



GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL
DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's a very strange feeling to be writing my last ever newsletter as a head teacher but it is even stranger not to be including some of the activities that would normally take place at this time of the year. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions have meant that there is no concert, pantomime or visit to the church. Despite this, I know that staff are doing their best to make this a special time of year for your children.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, pupils and parents of Gullane Primary for the support I have received during my short tenure as head teacher. I know that you will welcome Mr Taylor and work alongside him to support the children of Gullane to grow, develop and shine in the future.

I hope that everyone has a restful and relaxing Christmas break and I wish you all the best for the future.

Keep well.

Mrs McGillivray



HOLIDAYS

The school closes at the usual time on **Tuesday 22nd** December and re-opens for pupils at the usual time on **Wednesday 6th** January 2021.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL



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

gullane.ps@gullane.elcschool.org.uk 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.



THANK YOU, PTA



We have had a number of reports from parents and children letting us know how much they enjoyed the PTA Halloween Scavenger

Hunt. Thank you to all of those involved in organisation of this.

The PTA have, once again, kindly agreed to cover the cost of our parties, which will take place on the last two weeks of term. They had also agreed to cover the cost of our whole school pantomime, Cinderella, which, unfortunately, we have had to postpone until next December.

Please support the PTA by taking part in their Reindeer Ramble on Saturday 12th from 12:00 until 15:00.

Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day is on Friday 11th and, as in the past, we would be very happy if the children were to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper. If your child does not have one you do NOT have to buy one. We would also be happy with a festive coloured t-shirt. No Christmas jewellery or accessories please.

You can make a donation to Save the Children by clicking on the following link: <https://claim.savethechildren.org.uk/> quoting reference number CJD200010206 and verification code 1020, then entering the amount you wish to donate.



CONSTRUCTION WORK



You will have seen that the floor slabs have been laid in the new class areas, the sports hall and the nursery. This was very interesting

for the children, and staff, to watch. We are grateful to the construction workers for taking the time to explain this process to some of our classes.

As you will have seen in the recent Graham's Community Newsletter, it won't be long until the metal framing is put in place. This will be followed by metal sheeting and then the timber/metal cladding or blockwork.

The work is progressing as planned and, weather permitting, we are still on track for the nursery to be finished by Easter.



NOROVIRUS



As if we didn't have enough to contend with, this is the time of year when Norovirus outbreaks can occur.

Cases usually start to appear during the autumn, peaking during January. The symptoms usually last for 12 to 60 hours and often start with the sudden onset of nausea followed by projectile vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

Norovirus is very infectious and it takes a very small amount of the virus to cause ongoing spread. Anyone who is affected should remain at home until they have been symptom free for 48 hours. We would really appreciate your support with this.



DAVE'S DAD JOKES 2



Hello All,
I am getting in touch with everyone to let you know of the launch of my latest charity joke book, "Dave's Dad Jokes 2".

I am trying to raise money which will go to support self-employed and freelance musicians in these tough times, through the charity Help Musicians.

A lot of artists are really struggling now as they have had no work since March, many of our most talented people are giving up the profession to try to survive.

The books make ideal stocking fillers for Christmas or just a perfect gift for lovers of the Dad Joke. They cost £4.00 minimum donation per book (you can give more if you wish). Books can be collected from school and payment can be made through my Just Giving account:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/david-robb-1>

So, please help out and have a laugh!

Dave Robb - Brass Instructor, Gullane Primary School

MEDICAL FORMS



Before any medication can be administered to pupils during the school day, parents/carers must complete the appropriate form.

These are available from the school office or our website.



BUILDING RESILIENCE



CHALLENGE
YOUR MINDSET

We have just launched Unit 4 of this programme - Challenge Your Mindset. In this unit, Skipper gives up when he finds something hard to do. He learns the importance of developing a growth mindset. He teaches the children about their

brains and how these are constantly changing with what we repeatedly think, feel or do. Once children understand this, it can be a useful starting point to explore the impact on their choices in and out of school.



CHRISTMAS CARDS



In previous years, we have requested that children do not exchange Christmas cards in school. In the past, this has been so that no child feels left out; however, this year it is both for that reason and to

reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. We would greatly appreciate your support with this.

