



Dear Parents / Carers

It is hard to believe that 12 months have passed since I first arrived at Goosewell Primary Academy. Seeing through one year has been a privilege and it has also allowed me to experience a full calendar of traditional Goosewell events, of which, there are many. Most recently, I have been able to experience Christmas at Goosewell and to initiate the season in style was the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights. Under a sky full of stars, children from across the school sang and acted out the Christmas Story; the lights were switched on and the Christmas season officially started! Nativities, mince pie sing-alongs, 'Christmas Around the World' and carol concerts followed; only to be interrupted by a visit from Ofsted. The Ofsted inspection did allow us, as a school, to demonstrate the changes we have made since the previous inspection and I am sure this will be reflected in the report, which should be published in January. In the meantime, I would like to thank all the staff for working so incredibly hard this year and I would like to thank the families for your ongoing support.

2020 is nearly upon us and I am in no doubt that this will be an exciting and action-packed year for the children of Goosewell Primary Academy. I wish you and your families a very happy and safe Christmas and look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

With best wishes.

James Gentile
Headteacher

Year Group News

Foundation Stage In this, our final week before a well earned Christmas break for all, we have been making sure that we are fully prepped for the festivities. Children have been completing their Christmas cards for families and demonstrating their beautiful handwriting within. They will be chatting about things that they have learnt and acknowledging their many successes this year in circle time chat. We will also be preparing the children for our exciting theatre trip which is coming up after Christmas! Have a wonderful Christmas break all and thanks for your continued support.

Year 1 This week in Year 1, we have been sharing the Christmas story and acting it out in the classroom. We have also been completing our 'Big Write' with a lovely letter to Father Christmas. In Maths, we have been finishing off our learning about shapes by focusing on 2D shapes. We will be enjoying our festive Christmas lunch on Thursday as well as a range of fun Christmas crafts throughout the week! Well done on such a busy term filled with so much learning!

Year 2 Next term, Year 2 will be starting their new topic of Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. This topic will be covering jobs around the castle, the different parts of castles and who used to live in them. We will also be learning about famous towers around the world and looking at famous bridges and how they were constructed, including the famous Tamar Bridge built by I.K.Brunel. In Maths, the children will be starting a new unit on multiplication and division. We will be looking at groups of and sets of and representing multiplication by using arrays (rows). We will be using the fairy tale 'Rapunzel' for our writing text and Anthony Browne's 'The Tunnel' for our reading text when we return after the break. We wish all the children a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing them refreshed and eager to learn in the New Year!

Year 3 Year 3 have enjoyed the build up to Christmas in our reading lessons where we have been reading the text "Dear Father Christmas". We have also written Haiku poems about birds of prey. On Monday, we had a fantastic Christmas party where we played lots of exciting games and showed off our dance moves. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term, wish you a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2020!

Year 4 In Year 4, we are using Christmas as an excuse to solve lots of puzzles and challenges in Maths. We have been using our number skills and mental strategies to make sure that the Mince Spy does not defeat Father Christmas, as well as using co-ordinates skills to take part in a Christmas Snow Throw Game! The finale for our Playlist topic has coincided with our poetry unit this term. Each class has written a song with lyrics explaining how the human ear works to the tune 'Skip to my Lou', which all the children recognised instantly. The Class X Factor will take place this week with a sing off between all three classes competing against each other. Mr Cowell has been warned! We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Year 5 The children have spent the end of the term preparing for the Carol Concert at Plymstock Church. We are sure that you will have enjoyed watching your child during the performance, we were certainly proud of their efforts to learn the song words, which they sang beautifully. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The children have worked incredibly hard since they have been in Year 5 and deserve to enjoy a term break filled with fun, food and family. Thank you for your support throughout the autumn terms—it is incredible how time flies! Coincidentally, 'Time Traveller' is the name of our topic in the new year. More details of this will be sent home with the Knowledge Organiser for Term 3.

