

Issue No 10 - 20th November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

This week has seen another set of measures put in place as we adapt and change due to the impact of Covid-19. On Friday of last week, we were informed that one of our children tested positive for Covid; we immediately informed Public Health England and following their guidance and instruction, we sent home a number of children as opposed to sending home a class or a bubble. We continue to adhere to social distancing, face visors are worn by all staff, high touch surfaces are cleaned twice daily in addition to our regular daily routine to keep our children and staff as safe as possible. Hand gel stations are available throughout the school and children are asked to wash and sanitise their hands throughout the day. We will also continue to ask the children the daily health questions and rely on parents to strictly follow government guidance.

This week saw the launch of our first online phonics training for parents led by Mrs Hilton. Using Zoom, Mrs Hilton gave a masterclass on what phonics is, how it is delivered across Goosewell Primary Academy and the importance of phonics as the foundation for children's reading. Well done Mrs Hilton and thank you to all the parents who attended the session. I am sure there will be more of these sessions to come.

In Year 5 this week, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Piper pushed the technical boundaries as they professionally juggled delivering live lessons to half the class learning from home with the other half physically present in the room. Sounds exhausting if I am honest and I dare not make eye contact with Mrs Clarke and Mrs Piper until after the weekend! What this has meant though, is that those children who are at home receive a seamless education, through MS Teams, allowing them to return to school next week without having missed core learning, negating any 'catch-up' time. The quality of teaching and level of professionalism applied to this situation cannot be underplayed and I am in awe of what Mrs Clarke and Mrs Piper, with the assistance of Mr Hele, have achieved this week; thank you. The children in class and at home should also be thanked for their patience and attitude to learning as the class navigated the delicate balance of technical and virtual interaction. I would also like to thank the parents for ensuring children are online and ready to work.

If you do have any questions at any point, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff or myself. In the meantime, I do wish you and your families a restful weekend.

Best wishes



James Gentile
Headteacher

This week's virtue is:

Unity...the quality or state of being made one.



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This week's year group news...

Reception Another Julia Donaldson favourite will enhance our learning over the next couple of weeks as we take the wintery tale of 'The Gruffalo's child' as a focus text. The children will be creating repeating patterns in a cave painting, making shadow puppets to retell the story and investigating camouflage. Enhanced activity will build on their phonics skills and vocabulary as they select a character from the story to write a descriptive sentence about. Repeating patterns will be encountered across the continuous provision as well as in our quick maths sessions as a key learning point this week. We are also excited to let you know that we are working on creating a 'Nativity' in a virtual form so that we can, fingers crossed, upload a safely coordinated and safely delivered show onto the Reception page of our website by the end of term. Watch this space everyone! As ever, we would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement and your much valued contributions on TAPESTRY. These mean so much to us and to your children.

Year 1 We have another busy week coming up as we delve further into our topic 'Memory Box'. In topic, we will be looking at our senses, learning what they are and how they are important. We will also learn about what needs a baby has and how we can look after them. In our writing, we are moving onto a new block of learning all about instructions. The week will focus on learning the features of instructions, reading instructions and ordering instructions. Very topical at the moment, we will learn about instructions by looking at how we wash our hands! In maths, we are learning about place value in numbers to 20, how many tens and ones (or units) are in a number. We will be counting to 20 both forwards and backwards from different starting points, ordering numbers to 20 and learning how to write the numbers in words. At some point next week, for those children who celebrate Christmas, we will need to prepare our class advent calendar...how exciting!! Thank you for checking on Teams and 'My Maths' for homework. Some of the children may have changed phonics groups, please check the letter in your child's packets for the day to change books. All year 1 children need to have their packets in school on Mondays. Thank you - so much to remember! We hope you all enjoy a healthy, fun weekend. Fingers crossed for a not quite so wet one!