GIFT IDEAS



As mentioned in last December's newsletter, according to the Trussell Trust, 'the largest ever poll into poverty shows that nine in ten Brits

think hunger is a problem in the UK.' This means that there will be families living locally who are struggling to put food on the table. This year, the effects of COVID-19 on the economy will have made this even worse. At this time of year, when there is perhaps a greater focus on eating and drinking, it would be good to stop and think about these people and do something to support them. So, rather than thinking about a present for your child's teacher, we would like to suggest that you make a donation of food. There are drop-off points at North Berwick Community Centre, North Berwick Nisa, North Berwick Tesco and at Gullane Parish Church. Foods to consider are:

- tinned vegetables, including potatoes
- tinned meat and fish
- tinned fruit
- long-life fruit juice
- rice
- jam
- rice pudding

Alternatively, you might like to consider supporting Oxfam or Save the Children through the purchase of a 'virtual' gift. £5 buys a Super Seeds gift voucher that helps women to support their families. £11 buys winter clothes for a child. Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity would also be grateful for any donations.

If you are interested in the above here are a couple of links to look at -

<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped>

<https://shop.savethechildren.org.uk/product-category/virtual-gifts/>

<https://eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk/>



PARENT PARTNERSHIP



The next meeting will take place, via Google Meet, at 19.00 on Wednesday

27th January. The link will be posted on the school website.

All parents/carers are welcome to join in.



AROUND THE CLASSES



Throughout November, the children enjoyed learning all about day and night, nocturnal

and diurnal animals and how to travel safely. In December we will be moving onto Christmas.

Key dates for the diary:

- Tuesday the 8th and Wednesday the 9th for our Christmas lunch. We thought it would be a lovely day to wear our Christmas jumpers to celebrate Christmas Jumper Day. If you do not have a Christmas jumper, please do not rush to buy one as we will have some available in the nursery for dressing up.
- Thursday the 17th and Tuesday the 22nd are the dates for our parties. Nursery will be providing lunch for the party so your child will not require a packed lunch, or to order a school lunch, on those days.

During our thematic learning, amongst other things, we will be discussing the Christmas Story, making Christmas crafts and tasting yummy, traditional Christmas food.

On our return from the Christmas break we will be moving onto winter, discussing the changes around us and, of course, listening to the children's voices about where they would like their learning journey to take them.

The Nursery Team



P1 have been very busy learning sounds through the use of Jolly Phonics and we have now moved onto a new stage of our

learning. Everyone should be proud of the effort they have made to learn and write these sounds at home. Please still spend time revising the sound cards and we will be continue to revisit them in school.

On Mondays we will learn about alternative sounds e.g. y sounds like 'ee' - teddy, hilly etc. On Tuesdays we will be thinking about capital letters and matching them to the lower case letters; we will also work on our handwriting skills. On Wednesdays we will develop our writing as we all try to sound out words and write sentences related to a picture. On a Thursday we will write our own personal story.

Homework has changed and will be given out on a Monday and should be returned on a Friday.

In Numeracy, we have been counting forwards and backwards and are learning about addition and number stories to 10. We are also still working on recognising numerals and saying the next 3 numbers in a sequence, both forwards and backwards. We have done lots of practical work on telling o'clock times. The children also enjoyed painting seasonal trees, which cheer me up when I pass them in the corridor. We will learn about 2D shape and symmetry before Christmas, which should be fun.

In PE, we have been going to the astro turf and have been improving our ball skills and our gross motor skills. We have made a start on learning a Scottish dance for our party. Wow, I was exhausted after that first lesson!

The class have produced some really lovely Starry Night pictures, in the style of the Scottish artist Jo Lo Mo. which twinkle away all day. The children have also been enjoying BBC drama workshops on Space, The Gruffalo and Room on the Broom.

The class has been taking part in 'assemblies' based on the school Building Resilience programme and these have provoked many thoughtful discussions.

I am looking forward to completing many Christmas activities with your children. I hope you can all enjoy the run up to Christmas as much as possible. It will certainly be a different festive season this year. Well done, P1 children, you have been working hard this term.

Best Wishes to everyone for the New Year.

Mrs Grainger



P1/2 have been learning all about the Victorians and have very much enjoyed comparing life during that period to our

lives today.

We are beginning to look at different religious festivals starting with Hanukkah.

Primary 1 are now on step 2 of their phonics and are working hard to use their sounds from Step 1 in their reading and writing activities. Primary 2 have been learning about verbs and how to correctly use these in past tense.

In numeracy, P1 and P2 have continued to work on addition and subtraction and using a range of strategies to solve problems. We will also have a focus on pattern and time.

We very much look forward to getting ready for the Christmas period when we will be doing lots of Christmas craft and learning to sign along to a traditional Christmas song.

Mrs Cooper and Mrs Hope



P2/3 have been working really hard. In Number, we have been looking at arrays for multiplication and division, halving and doubling and addition strategies. We have also

been learning to tell the time in quarters and recognising and creating symmetrical patterns. We continue to use Mathletics to consolidate new learning.

