

## Issue No 12 - 4th December 2020

### 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. The children will have access to a wide range of festive themed creative activity, 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.

**Year 1** Christmas has well and truly begun in year 1! It seems that some of the children have had some very naughty elves arrive at home and they are very eager to update us each morning with their latest escapade. Our topic continues with a look at adults who help us. In Maths, we will start to consolidate our learning for this term. A chance to go over and reinforce key learning will be useful and build confidence. We will be looking specifically at fact families and addition and subtraction by counting forwards and backwards on a number line. In English, we continue to look at instructions. The children have impressed us with how they can remember the features of instructions. They may be able to show you some of their actions that help them to remember. Friday will be Christmas jumper day with money raised going towards St.Lukes. We look forward to seeing the children arrive to school in their festive attire! We wish you all a lovely weekend.

**Year 2** We have been very impressed with the children's literacy learning this week. The children have been able to recall and apply all the features of instructional writing. Using actions to remember each feature, the children have written wonderful instructions on how to brush your teeth, adding time connectives and adverbs to each step. In Maths, the children have started to learn about multiplication, looking at and identifying equal and unequal groups, completing this using concrete resources first, then completing mathematical sentences in their books. All the teachers have been very proud of each child's efforts when completing assessments in reading, maths, and phonics this week and we have seen lots of 'Gold Learning' - well done! Next week we will have the final week of our Memory Box topic and can we ask that each child bring in a small box from home so that they can design and make their own memory boxes next week? We will be moving on to money in Maths, recognising and naming coins and notes and the value of each. In literacy we will be finishing our instructions unit by following instruction on how to make a Christmas decoration and making our own, before writing instructions for someone else to follow to complete the same.

This week's virtue is:

**Faith...a strong belief or trust in someone or something.**



## More year group news...

**Year 3** This week we have done an amazing job completing our assessments to show how much we have learnt so far. All the teachers have been amazed by how sensibly and calmly the children have approached these assessments. Next week, we will be using our homework to write our own biography about a famous musician using our class example of a Bruno Mars biography as a model. We have explored the different aspects, structure, and language features of a biography over the last few weeks and are now ready to apply this within our own writing. We will be beginning our multiplication and division learning in Maths by thinking about equal groups. We will then move on to think about the 3 times table. Please remember any multiplication practice that you can do at home will be beneficial - Times Table Rock Stars is a fantastic resource for practicing at home. In our topic lessons, we will be thinking about different popular songs and will begin to write our own class song! We will also be practicing our Christmas performance which we will be recording and putting on to our YouTube channel during the last week of term.

**Year 4** Next week we will become songwriters! In our topic lessons we will be looking more closely at the structure of the ear and writing a song to teach younger children how sound travels to the brain. In Maths we will be moving on to multiplication. After a quick quiz at school, it is evident that lots need to practise their tables. We are planning in some time to use TTRockstars at school, but any help or TTRockstars time that you can give them at home would be invaluable. (They need to be able to recall any calculation up to  $12 \times 12$  within 6 seconds to pass the multiplication check in the summer.) Using these skills, the children will solve real-life problems involving a range of tables, including the inverse to divide. In literacy we will be writing our biographies for the musicians that we have chosen, making sure that we lay them out in a clear and purposeful way using subheadings, a range of time conjunctions and chronological order. In French we will be recapping our understanding of greetings and extending our linguistic knowledge to classroom commands! Will your child beat their teacher in a game of Simon Says?

**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 investigated gravity following our own lines of enquiry. The children enjoyed having permission to stand on a chair to carry out their investigations and have worked well in small groups! 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.