Year 2 What another busy week we have had in Year 2! The children have enjoyed writing their own versions of The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig, editing and improving their writing skills as they have penned their stories. They have also worked particularly hard learning to subtract 2 digit numbers from 2 digit numbers and crossing tens in Maths this week. The children used 10s and 1s counters to help them do this and we feel we are getting there with this tricky concept. In our topic learning the children have looked at toys from the past and compared them with those from the present. The children showed impressive deduction skills when discussing the materials and how toys from the past were made. Next week, the children will start to learn about the senses and explore sight, taste and touch. They will be using their sense of touch using a feely box to identify objects by how they feel. In Literacy, we will now be moving on to a new genre of instructions. The children will learn the features of instructional text, how to use time connectives and to write verbs in both the past and present. Our Maths learning will move on to number bonds to 100 and adding 3 single digit numbers together. For our next topic homework, can we ask that families start to collect small boxes, the size of cat food pouches or washing tablets over the next two weeks? These will be used to make the children's own memory boxes. Many thanks, the Year 2 teachers.



More year group news...

Year 3 The fun has continued in Year 3 this week as we have been exploring how sound is made thinking about the vibrations through a range of experiments. Next week our topic lessons we will be investigating sound proofing. This will involve us thinking scientifically and creating a fair test. In English, we will be moving on to our new unit where we will be exploring biographies- don't forget our English research homework is due in on Friday 27th November; we are really looking forward to seeing who the children have decided to research. In Maths, we will begin looking at column addition with regrouping and column subtraction with exchanging. Our reading text continues to be 'Before John was a jazz giant' we have enjoyed reading the text thinking about the language the author has chosen and finding out more about the saxophonist John Coltrane.

Year 4 Next week, the authors in Year 4 move on from their fiction writing and head towards a new block of non-fiction literacy based on biographies. We will be studying the life of Harriet Tubman, John Lennon and Bruno Mars and using these to identify features of a biography before beginning to think of a musician that we could write about. The children have already brought home a sheet to guide them with this, so please remind them that their research homework is due in at the end of the week! In Maths, we move to the topic of geometry in which we will be exploring different lengths and converting between units of measurement (e.g., mm and cm, m and km). As their confidence grows, we will challenge the pupils to use their number skills from this term and ask them to add and subtract various lengths. In our playlist topic we will be enjoying some art sessions making observational drawings of musical instruments. Alongside this, we are continuing to learn how to play the djembe and will be learning some basic musical notation. We will also be looking at different types of instrument, the materials they are made from and how they are played.

Year 5 Year 5 have worked really hard this week whilst writing their own science fiction story based on our model text 'The Jamie Drake Equation'. We are really pleased to see the children taking such pride in the presentation and content of their writing. In Reading, we have started a new text called 'Mae Among the Stars'. The main character is asked to write about what she would like to be when she is older, so we set the children the same task. It seems as though we have a lot of future gamers, midwives and zookeepers amongst us. In Maths, we have completed our Statistics unit by reading and interpreting timetables and two-way tables. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that your child is set a weekly homework task on My Maths. There is a high number of children in the year group who are not completing these tasks so we would appreciate your support in reminding them and ensuring that they have access to a device. In our Topic sessions this week, the children have enjoyed producing a moonscape using a range of collage materials and creating a lunar chart using Oreo biscuits!

Rise To Greatness

Year 6 We've had another super-busy week in Year 6 learning how to add and subtract fractions and immersing ourselves in the story of White Fang in preparation for planning our own 'rags to riches' stories next week. We've had fun creating PowerPoint presentations about icebergs and it's great to see some of the children have been inspired to go home and make other presentations about our fascinating 'Frozen Kingdom' topic. Next week, we will be learning about how polar animals are adapted to suit their environments. 6R have enjoyed a curling session (as a wet weather alternative to foot golf) run by Mrs Walpole. Well done to all the children who have been completing the My Maths homework. We would politely request that all parents encourage their children to do these tasks as it consolidates what they have been learning in school and boosts their confidence in lessons. We hope all the children in 6WT have shared our class assembly with the people at home. This can be accessed on our Goosewell Academy You Tube channel under the 'Class Assemblies 2020-2021' playlist or by following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRjBPFtt8MQ&list=PLHCw7-5O9aBNQiMPj89DG78kaBWVsMYza>. Thank you for all the support you give your children and our school. Have a lovely weekend.