Our IDL topic this term is Around the World. Due to the diverse variety of families we have in P2/3, the children decided they wanted to learn about different countries and families. The children have been talking about the different links they have to different countries and have discussed family trees and inheritance. They have been researching countries and writing about places that are special

to them. We have also been writing about Gullane and what makes it our community. We have been learning about maps and using simple grid reference to give directions.

As well as this, we have been listening to stories from around the world; some from other religions like the story of Rama and Sita from Hinduism and some traditional tales like Aesop's Fables and the African story of Anansi the Spider. We have been talking about morals and what we can learn from these stories, linking these to our own school rules. Some of these stories we have been turning into dances, linking different movements together to different types of music to tell a story. The children have been working individually, in pairs and in groups to do this.

The children have been working on cooperation and teamwork skills, which has been evident in our outdoor PE lessons. We have been learning ball skills - passing in different ways, whilst also remembering to stay focussed and concentrate when playing different active games.

In Literacy, we have been working on comprehension skills; answering questions on different types of texts. We have also been learning about using adjectives to make our writing more exciting, using connectives to expand our writing and using pronouns too. We have also been organising items by putting them into alphabetical order.

In Science, we have been learning about the properties of water and how different materials change when they are heated and cooled.

Thank you for continuing to engage with the children's learning in Google Classroom. It is brilliant to see the children engaging outside school and sharing their, often inventive, homework in class. I am so proud of all the class, how well they are concentrating and developing every week. Please keep an eye on Google Classroom for festive news over the next few weeks.

Ms Gordon



P3 have been, as always, working very hard. They have been enjoying creating their own nameplate and started to do a picture of a Victorian pupil with Mr Connell. One

of them was so excited about their drawing that they went home and did another one from memory!

In Numeracy, we have been looking at differentiated outcomes for number numerals and sequences to make sure we can sequence the numbers we have been working with and extend this range. Some of the children were rounding to the nearest 10, 100 or 1, 000 and we have all been discussing the value of the digits in our group numbers work. We have also been counting in 10s and doing Time and calendar work with Mrs MacIver, and problem solving on some Fridays.

All of the children have now been working on a weekly spelling sound and Rainbow Common Words at home and school. It has been so encouraging to see the progress all children have made with their reading, and their groups reflect this. After enjoying a Halloween Drama about a haunted waxworks we have spent a few weeks building up descriptions of the building and writing what we thought happened next in the story. In French, we have been revising basic greetings, feelings along with classroom words and commands.

In Health and wellbeing, the children have continued to think about positive characteristics and ways they can care for themselves and have created some mobiles with these things on them. We have, along with the rest of the school, just started the next unit of Building Resilience. I have been very impressed that the class has come ready for outdoor PE lessons and have shown a positive attitude when the weather has not been ideal.

For our IDL, which focuses on People, past events and societies, the children have chosen the Victorians as a context and so far have been studying a timeline from that period and looking at information about Queen Victoria, workhouses and the jobs that children did. We will be looking at children's toys then and comparing them to today's, then moving on to looking at Victorian schools and Christmas. The children worked hard on their Mind maps when researching jobs. We have also been looking at our own rights as a child and the responsibilities we have to others due to those rights.

The children (and parents) have been well organised in checking and completing weekly homework tasks in Google Classroom; these are now mainly spelling with some numeracy. It is always encouraging to see the

photos and hear about the tasks the children have done at home.

The class has chosen a library book from the Upper Library to can read at home and school. Due to the current situation, the next P3 library session is timetabled for 14th December and books should be returned by then.

Thanks, as always, for your support

Mr McEwan



P4 have had a very productive term, we are currently developing our subtraction methods in Numeracy. Mathematics activities have been set to support the children's understanding of these operations and, of course, the children can log on to the Mathematics site at home to share and develop their understanding with you. In Maths, we are investigating measure so looking at packaging and units of measure, even home baking will further raise your child's awareness of how we use measure in real world contexts.

Well done to those of you who are engaging with the home learning tasks including the weekly spelling focus words. I have added a new spelling activity grid to support practice at home. I hope you are finding the weekly learning updates useful as these are provided to keep you informed with our P4 key learning of the week.

I hope you enjoyed seeing the children's Christmas Animal themed artwork which you were given the opportunity to order as Christmas cards, organised through the PTA.

We are currently finding out about about People, past events and societies, looking at sources of evidence relating to the life and times of the Vikings. Locating the Scandanavian countries on a world map, learning who the Vikings were, where they came from, why they came to British shores and Scotland, how they got here, where they settled, how they lived. We hope to share our knowledge with you remotely before Christmas.