**Year 6** Wow! We have been so impressed with the children's 'rags to riches' story writing this week, using Jack London's White Fang as inspiration. Next week in English sessions, we will be creating Polar Haikus. In Maths, the children have been multiplying and dividing fractions and continuing to develop their mental arithmetic skills. Please ensure your children are completing the three to four pieces of My Maths homework each week as this consolidates their learning and improves confidence. Year 6 have had fun playing foot-golf and we have enjoyed finishing our busy writing week with two polar-themed art activities - Inuit prints and Northern Lights scenes. We have our second assessment week next week during which the children will sit practice SAT papers in preparation for the statutory tests in May. We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Year 6 Accelerated Reader Word Counts:  
6R: 5,240,473 ~ 6WT: 4,677,836 ~ 6S: 4,185,863



Headteacher: James Gentile

## This week's highlights & reminders:

Dear parents and carers

I am writing to let you know that after 5 years, Mrs Maria Manning has stepped down from the role of Chair of Governors of Goosewell Primary Academy. Mrs Manning has been hugely supportive to Goosewell over the years and has worked closely with the leadership team through two Ofsted inspections, the transition to becoming part of Reach South Academy Trust, as well as appointing myself as the new Headteacher.

Having worked closely with Mrs Manning, I am extremely grateful for her sage advice and support over the past two years. Being the Chair of Governors takes up a lot of time and presents various challenges and I would like to thank her on behalf of the school and school community for everything she has done. Mrs Manning is not leaving us completely as she has decided to stay on as part of the governing body.

I am also very pleased to inform you that Mrs Angela Jenkins, who was Vice Chair of Governors of Goosewell, has now become the new Chair of Governors. I look forward to working with Mrs Jenkins and have no doubt that she will excel in her new role.

Should you have any questions for Mrs Jenkins, she can be contacted at:

[chairgovernors@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:chairgovernors@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk)

With very best wishes



James Gentile  
Headteacher

Rise To Greatness



Headteacher: James Gentile

## Christmas at Goosewell

Christmas at Goosewell will feel a little different in this unusual year. Our traditional Christmas parties have been postponed but these are now scheduled to take place in the Spring Term along with the Dojo and House celebrations. Our sequence of Christmas events are as follows, starting off with:

### ❄ Friday 11th December 2020 - Christmas Jumper Day for St Luke's Hospice ❄

We will be holding a whole school Christmas Jumper Day in support of our local charity St Luke's Hospice. Children are invited to come to school in their favourite Christmas jumpers in place of their school jumpers, and worn with school trousers or skirts in exchange for a donation to our [St Luke's Hospice Plymouth JustGiving page](#). In order to minimise cash handling we request that no cash is brought in on the day please.

This year, sadly we are unable to invite friends and families into school, but WE WILL be celebrating and sharing Christmas with you all in a virtual way. In the final week of term, you will be able to access a new Christmas video each day via Tapestry or YouTube:

### ❄ Monday 14th December - Reception ❄

Our wonderful Reception children will be creating their own nativity and will share this with their parents, carers and families via Tapestry.

### ❄ Tuesday 15th December - Key Stage 1 ❄

Each of our Year 1 classes will be sharing a magical Christmas story, whilst Year 2 will be sharing 'The 10 Christmas Trees' with their parents, carers and families. All videos will be shared via YouTube.

### ❄ Wednesday 16th December - Lower Key Stage 2 ❄

Our fabulous Year 3 and 4 classes will be continuing with their tradition of sharing Christmas songs with their parents, carers and families - don't forget to bring your Christmas hats, scarves and gloves next week for our practices.

### ❄ Thursday 17th December - Upper Key Stage 2 ❄

At the top of the school, Year 5 and 6 will be delivering their own virtual Christmas performance, including songs, jokes and quizzes. We're all looking forward to watching this Goosewell Christmas extravaganza!

### ❄ Thursday 17th December - Children's Christmas Dinner ❄

Christmas lunch will be served in sittings on Thursday 17th December. Please ensure that your child's SchoolMoney dinner account is topped up with £2.20 by this date. Menu choices are shown on the last page of this week's newsletter. You will shortly receive an email to make your child's choices for the day.

### ❄ Friday 18th December - The Twelve Days of Christmas at Goosewell ❄

Watch this space!

