

Issue No 11 - 3rd December 2021

This week's year group news...

Reception The Christmas vibe hots up as we enter this penultimate week of Term 2. We will explore 'The Jolly Christmas postman' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg as our focus text. The children will have opportunities to retell the story through a story map in small world play using sequential language such as 'first, then, finally' etc. We will be using song, dance and role-play to create further chapters in the Nativity as we build on our virtual performance for you. The children will explore making simple letters and using envelopes and stamps as well as using their best handwriting to write a message for a Christmas card. In Maths, they will look at quadrilaterals- exploring similarities and differences between a range of 4 sided shapes. We will also be comparing sets, using the language 'more than' and 'less than'. The children will have access to a wide range of festive themed creative activities, giving them opportunities to demonstrate the designing, joining and problem-solving skills that they have already acquired. Included in these creative tasks will be one with a real sense of community spirit as they make beautiful Christmas stars for the residents of Furzehatt Care home. We are feeling twinkly as our little stars continue to shine brightly. Have a lovely weekend.

[Find your Reception Year Group Page Here](#)

Year 1 What a busy week in year 1! We have been fantastic scientists this week, learning all about our teeth, investigating their different functions, grouping animals by what they eat and linking our knowledge of teeth to investigate the link between an animals diet and the shape of their teeth. We also thoroughly enjoy investigating dinosaurs' poo and the contents of their stomach. We were searching for clues to see if they were a Herbivore, Omnivore or Canivore. In Maths this week we have continued our focus on teen numbers, comparing and ordering numbers and amounts. This will continue next week. In our writing we have begun looking at newspaper reports and using our knowledge of Mary Anning's discovery, we have started to become journalists, interviewing Mary Anning, researching facts and writing notes on the event. This week we have also been busy monitoring the children individually in phonics. This has meant that we have not been going to our usual groups for phonics, we have instead been working as a whole class. Books will be back to being changed as normal when new groups have been arranged. We will aim for all children to change their story sharing book by Friday. Thank you for your understanding. Next week (Thursday) for DT we will be designing and making our own 'Sockasaurus'! Please could we ask that everybody brings in 1 adult sized sock, of any colour, in a named plastic bag. Thank you.



[Find your Year 1 Group Page Here](#)

Year 2 Year 2 have had a busy week completing our assessments in Reading, SPaG and Maths. We have been incredibly proud of the children's resilience and perseverance in completing these assessments and showing us how much they have learnt so far in Year 2. We are in the midst of practicing for our virtual Christmas performance which we will share with you next Friday. We have also been reassessing to regroup for our phonic lessons. Unfortunately, we have not yet got these completed to schedule therefore there have been no book changes this week. We will endeavour to get back on track next week. In our English lessons we will continue to read Will's Dream and will begin to write our own versions. Our maths learning will continue to focus on addition and subtraction.

[Find your Year 2 Group Page Here](#)



More year group news...

Year 3 We had a wonderful wintry time at the tree lighting – thank you to those who were able to attend. The next few weeks will be full of our usual learning but also lots of fun Christmas activities too. Next week in Maths, we will be multiplying and dividing by 3. In Writing, we will be creating our own set of instructions linked to our model text 'Beware of Boys' by Tony Blundell. In Reading, we will be working on our comprehension skills and will focus on Vocabulary, Retrieving information and Inferring character behaviour. Finally, in our topic learning we will be looking at the journey different foods take from where they grow or are produced to being sold in shops.

[Find your Year 3 Group Page Here](#)

Year 4 The lights are on and it's official – Christmas at Goosewell is off and running. A huge thank you for the effort that the children put in to making our festive tree lighting such a success! In maths, Year 4 will continue to look at perimeter and consider what has been covered the previous week and consolidate these important shape skills. We will then challenge the children to apply these measuring techniques to a variety of word problems. The writing block moves to the exciting stage where the children will invent their very own instructional text having looked at a variety of models and rehearsed the skills required. Now they will use their geographical knowledge and connect that with their writing skills to create a survival guide for anyone who may have to live through an earthquake! Now we have entered the meteorological winter time – it's official, it's getting cold. Can we please remind you that children should be coming to school with a coat ready for the bracing winds at playtime! And for those that are ready and prepared with hats, scarves and gloves, could we ask that a name is placed onto a label as that will mean things are more likely to find their way back to its owner when misplaced! Many thanks!