Continue to be safe, Mrs Cowie



P4/5 have been writing some poetry, in Literacy. The first one was a poem about friendship, with a free choice of structure. We then

looked at Haiku poems, and the pupils each wrote their own based on what we see, hear, feel and smell in autumn. We have displayed these alongside some lovely art work - the friendship poems are up alongside the Japanese chibi characters that the class did on themselves, and the Haiku are up with some chalk and pastel pieces with an autumnal colour palette made with stencils of different leaves. We will soon be starting a poetry competition with our Associated Schools Group, and we have been exploring concepts in grammar that will help when we come to draft, edit and publish individual pieces on the theme of '2020 - that's plenty!'. We are also doing some creative writing based on our interdisciplinary learning topic of The Jacobite Uprisings. The children are researching what life was like for a Jacobite soldier at the time of the Battle of Culloden, and will write a personal account of the events leading up to and during the battle.

In Numeracy, we continue to focus on mental maths at the beginning of lessons, reinforced by home-learning tasks on times tables. It is super to see in class how much progress is being made here. We are currently working on fractions, spending the first couple of weeks using Cuisenaire rods to establish a good understanding of the concepts involved, before starting on written activities to identify basic fractions, to determine what fraction of a shape has been chosen, and to recognise and be able to find equivalent fractions. We will then be finding basic fractions of numbers, then finding any fraction of a quantity. In Maths, the children are learning to identify different types of angles, to name angles using letters, to measure angles with a protractor, and to draw angles accurately.

In Health and Wellbeing, we have finished unit three of the Building Resilience programme, which focused on respecting yourself. We will soon be starting the next unit, which looks at challenging your mindset. This theme links well to the work on the brain and positive language that we did back in August, so we will be further developing how this

can impact on self-esteem, confidence and achievement. We have also been doing some challenges that develop a variety of skills essential for life, such as teamwork, cooperation, sharing ideas and listening to others, critical thinking, and agreeing on a solution. The class enjoyed seeing if they would 'survive' being lost at sea by ranking fifteen items in order of usefulness. I'm happy to report that we still had a full cohort at the end of the task!

We also enjoyed a RAF Expedition Antarctica, which explored many aspects of Sciences, Technologies, Engineering and Maths (STEM). This task involved choosing the most useful item to meet a set of criteria in six different categories, which were food, clothing, shelter, transport, communication, and maps. Each group did fantastically well, matching most of the items chosen by the RAF team.

In PE, the class has been working with Miss Gordon on core strength and stamina through circuit training, and have also started learning some Scottish Country dances. In the weeks when the class does not have Miss Gordon, we have been outside enjoying ClubGolf activities, and we have been lucky to have had some super weather for this. In music, the class now has Miss Askew every fortnight, and the pupils are learning some tunes on the glockenspiels. We are also learning to sign a Christmas song, which was chosen by the class, as we are still unable to sing together. We have started storyboarding this, before videoing and then learning how to edit clips to produce a finished piece to share.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas,

Mr Adamson



P5/6 is having a very busy term. Our IDL topic is H₂O which lends itself to such a wide variety of learning! After doing some research on water in the world, oceans and other

water sources, the children went on to do a variety of experiments to learn about the 'Water Cycle', evaporation, condensation, precipitation and accumulation. They have been exploring 'density' - making some fantastic 'density rainbows' and discovering how salt and sugar affect the density of

water. We will continue by learning about buoyancy, water purification, water conservation and a little about hydropower. I was highly impressed with the presentations the children did on various 'water' subjects, varying from specific rivers, lochs, waterfalls to more scientific based subjects. They were fantastic and we all learned a huge amount!

In literacy, we continue to regularly read aloud in class, to read silently for enjoyment and do various reading activities - focusing on a variety of skills. In writing we have been learning how to vary the way we open sentences and will be trying out some poetry on the run up to Christmas. We are also getting very good at being able to record results of our science experiments and use an effective format to report our findings.

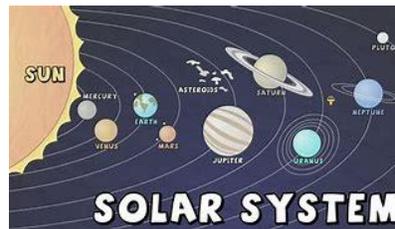
'Angles' have been our focus in maths the last couple of weeks and the children are getting much more confident at identifying, naming, measuring, drawing and calculating angles. We will move on to use our knowledge of angles to help us when learning more about compass points and giving accurate directions. We continue to work on areas of numeracy, including times tables, regularly in class and it really helps the children if they can practise these often at home too!

