

21st May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you today to inform you that the son of a member of staff was tragically killed in an accident last weekend. Joshua Harper, who was a pupil at Coombe Dean, had also been a pupil at Goosewell for his primary education. Josh is fondly remembered by all the staff that taught him as a kind and gentle young man and there is a sense of shock throughout the school by this terrible loss.

During this sad time, our thoughts go out to Josh's family and especially his sister, who is a pupil at Goosewell, and I am in no doubt that Josh's sister will be supported through the caring nature of the children and staff of Goosewell. We have also shared this news with the children who will be in contact with Josh's sister.

If you have any questions about how your child might be affected by this news, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Your sincerely



James Gentile
Headteacher



This week's year group news...

Reception Thanks so much for the wonderful, enthusiastic approach to Kevin the koala and Australia. The children all have a very healthy level of curiosity about the world around them and it has been a pleasure to hear them asking questions and seeking knowledge as well as applying and referring to the things that they have learnt during child- initiated activity.

This last week before half term will see us looking at one of our 'Reading spine' books recommended by the wonderful Michael Rosen. 'Mrs Armitage on wheels' by Quentin Blake will enhance learning as the children explore and sort forms of transport, design and create their own and use wheels and tracks to create abstract art. They will investigate forces and friction - How can you make a balloon powered car?, does a different surface on a slope affect the speed and distance that a vehicle travels ? In more formal writing activity, the children will explore the repeated refrain that carries the story and create their own personalised version. In maths, plenty of investigative exploration of shape will provoke the children's sense of awe and wonder. Maths can be magical you know !

Year 1 Firstly, a caterpillar update...we are excited to announce that our little caterpillars are now really quite big and are preparing to turn into their cocoons so the magic can happen inside, and they transform into a butterfly. Fingers crossed we will get to witness this transformation! Next week's science is all about the life cycle of a butterfly so if the butterflies could comply, we would be very grateful! In our writing, we have been looking at information posters. Next week we will be reading facts about minibeasts and drawing the minibeast that the fact is about. We will move onto researching facts about a minibeast of our choice and making an information poster about it. Maths next week is all about position and direction. We will be using the language - left, right, up, down, in front of, behind, as well as discussing half and quarter turns. All quite tricky stuff! Look out for our class assemblies which will be uploaded to YouTube by Thursday. Each class has put together a selection of videos and/or photos to showcase some of the learning that we have been doing in class. We hope you enjoy it. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend. Thank you for all your support.

Year 2 There has been great excitement in Year 2 this week as we have watched our caterpillars start to turn into cocoons. We are crossing our fingers for our butterflies to emerge next week. Our science next week will continue to look at minibeasts in their habitats and environments. In our English sessions we will be researching minibeasts and creating fact files about our favourite insects. In Maths we will continue our learning on the 2, 5 and 10 x table and we will start to look at division.

We hope to get out onto the field if the weather allows and are enjoying learning new team games and athletic skills in our outdoor PE sessions. Thursday is our indoor PE session and we will be using the large apparatus to create sequences. Please send your child in with a drink and coat each day and a reminder that PE kits are on Tuesday and Thursday.



More year group news...

Year 3 & Year 4 Well, this has certainly been a very busy Term 5 so far and we are all looking forward to the term break. A few more days of hard work first ...

In Maths Year 4 will be converting £ to pence, ordering amounts of money and estimating. Year 3 will be exploring equivalent fractions. In writing we will finally be writing our own Viking sagas (myths). We have created monsters and Gods and Goddesses already. We have also been working on using inverted commas so that we can include dialogue between the characters. We will be reading our final Viking Saga and will explore the vocabulary it contains, and we will also infer how the characters are feeling and behaving.

Year 5 Firstly, we would like to say a huge well done to Isabelle M and Zayne B, who are both members of the Millionaires' Club and have now reached a staggering 2,000,000 words! We hope that all parents have noticed their child has chosen to have less screen time recently. Our Jigsaw lesson for this week involved us talking about the unhealthy consequences of having too much screen time and learning about the signs which indicate that they have been in front of a screen for too long. As part of the discussions, the children were asked to list different ways in which a mobile phone can be used. In one class, they forgot that a phone can be used to make a phone call. In English, we have been writing a discussion text. The question being discussed was whether Jack (from Jack and the Beanstalk) should have sold the cow for money instead of the magic beans. We have been impressed by the ambitious vocabulary being used in addition to the arguments for and against. What do you think he should have done? Our Reading lessons have seen us finishing *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris. We have had some lovely discussions about this book of spells (poems) and are hopeful that the words are not 'lost' to our cohort. In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting decimals using the column method. Please continue to remind your child to complete their My Maths homework each week, to learn their spellings and quiz their books on Accelerated Reader once complete. Topic homework is due in via Assignments next Thursday.

Year 6 6WT and half of 6R have enjoyed their swimming lessons at the Plymouth Life Centre and our staff have loved watching the children progress in confidence no matter what their ability. 6S and the remaining half of 6R will swim next week. Children will need to wear their swimming costume (one piece for girls and shorts above the knee for boys) underneath their school uniform (but Games kit on Monday and Wednesday). Goggles and swimming caps are optional but long hair must be tied back.

In English, those children in school have been writing balanced arguments about xenotransplantation and, in Maths, the children have been interpreting and drawing line graphs and calculating the mean average. How to maintain a healthy lifestyle has continued to be our Science focus and the children have enjoyed using the wall bars and ropes in PE lessons as well as playing rounders on the field or taking part in the Mayflower Dance sessions.

Our budding actors and actresses were delighted to find out they will be performing the hit musical 'School of Rock' at the end of the year, especially as many of them saw this in the West End when they went to London in Year 4. Scripts have been sent home and next week we aim to cast the main roles so that those children have half term to learn their lines. Smaller parts will be cast next term. Please support your children in practising over the weekend to build their confidence ready for auditions next week. The script will also be posted on Teams in case any go astray. Exactly how we will perform this to families has not yet been confirmed but we will keep you posted and can tell you that it will be in the week beginning 12th July.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

**Our last day of Term 5 is next Thursday, 27th May.
Our full, final newsletter for the term will be with
you on Wednesday next week.**



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