Year 6 This week, Year 6 have completed their learning related to position and direction in maths. The children investigated reflecting shapes across the x and y axes within a four quadrant grid. The children finished writing their haiku poems related to the polar regions in English. Our topic learning saw the children take part in a polar rescue mission applying all of their learning throughout the topic to rescue holidaymakers who have got into trouble in Antarctica. We have thoroughly enjoyed our 'icy' topic this term and we hope the children have a well deserved break over Christmas.

Key Stage 1 Golden Book Awards



Golden Book for week ending 1st November 2019

RBH Elliot for fantastic effort and progress in hearing some sounds. Great work Elliot!

REH Lomond for trying much harder during phonics sessions and impressing us with his letter formation.

1B Tommy for writing some super questions about dinosaurs.

1WH Pennie for amazing Maths, quickly spotting a pattern to complete addition sentences.

1/2KH Willow for fantastic effort and finger spaces in her 'Where the Wild Things Are' writing.

2NB Delilah for writing fantastic noun phrases in English, and using commas correctly.

2N Tillyana for showing an outstanding improvement in her writing and working super hard.

Politeness Award

2NB Beatrix for always being calm, kind and polite to all.

Golden Book for week ending 15th November 2019

RBH Lily for sounding out and writing a super sentence about the Gruffalo's child. Brilliant 'Fred talking' Lily!

REH Azalea for speaking so clearly and confidently in our class assembly.

1B Jax for super progress in phonics. Well done!

1WH Patrick for sitting quietly during the 2 minutes silence for Remembrance.

1/2KH Nic for making positive learning choices. Well done Nic.

2NB Jake for making a real effort to form his letters smaller and neater.

2N Isabelle for creating a fantastic story of her own based on 'Where the Wild Things Are' and using exciting language.

Politeness Award

RBH Jacob E for always being extraordinarily well mannered, friendly and kind to everyone.

Golden Book for week ending 22nd November 2019

RBH Emily for massive improvement in your handwriting and sounding out words. Fantastic work Emily.

REH Ivy for amazing ideas which she shares well with her super vocabulary.

1B Emily for using great rhyming words in her poetry work.

1WH Sophie for always trying her best. Her Big Write was amazing - a whole page of writing with capital letters and full stops.

1/2KH Finley for always participating, having a go and trying his best,

2NB Caiden for showing a great understanding and sharing thoughtful ideas during RE sessions.

2N Jude for working super hard to improve his handwriting and taking ownership of his work.

Politeness Award

1WH Oscar for never forgetting to use super manners. He is a very kind friend and is very helpful at tidying up.

Golden Book for week ending 29th November 2019

RBH Delilah-Mae for always trying so hard, especially in her phonics lessons. She is a star!

REH Elliot for massive progress in his letter formation. Well done Elliot.

1B Lily for trying to be more independent with your learning - keep it up!

1WH Gracie for fantastic work using numicon to find an unknown part in subtraction.

1/2KH Jenson for always giving 100% and for wonderful Christmas singing.

2NB Lilly for showing great oracy skills and sharing her ideas clearly when talking about our class reading text.

2N Emily for creating fantastic haiku poems about dinosaurs.

Politeness Award

2N Tyler for always showing fantastic manners in the classroom and kindness to those around him.

Sports Leaders

After an amazing assembly with Joe from Kings College we were given the opportunity to train up 15 Key Stage 2 Sport Leaders at Goosewell Academy. Sports Leaders are individuals who will learn new playtime games and skills to support our pupils at lunchtimes.

I am delighted to report that we had over 100 applicants for the role and it was a tough decision but this number was shortlisted to 25 for interview. The 25 shortlisted pupils presented themselves so well at the interview stage. They impressed Joe and myself with their knowledge, empathy, resilience and determination to be the very best representation of themselves. In fact, Joe and I were so impressed that we had to make a call to the organiser to see if we could extend our numbers to include *all* 25 interviewees. They agreed to increase our numbers and therefore our 25 new Sports Leaders deserve a huge well done. There will be the opportunity for more leaders to be trained at a later date. A huge thank you and well done to everyone who put themselves forward as part of this process.