Our Health and Wellbeing programme is going well and the children enjoyed thinking about their own strengths and things they like about themselves and each other. We are going on to do some revision on having a 'Growth Mindset' and how this impacts on our learning.

We have Mrs Askew, our music specialist, at the moment and the children are loving their guitar lessons! In P.E, Miss Gordon is doing some socially distanced social dance outdoors - some very creative, fun things going on! With myself, we have started the 'Club Golf' series of lessons which we will hopefully complete after the Christmas break - weather permitting.

Although things will be quite different this year, we still plan to do lots of lovely, fun things on the run up to Christmas and hope to generate the same festive buzz in school where we can! It's always such an exciting time. I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas break when it comes and hopefully a happy and slightly more 'normal' 2021!

Mrs Gordon



P6 has had a great start to the second part of term. In maths and numeracy, we have been focusing on measurement, times tables, rounding and estimation, and negative numbers. We will be moving on to division, fractions and decimals in the run up to Christmas. We have been developing our French vocabulary and completed a number of pieces of creative writing inspired by our class novels, Fortunately the Milk and Kensuke's Kingdom. Well done to all of the pupils who have been engaging with the spelling and Mathletics homework set every week, and who have been trying out the NRICH maths challenges on Google Classroom.

Our IDL topic is "Space and our Solar System". We have been learning about stars, comets, asteroids and meteors and have created a model solar system on the classroom wall. We have started researching the planets of our solar system. In the next few weeks, pupils will be taking part in a joint presentation on one planet. The class did really well with their investigations into reflection and refraction and then successfully applied that knowledge to understand the different types of telescope used to investigate our solar system. We are also doing a series of STEM tasks as part of our Astronaut Training Programme, including planning for a trip to Mars and designing a Mars Rover. We would appreciate it if parents and carers could send in a few small cardboard boxes in the next week or two for this last task. These will be quarantined before being used in class. Pictures of the finished vehicles will be put up on Google Classroom.

Mrs Hill



P7 has been working really hard throughout this term. We have been thoroughly enjoying our WW2 topic and the children have shown a wide range of knowledge about the subject from the efforts of the

Home Front to major battles and key political leaders. We enjoyed an online presentation from the Museum of Flight at East Fortune and learned lots of interesting facts about what it meant to be a pilot in the war. More recently, the class were transported back in time to experience what a school morning might have been like in 1940, complete with a much stricter teacher! I think the majority were quite happy to be back in 2020 by lunchtime, but they enjoyed the novelty. As we conclude our topic, the class have been sharing their significant person presentations and I must say how impressed I have been at both the quality and the detail they have included, very well done!

As we move into December, we shall have a short science focus in which we shall be learning about the three branches of science in more detail and about the lives and discoveries of different scientists. The children will be encouraged to explore this at home with a home learning practical task.

In maths and numeracy, we have been continuing to work on using the four operations efficiently and with confidence. We have also been revisiting and expanding our knowledge or shape (2D and 3D), tessellation and tiling, symmetry and lines which will lead us into developing our knowledge of angles and bearings as we come to the end of this term.

Our Christmas production of Snow White is coming along swimmingly! The children have all worked really hard to learn their lines and remember their cues. I have been very impressed with their efforts. We hope to have the performance filmed and available for you to watch by Monday 21st December. Details of how to view will be communicated nearer the time.

A huge well done to our amazing Euro Quiz team who competed in the final earlier this term. They worked extremely hard and I was very proud of them. Well done, team!

Thank you for your continued support this term. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break when it comes.

Miss Collins

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Saturday 12th: PTA Reindeer Ramble. 12:00 - 15:00
- Monday 14th: Rapunzel virtual pantomime from the Brunton Theatre.
- Thursday 17th: Nursery party
- Friday 18th: AM - P7 party
- Monday 21st: AM - P4 and P4/5 parties
PM - P5/6 and P6 parties
- Tuesday 22nd: AM - P1, P1/2 and Nursery parties
PM - P2/3 and P3 parties

School closes at the usual time

WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY 2021: School re-opens at the usual time

- Wednesday 27th: Parent Partnership



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. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are run by volunteers who have been through the Scout Association's appointment process.

Gullane Beavers meet most Friday nights during term time generally between 5.30pm and 6.30pm in the Village Hall (although currently due to covid we meet outside at variable times). 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 email gullanebeavers@outlook.com with your child's name and date of birth. Please note that we are currently full for P4, P3 and P2 aged children but can accept names on the list for P1 children at this time.

*Please note that we often have more children on the list than we have spaces for in that year group. We allocate spaces in line with the ethos of Scouting of fairness and inclusion.

To maximise your child's chance of getting a space email us as soon as your child turns 5.