### ❄ Friday 18th December 2020 - Whole School Festive Mufti Day ❄

All children (and staff!) are invited to come to school in full festive mufti on the last day of term. There will be no charge for this mufti day, however if you would like to donate to Children's Hospice South West's in memory of our special Goosewell pupil, Oliver Brown, who loved everything to do with Christmas, your donations would be welcomed by the charity.

[Children's Hospice South West](#)



## This week's highlights & reminders:

### Goosewell's School Parliament

Goosewell's school parliament had its first meeting this week to discuss the migrant and refugee crisis around the world. The children came with an abundance of ideas, collected from prior class discussions, to suggest ways in which Goosewell can raise awareness or have an impact on local migrants and refugees in Plymouth. Parliament are looking at ways to work with local Plymouth charities to see how we can play our part. Our next meeting will be this coming Friday, where the children will pitch their ideas to Mr Gentile and begin putting together Goosewell's plan of action.

### Live Lessons

Further to Mr Gentile's letter on live learning earlier this term, you will be aware that should your Key Stage 2 child need to self isolate at home or await test results at any time, they will still be expected to continue with their learning to ensure that they can return to the class without falling behind. You are asked to contact the school before 8.45am to inform us if your child is self-isolating. This will allow the staff to address the technical aspects of home learning. You will also be asked if your child has access to a device to participate in Live Lessons. We have also produced a YouTube guide to Live Learning lessons and you can find a link below:



[Goosewell Primary Academy Live Lesson Tutorial](#)

### Free School Meals

If you think your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you are not currently registered, please speak to the school office to ensure that you receive your full entitlement over the Christmas break. As a reminder:

#### Universal Infant Free School Meals and Free School Meals

##### Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

All pupils in these year groups are entitled to receive a school meal at no cost as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals grant, however, if you receive the one of the qualifying benefits for standard Free School Meals, please complete an application form as your child's school can get extra funding if you do.

##### At the end of Year 2

Universal Infant Free School Meals cease as your child joins Year 3 in September. All school meals will now require payment via [SchoolMoney](#).

##### Whole school - Free School Meals

Families who are in receipt of any of the benefits below may also be entitled to Free School Meals. Please contact Mrs Arnold in the school office for further details. If you are in receipt of the following support payments, your child will be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Universal Credit – from 1 April 2018 provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods
- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also allowed to receive free school meals.



**Headteacher:** James Gentile



## 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](#).



### Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We have been asked to say a huge thank you to the whole Goosewell community from Bill Jennings, the Plymstock Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Royal British Legion for all of your generous donations to this year's Poppy Appeal. The collecting tins here at the school raised a record breaking £520.50!



### Children's Hospice South West, 'Santas on the Run Goes Freestyle' event

Children's Hospice South West are holding a 'Santas on the Run Goes Freestyle' event this December to raise funds for Little Harbour in St Austell. It's totally free to sign up, families can choose their own route, location and distance over that weekend and skip, run, walk, cycle, sledge their way around their chosen route in festive fancy dress. We just want families to feel a part of something festive this Christmas, and help spread some Xmas cheer after such a turbulent year. And if they would like to raise some sponsorship they will be sent a commemorative Santa medal for every £15 raised for each person they register. All the information can be found here > <https://www.chsw.org.uk/event/santas-run-2020-goes-freestyle>



## This week's highlights & reminders:

Thank you to FROGs and The Anchorage on Billacombe Road for donating a real Christmas tree for our reception area this year. Although Christmas feels very different this year, the staff and pupils are able to appreciate the lovely tree when passing through the main school.



Christmas lunch choices need to be ordered in advance - please reply by **Wednesday 9th December** using the Eduspot form emailed home this week.

If your child does not want a Christmas dinner, they will need to bring a packed lunch.

If your children are in Years 3-6 please make sure that your SchoolMoney dinner account is in credit **BEFORE** Thursday 17th December by logging on to [SchoolMoney](#).

**We will be unable to accept any orders after Wednesday 9th December.**