[Find your Year 4 Group Page Here](#)

Year 5 In English this week, we have researched facts about planets within our solar system in order to write our own non-chronological reports about them. Next week, the children will be creating their own imaginary planet to write a report about, applying the language and genre features on our success criteria. Linked to our Stargazers topic, we have created lunar charts using Oreos and working as a team. Can your child explain the task in more detail to you? We would like to take the opportunity to remind you that there are 2 weeks left before the 'Topic Homework' for this term is due to be handed in on Assignments. This week, the children have embraced the challenge of assessments in Maths, Reading and Punctuation and Grammar. It has been great to see the children taking risks to answer questions which they feel less confident about and independently working through the questions. We will use the assessment information to reflect on what the children understand individually, as a class and as a year group because this helps us to identify which objectives we need to focus our attentions on. Christmas has commenced in Year 5 as we have been rehearsing for our extravaganza, which we will be uploading to YouTube.

[Find your Year 5 Group Page Here](#)

Year 6 This week, Year 6 have further developed their fractions knowledge by successfully multiplying and dividing fractions. They will move on to finding fractions of a whole next week to bring their fractions block to an end. English lessons have seen the children develop their grammatical skills: using colons to introduce a list and to explain and semi-colons to link related clauses. They are looking forward to using these sentences next week when they begin writing their 'White Fang' stories. In reading, the children finished reading Jackie Morris's 'Ice Bear' which saw them empathising with the Inuit child character when faced with a tough decision: to live with the Inuit family or live with the polar bears. The children thoroughly enjoyed this reading text and expressed their viewpoints through a detailed book review to end the week. To prepare for the upcoming Year 6 Christmas Carol concert, the children have been practising their Christmas songs this week. We are very excited to share the outcome with you! You should have received details about the concert but as a reminder, it will be held on Wednesday 15th November at 10am, 2pm and 6pm.

[Find your Year 6 Group Page Here](#)



Headteacher: James Gentile
Goosewell Road, Plymouth PL9 9HD
Tel: 01752 482960
Email: admin@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk
Website: www.goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk

Christmas at Goosewell Primary Academy



Christmas Tree Lighting

A huge thank you for the effort that the Year 3 and Year 4 children and staff put in to making our festive tree lighting such a success! Thank you too, to Mr Daniels for ensuring that the Goosewell lights twinkle again this year; it certainly feels like the festive season is upon us now that we are all lit up!

Goosewell Primary Academy's Advent Calendar

Have you opened the doors of our online advent calendar yet? If not, head over to the school website to see some familiar Goosewell faces sharing their favourite Christmas songs, stories and jokes, each day throughout December.

[Goosewell Advent Calendar](#)



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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. Your children can also use the [Worry Box](#) link if they have a worry that they would like some help with. By clicking on the link, Mrs Penk can talk to your child about their worry and together they can work out how to make that worry shrink when we return in September. Click [PSA](#) to keep informed of all the most recent updates from [Plymouth Information Advice & Support for SEND](#) and [Routeways](#).



Christmas Cards — JustGiving Page for Children's Hospice South West

This year, children will be able to bring in Christmas cards to school for their friends, which can be posted in phase post boxes across the school and will be sorted and delivered by our Year 6 Christmas helpers. However, should you prefer to make a donation in lieu of exchanging cards this year, we have set up a JustGiving page to raise funds for Children's Hospice South West's Little Harbour Hospice. All donations are warmly welcomed.



[Goosewell Primary Academy is fundraising for Children's Hospice South West \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Goosewell-Primary-Academy)

Covid-19 reminders

Earlier this month, you will have received a letter from the Director of Public Health for Plymouth advising on the current situation in Plymouth. You can find a link to the letter [here](#). Please remember to continue to follow the NHS guidance if your child has any of the following main Covid-19 symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
2. Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test. [Check if you and anyone else your child lives with need to self-isolate.](#)

If you require any further information on Covid-19 and how to book a test, please go to [NHS Advice](#).



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Celebration Assembly:

Goosewell Primary Academy's Rise to Greatness, Writing, Maths & Reading Awards

Every Friday afternoon we look forward to our celebration assembly when children from across the entire school join together via MS Teams to participate in Mr Gentile's whole school assembly. This week's assembly saw winners collecting their Rise to Greatness, Writing, Maths and Reading awards in each phase, with our Reading award winners able to choose a winning book from our new book vending machine. Well done to the following children for receiving their well deserved awards:

