

4th November 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Oliver Brown

It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you that on Saturday evening our beloved pupil, Oliver Brown passed away at Little Harbour Children's Hospice in Cornwall.

Oliver made an immense and lasting impression on all the staff and his friends during his time at Goosewell Academy, having arrived in Reception; Oliver will always be remembered for his smile, his jokes and his unique sense of humour.

I am in no doubt that Oliver's passing will have an impact on the children and staff at Goosewell and we have asked Plymouth Learning Partnership (PLP) to join us from today and over the coming weeks to provide counselling and support. Mrs Phillips is also available from our own staff to provide emotional support for the children. This morning I shared the news about Oliver with Year 6. I also met with Y4DH, as this is Oliver's younger brothers' class and I am in no doubt the children will want to do their best to support Ben on his return to school. Having spoken to Oliver's parents, Nicky and Mike Brown, I know that they will want Oliver to be talked about and remembered.

Oliver's final few days took place at Little Harbour and I had the privilege to visit Oliver and his family on Friday evening. Knowing that the family were celebrating Christmas early, the staff at Goosewell made their own Christmas video specially dedicated to Oliver and Team Brown and Oliver had the chance to watch the video on one of the biggest TVs I have ever seen. The facilities and staff at Little Harbour are exceptional and Nicky and Mike would like any donations to go to Little Harbour to ensure other families continue to receive the support they had. If you feel able to do so, you can donate [here](#).

Oliver's life will be celebrated at a special ceremony and when we have the details for this event, I will share them with you. In the meantime, I will, however, pass on Oliver's advice for life,

'Just be a nice person and try to help someone everyday'.

James Gentile
Headteacher





Year Group News

Foundation Stage Next week in Reception , we will continue to explore activities centred around the text, 'Shh'. The children have really thrown themselves into this book and we have had much talk of giants and castles. They will continue to use the language of size in continuous provision. In the teacher directed learning, children will be making their own number lines and practising their already impressive number formation as well as ordering numbers and drawing sets. We aim for the outcome to be led by what the children know so number lines could be anything from 1-5 to 1-20 or more! We will continue with 'Fred Talk' to segment and blend words to read and write. The children are enjoying this! We apologise in advance if your little ones come home singing any Christmas songs but we need to start preparing for our Nativity too!

Year 1 Next week in Year 1, children will be reading the story Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs. They will be writing descriptions about the dinosaurs and creating 'Lost' posters. In Maths, we will be continuing our learning around addition and will be using lots of practical resources to help us. Now children have designed their dinosaur world shoeboxes, they can begin to create them. First step - painting the background. Don't forget our Phonics workshop for parents on Thursday.

Year 2 Next week in Year 2 the children will be measuring the possible sizes of dinosaur footprints using chalk in the playground. They will be estimating and measuring the footprints then matching them to their dinosaur owner! They will also be learning to say several dinosaur names using the syllables in each adding actions to help to remember how to say them. In English, the children will be continuing with Where The Wild Things Are and creating their own story maps in order to create their own story. They will be writing expanded noun phrases to describe characters in their story and considering which wild things will be in their own stories. The children in Year 2 will be completing past SATs paper for both arithmetic and reasoning to give teachers an indication of areas to work on and where strengths lie.

Year 3 Year 3 have had an exciting start to our Predators topic with a visit from Dartmoor Zoo, who brought lots of animals for us to meet and learn about. We also enjoyed programming the Bee-Bots to navigate around a grid avoiding the predators. Over the next few weeks we will be learning more about different sorts of predators including carnivorous plants. We are continuing to think about Addition and Subtraction in Maths using manipulative to help us with exchanging. We have begun looking at a new text in our English lessons 'The Diary of a Killer Cat' and are learning extracts from the story to help us develop the vocabulary in our own writing.

Year 4 Year 4 have started the term with a jukebox of music to kick off their 'Playlist' topic. The children will continue to explore music and how we hear different sounds in their topic and science sessions. In English, Year 4 have looked at different fables with a particular focus on The Town Musicians of Bremen. They will break down the story into its parts ready to plan their own versions. In Maths, Year 4 will use their knowledge of four digit numbers to convert metres to kilometres. They will then move on to calculate the perimeter of rectilinear shapes by counting squares on a grid. The children will begin to calculate the perimeter of rectilinear shapes from diagrams without grids and will need to apply their knowledge of missing numbers to work out dimensions by finding the difference.