CONGRATULATIONS to: Year 6 Ruby T, Sophie P-M, Ashdon, Archie, Isla, Nash, Rebecca, Summer, Hayden, Niamh, Liam, Charlotte, Colombe, Cianan, Ollie, Sienna Year 5 Jason, Ruby, Isabelle, Ellie, Ava, Samuel, Lily, Skye S and Grace M.

Good Luck for your training in the New Year, we look forward to you sharing your skills and games in the new term.

Jo Penk.



Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

In line with RSE becoming a statutory part of the curriculum in September 2020, we would like to offer parents/carers the opportunity to attend an informal drop in session to look through questionnaires that children will be completing in school.

**The session will be held on
Thursday 16th January
9.00-9.30am
in the Drama Hall.**

After you've dropped your children off, you can stroll to the main office to sign in. This is an important part of Goosewell's RSE consultation and we welcome your feedback.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Mrs C Kimberlee, Mrs J Penk & Mrs C Phillips

PSA News from Jo Penk

Don't forget to look at the Parent Support Adviser 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](#)

Activities & Events for SEND: December 2019. If you are looking for things to do in the Christmas holidays including activities suitable for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), the latest Plymouth Information Advice and Support for SEND's newsletter is available to download [here](#)



USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS

Sports Clubs News

In the New Year, Goosewell will be introducing a brand new 'Sports Clubs' timetable that will be run by Premier Education. These clubs will be run alongside our existing Tag Rugby and Running clubs. Premier Education are dedicated to improving health and wellbeing of children through physical activity. They employ skilled activity professionals that are fully trained and offer a wealth of experience and passion to inspire children in sport.

Premier Education will be in school to give some demonstrations and answer questions on the **mornings of Wednesday 8th and 9th January** so we'd love to see you there, giving things a go!

This will be an initial club timetable but we hope to expand the range of clubs available, it will adapt and change with the need/desire of Goosewell's children. We are so excited about this venture, we are positive that Goosewell will love the new opportunities.



Breakfast Multiskills (8.00 - 8.45am)

KS1 - **Monday**

KS2 - **Tuesday and Friday**

Afterschool clubs: (3.20 - 4.20pm)

KS1 and KS2 Gymnastics Club - **Monday**

KS2 Football Club - **Tuesday**

KS1 and KS2 Dance Club - **Friday**

20 places per club - £3 a session when booked in blocks of 5.

Booking details will follow in the New Year.

Many thanks.

Emma Thomas

PE Coordinator

House Points News

A huge WELL DONE to Shearwater House for collecting the most House Points this term. They can look forward to a yummy chocolatey treat and activity of their choice. More details to follow!



USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS

The new Plymstock Children & Young People's Community Forum has been set up to discuss our community & how we can make Plymstock an even better place to live. The Forum would like to hear your children's views for its next meeting and would be grateful if you could take 5 minutes to complete this online survey with your children:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L82KCLJ>

If you would like find out more about the Community Forum, here is a link to a recent article in the Plymouth Herald. [Link here](#)

Accelerated Reader Millionaire

Well done to our first Accelerated Reader Millionaire of this year, Taz, who has read an amazing 1,005,568 words since the beginning of September.



Who will be our next Accelerated Reader Millionaire?

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

DECEMBER

Wednesday 18th

Year 5 Christmas Party

Thursday 19th

Children's Christmas Dinner

Year 6 Christmas Party

Friday 20th

Last day of Term 2, normal finish time - free Mufti - Merry Christmas everyone!

JANUARY

Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th

Non Pupil Days

Wednesday 8th

First day of Term 3 for children

Reception children to Theatre Royal to watch The Elves and The Shoemaker

Future dates:

Friday 14th February

Last day of Term 3

Monday 17th February — Friday 21st February

Term break

Monday 24th February

First day of Term 4

Friday 27th March

Last day of Term 4

As this is the last newsletter before we break for Christmas, we wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the next decade, on Wednesday 8th January 2020.

USING EVERYONE'S TALENTS