	Reception	Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
Maths Award	Logan RWH <i>For applying his knowledge of number when making up maths games to play with his friends.</i>	Jonas 2MB <i>For amazing maths, adding & subtracting crossing the 10.</i>	Willow 4L <i>For real determination to persevere and succeed. Willow listens to advice & has made real progress this week—congratulations!</i>	Saskia 6S <i>For excellent mathematical thinking during our 'dividing fractions by integers' block. She has also been a super partner to her peers, showing exceptional patience & kindness, ensuring they understood each question before moving on. Well done Saskia!</i>
Writing Award	Jack S-R REH <i>For amazing progress with letter formation and 'Fred talk' when writing words.</i>	Emily 2MB <i>For using brilliant expanded noun phrases.</i>	Logan 3OC <i>For making great progress in his writing this week & writing a great recipe for making bread.</i>	Belle 6WS <i>For producing wonderful character descriptions of her protagonist and antagonist for her White Fang inspired story. She included ambitious vocabulary choices and varied sentence structures to write brilliantly imaginative descriptions. Well done Belle.</i>
Reading Award	Keian REH <i>For trying really hard to blend sounds to build words.</i>	Harper 2K <i>For being a super diligent reader.</i>	Sophie 3Y <i>For being an enthusiastic & dedicated reader—where would her class be without her great ideas?!</i>	Annabelle 6S <i>For writing the most wonderfully in-depth book review about Jackie Morris's The Ice Bear. She showed great empathy towards the main character in her review</i>



This week's **Rise to Greatness Award** goes to:

Genevieve 1T

Well done to Genevieve in 1T for being an outstanding member of our school. Always going above and beyond to help others, being kind and encouraging others to do their best, whilst always ensuring she completes her work with the upmost care and effort. She has a wonderfully positive attitude and outlook on life.



Literacy at Goosewell Primary Academy

Oracy

We develop our children's oracy skills on a daily basis through our informal conversations, class discussions, the use of sentence stems, our discussions around vocabulary and more. On the newsletter each week, we will be providing a stimulus for you to be talking about at home as a family.

Oracy Activity

Here is a simple discussion activity that you can do together as a family. The aim is to get children sharing ideas with their families and developing their vocabulary and imagination.



If you were a bird and could fly anywhere in the world right now –
where would you go and **why**?

Remember you need to explain your ideas clearly to your family. You can discuss it with them and you may even change your mind!

Literacy at Goosewell Primary Academy

Book Reviews

We are going to be including book reviews on the newsletter each week, which we would love you to encourage your child to read. The book reviews will be written by children for children. Here are some reviews for this week written by children in 6T.

Scarlet & Ivy Series recommended by Lola 6T

The first book is about a spine-tingling mystery set in a creepily atmospheric boarding school. ... When troublesome Scarlet mysteriously disappears from Rookwood School the evil Miss Fox makes Ivy take her twins place. Ivy reluctantly agrees in the hopes of finding out what happened to her missing sister.

The second book is about Scarlet and Ivy returning to Rookwood School – in their second spine-tingling mystery adventure! ... The twins' investigations through the school in the dead of night reveal a secret hidden deep within the walls, a terrible crime committed many years past, and a very real threat to their present...

I recommend the age rating as 9+ as there are confusing words. I hope you read this book I recommend it to you!

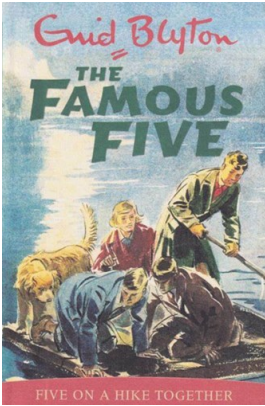
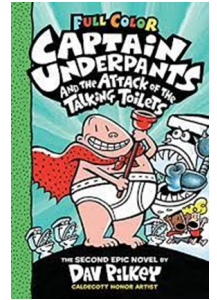


Literacy at Goosewell Primary Academy

Book Reviews

Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets by Dav Pilkey reviewed by Harry

George and Harold are really funny and imaginative. Captain Underpants is the superhero who tries to save the world by defeating the strangest of super villains. Captain Underpants is a strange superhero because of his intelligence because his intelligence is very small. He is very dumb but very funny. This book is very good and funny. I highly recommend this book because of its action and humour. There are also multiple of other books about the amazing superhero Captain Underpants.



The Famous Five by Enid Blyton reviewed by Grace

It's half term and the Five are going hiking through the woods and up the hills. But when Anne and Dick take a wrong turn, it leaves them all into danger! An escape convict is on the loose and passes a strange message to Dick by mistake. A stash of treasure has been hidden nearby – will they discover it before the prisoner strikes again?

I think the book Famous Five: Five on a Hike Together by Enid Blyton is a really good book to read. Julian, Dick, Anne and George as well as her dog, Timmy, go on a half term hike and fall into an unexpected thrilling adventure. They mistakenly receive a secret message from an escaped convict which leads them to hidden treasure. What will happen and where will the five go next?

Twitter Author Feedback!

Olivia Grace in 5N wrote a book review for our newsletter a few weeks ago about a book she had read by Liz Pichon called Biscuits, Bands and Very Big Plans. Olivia's auntie attached her review in a tweet to the author and they had a reply from Liz Pichon herself!!!! Maybe you could do the same for your own book reviews and let us know if you get a reply.



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