This week's highlights & reminders:

Democracy at Goosewell Academy

November 1st 2020 marked the start of UK Parliament Week across the country – an annual festival that engages young people with UK Parliament. This year, Parliament Week coincidentally aligned itself with the US General Elections and being a hot topic of conversation, here at Goosewell we seized the opportunity to delve into the virtue of 'Democracy' in greater detail by exploring the roles and responsibilities of UK Parliament first-hand.

The week began with an online workshop, hosted by members of UK Parliament, which saw the KS2 children engaging in an interactive 'What is UK Parliament?' lesson, followed by a live Q&A to consolidate their knowledge and understanding. The children interacted impressively and represented Goosewell with pride. They offered their opinions on what it means to be a Member of Parliament as well as suggested new ideas for laws and identified ways in which they could get involved themselves with the UK Youth Parliament Team. Following this, the Goosewell Live Elections commenced, whereby the children had the opportunity to run for Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Local MPs for the 2020-21 Goosewell School Parliament. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the live elections and the ballot voting system and displayed great ownership and independence in doing so.

Furthermore, the Year 6 children had the opportunity to apply for Head Boy and Head Girl, which involved writing letters of interest and presenting speeches to members of SLT, who then voted to appoint our 2020-21 Goosewell Head Boy and Head Girl.

Finally, to close the week, we voted in the new House Captains. Each house had the opportunity to elect two representatives after another round of speeches and ballot voting. These representatives will be the role models for each house and lead their teams on Sports Day, if all goes well! They will also be responsible for contributing to the Goosewell newsletter to reveal the winning Dojo Team.

Since Parliament Week, we have held our first virtual meeting of the year, with our first topic on our agenda being the current refugee crisis. The Members of Parliament are currently in discussion about how we at Goosewell can aid those in crisis – watch this space!



This week's highlights & reminders:

YouTube Success

Did you know that we now have enough subscribers to our Goosewell Primary Academy YouTube channel to fill a jumbo jet?! We have reached **500 subscribers** and are enjoying seeing that figure increase daily! If you haven't found us yet, you can subscribe [here](#) for access to all of our YouTube lessons, tutorials, class assemblies and Just For Fun channels! Feel free to share with your friends and families.



Class Assemblies

We are holding virtual class assemblies at the moment via our YouTube channel which take the place of our usual Friday afternoon family assemblies. Each class throughout the school has been allocated a date through the year for their own assembly. If your class is due to have theirs, you will be notified through the school newsletter. The most recent assemblies are now available on YouTube – if you haven't caught them yet, select the links below; they are too good to be missed!

[3MO Family Assembly](#)

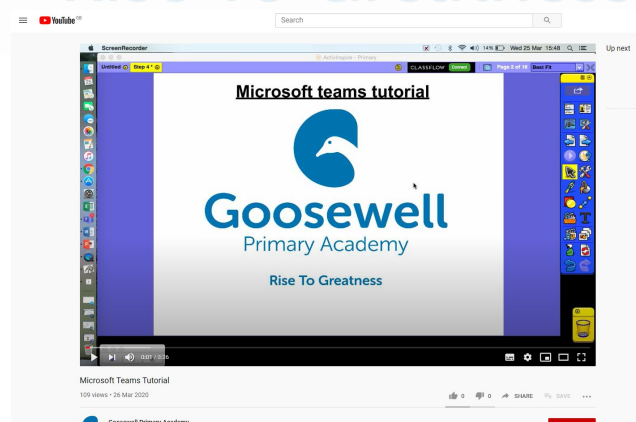
[5C Family Assembly](#)

[6WT Family Assembly](#)

MS Teams

As you will be aware, we are continuing to set home learning tasks this year and have moved away from providing a Homework Book as we develop our use of online platforms. We have seen the positive impact of using online forums for our learning during our school closure and we are continuing to build on this by using Microsoft Teams to set our weekly homework tasks. If you need a reminder how to access MS Teams, Miss Merriman has produced a great 'How to' video on our YouTube channel. You can access it here:

[How to use MS Teams - Miss Merriman's How to guide](#)



This week's highlights & reminders:

Parent Support Advisor - Jo Penk

Don't forget to look at the PSA section of the Goosewell Academy website, for information on ideas, support and activities for families throughout the year.