Year 5 Term 2 has got off to an exciting start in Year 5 with our visit from the Explorer Dome! The children were very excited to crawl into the dome and thoroughly enjoyed their journey through our solar system. In English, we have been reading The Jamie Drake Equation as we will be writing our own science fiction stories within the next 3 weeks. Can your child summarise the plot of the story for you? In Maths, we have been interpreting line graphs and representing data on a line graph. Next week, the children will be interpreting timetables. We will also be carrying out an investigation to find out how craters are formed. If your child has not brought their kit back from the term break, please can you ensure that it is in school next week.

Year 6 Next week, Year 6 will begin to look at fractions in maths beginning by simplifying fractions and building up to ordering and comparing fractions. In English, the children will plan their own rags to riches tale using 'White Fang' as a model text to support their writing. In topic, we will study the Titanic and the living conditions of the different classes on board. The children will put themselves in role as if they were one of the passengers onboard and write a telegraph home describing their experience. In Science, we will begin to study food chains within the polar regions.

Next week's virtue is.....

Service: Contribution to the welfare of others, with a special focus on the Armed Forces, as we prepare for Remembrance

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we have only been back to school for one week. As it is the start of a new half term, this means that the children have started their new topics:

- ☆ Reception: Winter & Christmas
- ☆ Year 1 / 2: Dinosaur Planet
- ☆ Year 3: Predators
- ☆ Year 4: Playlist
- ☆ Year 5: Stargazers
- ☆ Year 6: Frozen Kingdom

To help 'hook' the children into their learning, Year 6 children had the opportunity to meet a real-life polar explorer, Anthony Jinman and hear about his recent expedition to the North Pole. Anthony has also promised to take a Goosewell Academy flag on his next expedition and plant the flag at the South Pole! Year 3 children met a zookeeper from Dartmoor Zoo, who brought a range of reptiles and predators for the children to see up close; thirty seconds was plenty of time for me! In addition in Year 5, the Explorer Dome came to occupy the Drama Hall, where the children got to gaze at the stars and the solar system while listening to the stories that lent themselves to the names of the constellations. We also hosted Babcock, who ran a STEM robotics workshop for children from Year 4/5/6, where the children programmed 'Crumble Boards' to control the motors on their robots!

This week also saw 81% of Goosewell parents come in and meet their children's teacher and talk about the how the children have settled into their new classes and how they are progressing. This was also a chance for me to meet more parents and get first-hand feedback about their child's experience in Goosewell. On Wednesday, I also spent the morning showing parents from our newly assembled Parent's Forum around the school, answering any questions they had about the changes made and reviewing the impact of those changes. For your information the representatives were: Louise Delgado (Year 1), Richard Jenkins (Year 2 and Year 6), Catherine McDowell (Year 4) and Melanie Swainsbury (Year 5). The next Parent Forum is due to take place on Wednesday 26th February. If you would like to join us in this forum as a representative, then we have space. However, if you would be keen to see what is happening inside of the school, without any future commitment then I will be running school tours for current parents every fortnight on a Friday. If this is something you are interested in, then please phone the school office and book a slot. The tour will be informal and an opportunity to tour the school with a few other parents to get a detailed sense of what we do.

In the meantime, your feedback is of huge importance and I kindly ask you to take five minutes to fill in the Ofsted Parent View: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

As always, if you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Best wishes
James Gentile
Headteacher

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We are selling poppies and accessories on behalf of this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Poppies will be sold by our House Captains in classes each day next week. We also have a selection of accessories available this year, including pencils, rulers, sharpeners and bracelets. Accessories can be purchased at the end of the school day only with parents/carers. Requested minimum donations:

Poppies - minimum **50p** donation
Accessories - minimum **£1** donation (50p for pencils)

Thank you for your support.



Services Families Lunch - Wednesday 13th November 2019

If you are currently a serving member of the Armed Forces, we would like to invite you to share a special Service Families Lunch with your child in honour of our Armed Forces on Wednesday 13th November 2019.

