursery - it has

been a long break and we are so happy to be in nursery again. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new children and families that have joined us.

Over the next month or so, as we re-open the nursery after the lockdown, our thematic learning will focus on nurture and reconnection. Positive relationships are central to children's learning and wellbeing and we will strive to re-embed our nurture principles with an approach which recognises the important role we all have in promoting children's social, emotional and cognitive development.

While the children have been settling in, and re-establishing their relationships, we have been learning about the importance of sharing, caring and co-operating with others. We have been doing this through stories and other activities embedding health and wellbeing, literacy and numeracy.

We would like to take this opportunity to say well done to all our families, as we understand this is a different start to our session and we are very proud of all the children.

If you would like contact with the nursery team you can call or email, via the school office.

The Nursery Team

PLEASE NOTE - There is no individual class information from P1 to P7 this month as all parents recently received communication from their child's class teacher.

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 18th: HOLIDAY
- Monday 21st: HOLIDAY



- Friday 9th OCTOBER: Flu immunisation.
- Tuesday 13th: 17:00 - 19:30 Learning Conversations.
- Thursday 15th: 16:30 - 19:00 Learning Conversations.
- Monday 19th to Friday 23rd - HOLIDAY
- Monday 26th: In-service day. School closed to pupils.



COMMUNITY NEWS

GULLANE COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S HUB Childcare - Playgroup, After School Club and Breakfast Club

The Gullane Community Children's Hub runs a Playgroup for pre-school children (aged 2-4) as well as a Breakfast Club and After School Club for Primary aged children. There is still some availability for most sessions. They may also run a Holiday club over the October break, if there is sufficient demand. For more information or to register interest, see their website www.GullaneCCHub.org or contact Judy Park, Manager on Manager@GullaneCCHub.org.

Join the Gullane Gander to raise funds for The Hub.

The Gullane Community Children's Hub is holding their first fundraising event of the year - The Kilt Walk. Families are invited to take part in a (socially distanced) Gullane Gander following a choice of mapped out routes around the village and local countryside at some point during the weekend of the 12th/13th September. The Hunter Foundation will be contributing an additional 50% of all funds raised. More information including the routes available, activities planned and how to join in or how to sponsor those taking part can be found on their website www.GullaneCCHub.org/fundraising

Hilary Smyth
Business Manager
Gullane Community Children's Hub



Congratulations go to Abbie Lindsey who has gained her charity Brownie badge. She set up an alfresco restaurant in the family garden and invited her grandparents and godparents. She created her own three course menu and did all of the cooking herself. Abbie raised £230 for the Edinburgh Cat and Dog home.