We have an online [Worry Box](#) link if your child has a worry that they would like some help with. By clicking on the link, or the Worry Box image, Mrs Penk can talk to your child about their worry and together they can work out how to make that worry shrink.



Click [PSA](#) to keep informed of all the most recent updates from [Plymouth Information Advice & Support for SEND](#) and [Routeways](#).

Smiles with PIAS

2nd Year Dental Students of the Peninsula Dental School are presenting online workshops for parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) with top tips to help your child maintain healthy teeth.

Sessions will take place on **Thursday 26th November 2020** and you can choose from either a morning or afternoon session:

- 10am – 11am
- 1pm – 2pm

If you would like to attend one of these sessions please email Linda Pearce at: linda.pearce@plymouth.gov.uk and Linda will send you the teams link on the day. Sessions will be allocated on a first come first served basis, as session spaces are limited to 12 per group



**PLYMOUTH
INFORMATION ADVICE
AND SUPPORT FOR SEND**



Youth Voices for Change: Under 18 Online Event with Luke

Luke Pollard MP invites under 18s to the next in his series of Zoom calls entitled 'Youth Voices for Change' – an informal discussion that will be held remotely and hosted by Luke, but led by you. In these sessions Luke hopes to understand the issues facing the youth during coronavirus and come up with potential solutions. This event will be for under 18s in or from Plymouth, who have issues or suggestions they would like to share with their peers and with Luke. We will also have Councillor Jemima Laing, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, on the call for safeguarding purposes.

Luke understands that the pandemic has impacted young people enormously; from mental health, employment opportunities, accessing support, and school and university grading and experiences. Luke wants to meet to give young people the opportunity to share their views and learn from and engage with each other. He is also keen to know how he might be able to help through his work in the city and in Parliament.

Under 18s Youth Voices for Change will be taking place on 25 November from 5.30pm – 6.30pm.

Please register in advance for this meeting via this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZYlf-iaqT0oGdyqy8MrX0Y9DqJeX83xAi8E>



Orla Kilroy
Constituency Aide for Luke Pollard MP
Labour and Co-operative Member of Parliament for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport
Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
020 7219 2749



Headteacher: James Gentile

This week's highlights & reminders:

Plymouth Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Harvest appeal for Plymouth Foodbank - you donated a whopping 234.36kgs which will go towards helping local families during these difficult times.



Read Write Inc

Read Write Inc.

Thank you to all of those families that joined me last evening for my RWI workshop. If you weren't able to join I will put all of the information I shared on our Year 1 and Year 2 web pages. If you ever have any questions or concerns with regard to RWI, please email me on: khilton@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk Thank you for all of your support. Mrs Hilton

How you can support FROGS



Please help support our school in raising valuable funds without it costing you a penny! If you make purchases via Amazon you can now use Amazon Smile and opt to select **Friends of Goosewell School** as your chosen charity to receive a donation from Amazon for every purchase you make. All you need to do is make purchases via the Amazon Smile App or website rather than the standard Amazon account after you have selected us as your chosen charity. It will cost you absolutely nothing too!

Please follow the below link to set up your Amazon Smile App or account for free (it will link to your existing Amazon account) and for every purchase you make in the future our school will benefit.

If you are planning on using Amazon for some of your Christmas shopping please remember to set this up first to help spread some extra Christmas cheer to our school and remember to share this far and wide to all your family and friends. Thank you for your support.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1051158-0>

Thank you!



Headteacher: James Gentile