Due to capacity restrictions in the Main Hall, we have availability for **one** family member to attend this family lunch. We also request that in order to promote our strong links with the Forces community, and to commemorate Remembrance Day, you attend the lunch in full uniform?

If you would like to join your child for this special lunch, letters will be available from the school office from Monday. Bookings will close on Friday 8th November.

Poppies...poppies...poppies....

Are you a budding baker? MKC Heroes are organising a 'Poppy Bake Off', as part of the Poppy Appeal, this Remembrance. Plymouth MKC Cluster schools are invited to take part and the judging will take place at the Lord Mayor's Parlour on the 7th November 2019. The 'Poppy Bake Off' can consist of any form of cake or biscuit, as long as there is a Poppy theme running through - it could be a large cake/ small muffins / biscuits/ fairy cakes - whatever you would like to bake; you decide! Each school may enter up to three cakes so 'Goosewell Bakers get baking'. **Please bring your cake into school in a container**

(please name the container so that it can be returned) on Wednesday 6th November.

Our Keeping in Touch club have also been busy making a variety of wonderful poppies with Jo Penk. These now form part of a local schools and groups display at the Council House to commemorate Remembrance Day. Well done to all the children for their fabulous, creative efforts.



USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS

Calling Service Families.....

Are you a service family?

Does your young person struggle with parental deployment?

Is your young person in Year 1 or Year 2?

We will be able to offer limited places for children in Year 1 and 2 who have a parent in the Armed Forces, to enable them to attend sessions run by the Naval Welfare Service which will support them with the impact of a deployed parent. The sessions will start in the New Year to support those children whose parent may be deployed or about to be deployed from home.

If you feel this would benefit your child during a parental deployment, please call Jo Penk PSA or email jopenkpsa@goosewell.plymouth.sch.uk to register your interest or for more information.

School Clubs

Parents/Carers and children are invited to submit their views on clubs provision at Goosewell Academy. Please take a few minutes to complete an online survey via the website. All responses are anonymous. Please follow the link below; the survey will take only a few minutes to complete:

[School Clubs Survey](#)

The clubs timetable is also available on the school website, and children have received information in their classes and assemblies regarding the clubs available to them.

[School Clubs Timetable](#)

Key Stage 2 Reading Draw Winners

Well done Skye (5C) and Ebony (6WT) who were our Upper Key Stage 2 winners for Term 1. All Key Stage 2 children have the opportunity to be entered into the reading draw to win a gift card by reading at home and completing their reading diaries each week.



Parent Support Adviser News from Jo Penk

Don't forget to look at the PSA section of the Goosewell Academy website, for information on clubs, support and activities for families throughout the year. You can find further details by clicking here [PSA](#)

USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS

Year 6 Polar Fun Day

Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic Polar Fun Day earlier this week. They made 'blubber gloves' to explore why animals need a layer of blubber to keep themselves warm and 'gloopy glaciers' to investigate how glaciers are formed. The children were able to ask a local polar explorer all about his expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctica and quizzed a scientist about how polar animals adapt to suit their environments. What a great start to our Frozen Kingdoms topic!



Dates for your diaries - all future activities, meetings and assemblies can be found here on the [school website calendar](#)

NOVEMBER

Friday 1st

1/2KH Family Assembly 2.30-3.00pm

Thursday 7th

Year 6 Challenge Day with Young Spirit

Reception and Year 1 Phonics workshop for families 3.30pm

Year 6 Residential Meeting with Mark Reeves (Young Spirit) 3.30-4.00pm

Friday 8th

5T Family Assembly 2.30-3.00pm

Wednesday 13th

Forces Family Lunch 12.15pm

Friday 15th

REH Family Assembly 2.30-3.00pm

Friday 22nd

4G Family Assembly 2.30-3.00pm

Future dates:

Tuesday 26th November

Thursday 28th November

Friday 29th November

Friday 20th December

NHS Flu Immunisation Programme for All Year Groups

Open Morning for Prospective Reception Families Sept 2020
10.00am

SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Workshop for
Parents/Carers with Mrs Clarke 9-9.45am

Last day of Term 2

USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS