Goosewell News

The Newsletter of Goosewell Academy

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Year Group News

Foundation Stage

After Easter, Foundation will be learning all about pets. We will talk and write about our pets and the pets we would like to have. Our home corner will have a new pet arriving (not a real one!) and we will be talking to the children about how they can look after it. Our book focus will be 'Dear Zoo' and the 'Rainbow Fish'. Hopefully you will see lots of colourful Rainbow Fish making their way home to you. The children will be busy outside designing a pet agility course and taking their pets to the vets. In maths, we will be using ladybird mats to double numbers and the children will choose how to record their learning. Phonics sessions will focus on writing sentences using some of the letter sounds we have been learning and tricky words too! Our most exciting news is that our chick eggs will be arriving with Mrs Soper to incubate in the Foundation stage. We will be excitedly anticipating the arrival of our chicks in around three weeks time.

We wish you all a fabulous Easter break and try not to eat too many chocolate eggs!

Year 1

After the Easter break, Year 1 children will be starting their Science learning about Plants, learning about direction and position in maths and writing about their holiday news in Literacy. We will be continuing to practise our special May Day Dance to the tune of Dolly Parton's 9 to 5 and be sketching and painting still life pictures of flowers.

Year 2

After Easter, in Year Two, our topics will be Plants, Traditional Tales and The Body. In Maths, we will be learning to tell the time to the nearest quarter of an hour and 5 minute intervals. Our Literacy will be based around the traditional tales of Cinderella and then The Three Little Pigs. We will be dusting off our dancing shoes and practising our Country Dancing in preparation for the May Day Dance Celebration.

Year 3

Next term Year 3 will be learning about Chocolate and Rocks, Soils and Fossils. In Maths, we will be continuing our learning on Fractions and we will be writing a non-fiction report on chocolate and how it is made. Have a great Easter break! Don't forget to practise your times tables and have a look at your spellings sent home this week. Thanks for your support!

Next week's virtue is…….

Commitment

An agreement or pledge to do something in the future.

Year 4

In science, we have become experts in sound-proofing and some of us have pitched our sound-cancelling headphones to a panel in the Dragons' Den! Next term we will be investigating solids, liquids and gases. In maths, we have been dividing by ten, giving our answers as decimals and will move to writing and comparing decimals after Easter. In literacy, we have written our autobiographies based on our timeline homework – thank you for your help with this. If ever we become famous, the first few chapters of our life stories are already written!

Year 5

In the first week of term, the children will be completing their writing assessment where they will have to complete a letter to their future self about the benefits of physical activity and a balanced diet. This will link into the work that the children have been doing in Move and Learn over the last six weeks. In Maths, Year 5 are extending their knowledge of adding and subtracting decimals from within 1. They will also look to find complements which sum to make 1.

Year 6

In Literacy after Easter, we will continue to develop our narrative writing using a story called 'Alma' in which a girl discovers a very unusual shop and its strange contents! We will also be reading and analysing texts and continuing to revise key grammar terms in preparation for SATs week. In maths, we will be revising key areas identified in the recent assessments. We would encourage your child to discuss with you and revise any areas that may cause them concern. We will be setting homework tasks from the SATs 'buster' workbooks over the Easter holidays and sending home the 2018 practice papers. Thank you for your continued support and have a good break.

Devon Winter Games

Last Thursday, Team Goosewell took part in the Cross Country event at the annual Devon Winter School Games in Torbay. Competing against many other Devon primary schools, Team Goosewell did themselves, and the school proud, with Finley B (4JG) even winning in first place in the Year 3/4 age group. Well done to the entire team for their fantastic attitudes and positions:

Year 3/4 Race		Year 5/6 Race	
Finley 4JG	1	Luca 6R	26
Sam 4LG	5	Sammy 5L	35
Joseph 4JG	54	Billy 6C	46
Max 4LG	65	Oliver 6C	47
Jason 4JG	68	Tom 5L	64
Lewis 4LG	85	Frankie 5MT	70

In the afternoon, the team participated in a sunny festival of sports, taking part in a wide range of different sports, activities and experiences. Thank you to Mr Griggs and Mrs Williams for this fantastic opportunity.

Plymouth Schools FA

Luke in 6R has spent the past 6 months representing Plymouth Schoolboys in the 2018/19 Plymouth Schools FA. Luke was kindly sponsored by Goosewell's PTA and has written an update on his fantastic year so far:

In October the team travelled to Bath for the South of England Premier League regional 9v9 qualifiers. In horrible conditions we played teams from: Cornwall, Swansea, Gloucester, Portsmouth and Bath. After a really long day we eventually beat Gloucester 1-0 in the final which leads us to play at Melwood [Liverpool's training ground] In the national finals in June. I'm really looking forward to this.

Last weekend the team travelled to Bristol to play in the regional 7v7 association finals. We played teams from: Hampshire, Gloucestershire, Buckinghamshire, Somerset, Berkshire and Cornwall. After winning 5 games and drawing 1 game we were the champions. We will now play in the national 7v7 finals at Birmingham's St Andrews stadium in May.

In the league we have one game left to play against Swindon on Saturday 6th April. We are currently 2nd in the league having won 7 of our 9 games losing only to Gloucester in our very first Cotswold League match. I am also really looking forward to my trip to Jersey in the Easter holidays where we will play 6 games in 6 days against teams from all over the country. This will be a wonderful experience and I am looking forward to enjoying it with my teammates, apparently there is a mini Wembley!

We all wish Luke the very best of luck in his remaining matches.

USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS

Accelerated Reader at Goosewell Academy – Term 4 update…

Work has been ongoing, and bookshelves filled ready for children to start the Accelerated Reader journey. In this update, information on how books are assigned to your child is outlined. As always, if you have any questions having read this information, do not hesitate to come and speak to a member of staff who will be pleased to help.

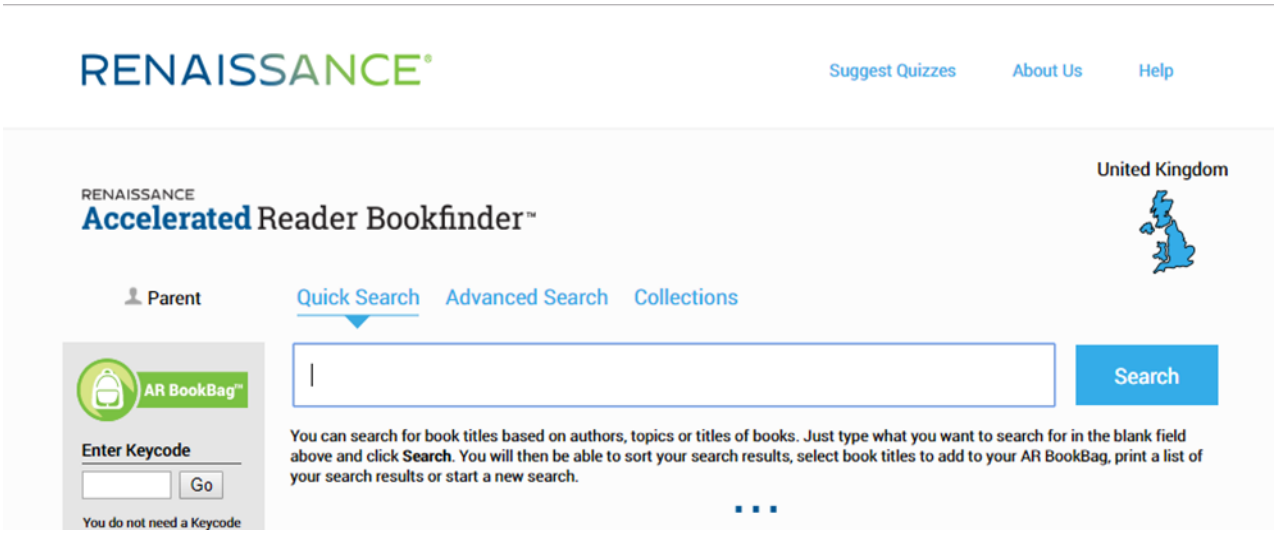
How does the school determine my child's reading level?
Class teachers will determine your child's reading level through a Star Reading test.

What is a Star Reading test?
Star Reading is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response to a question is correct, the difficulty level of the next question is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level of the next question is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes.

What is a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)?
In independent literature-based reading, ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Your child will receive a ZPD range after taking a Star Reading test, or teachers can use their best professional judgment to determine a ZPD. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPDs. ZPDs should be adjusted based on the needs of your child.

Once your child has enjoyed the book they are reading, the level of comprehension will be assessed through a quiz that can be accessed at school via an iPad, tablet or computer. The quiz will determine the level and depth of understanding and award points. Every book that has an Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quiz is given a point value. Accelerated Reader points are computed based on the difficulty of the book (ATOS readability level) and the length of the book (number of words).

How will I know if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz?
To know which quizzes your school has available, your child will spend time in the library at school. Alternatively, you could arrange to contact your child's teacher. You can also visit Accelerated Reader Bookfinder at www.arbookfind.co.uk to conduct a search of all available books with Accelerated Reader quizzes. This means that if there is a book or a series of books at home that your child is enjoying, then have a look to see if it is 'AR ready'! **If the book has a quiz attached to it, then it can be read as part of the Accelerated Reader programme.**



How can I help my child find books that are interesting to him or her?
Visit www.arbookfind.co.uk and click **Advanced Search**. By conducting an advanced search, you can generate book lists that contain titles based on the criteria you enter such as book level, topic, interest level, fiction/nonfiction, etc.

My child already does well in school. Why does he/she need this?
Even if a child is gifted at playing a musical instrument, the child has to practice to develop his or her talent. Bright children, like all children, need to be challenged. Teachers using Accelerated Reader software in their classrooms find it easy to guide each student to books that give the child both challenge and success, regardless of the child's level.

My child is not a strong reader. Can he/she still use Accelerated Reader?
Accelerated Reader helps all children become better readers, from students with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children read books at an appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with children to set appropriate targets based on each child's reading level.

Coming soon to Goosewell's newsletter: ***How will I know how my child is doing using Accelerated Reader?***

Pupil Successes

Well done to Freya 1NH for achieving her Stage 3 Learn to Swim award and to Ruby 2KW for achieving her 5 and 10 metres Rainbow Distance awards.

Congratulations too to Leah 1/2K for completing her Rainbow Gold award at 1st Radford Rainbows, this is the highest award in Rainbows. Leah will also be performing in the Guide and Scout Gang Show at the Athenaeum Theatre during the Easter holidays (tickets still available!).

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 Easter break. You can find further details by clicking here PSA

USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS

House News!

We are pleased to let parents know that after a final round of voting the children have chosen their House names:

- ☆ Kingfisher House
- ☆ Puffin House
- ☆ Shearwater House
- ☆ Pelican House

Children will find out what Houses they belong to after the Easter holidays. More information will follow on how children can earn points towards their Houses.

Dates for your diaries

Last day of Term 4, normal finish time.

APRIL

Tuesday 23rd

Non Pupil Day (Year 6 tailored learning morning)

Wednesday 24th

First day of Term 5 for children.

Friday 26th

4LG Family Assembly in the Main Hall 2.30pm-3.00pm

Monday 29th

2KW Family Lunch at 12.15pm

Tuesday 30th

1/2K Family Lunch at 12.15pm

MAY

Wednesday 1st

2BH Family School Lunch at 12.15pm

Thursday 2nd

Welcome to Foundation Stage meetings for new parents whose children start in Foundation in September - Main Hall at 2.00pm and 6.00pm

Friday 3rd

May Day Dance Celebration 1.45pm-3.00pm

Future dates:

Monday 6th May	May Bank Holiday
Monday 13th May - Thursday 16th May	Year 6 SATs
Thursday 23rd May	Last Day of Term 5 for children
Friday 24th May	Non Pupil Day for staff training
Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May	Whitsun break
Monday 3rd June	First day of Term 6

USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS

Happy Easter!

Have a great Easter break!