



Glyne Gap School

Newsletter Term 1—2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I have written to you several times this term about the impact of the pandemic, 'housekeeping' matters, overall effectiveness of the school... it is really good to be writing to you regarding what truly matters; pupils, their wellbeing and their learning.

At our whole school staff briefing this morning, class teams presented their 'Stars of the Term'. Among those mentioned were...

- Xander - who has travelled to the Faculty by bus independently every day this week. He has then done the journey in reverse to get home. Some of us can remember when Xander was in the infants at Glyne Gap School...such progress for you Xander - well done!
- Willow *and* Harrison - excellent work in communication from big sister and little brother!
- Finn for a smooth and successful transition into his new class...taking all his skills with him and making new relationships and friendships.
- Jack for taking on a range of jobs in the senior department and completing them independently
- Diyar for his confident transitions around school - again that is great progress over time Diyar
- Rupert and Amelia who have both made great progress in PECS in their first term in school/nursery

These individual stories deserved to be shared and usually at this time of year I would talk to you about the progress in learning made by the pupil group as a whole last year. 20/21 delivered so many interruptions for all of us that it is not possible to do this, the data is just too unreliable. However, we are confident that the majority of pupils did the very best they could given the circumstances, and those that struggled are either catching up fast or have additional plans in place to support them. This is an achievement for pupils, school and you at home. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's class teacher.

Thank you for returning the parent/carer questionnaire to school. Your child's happiness and wellbeing matters to me and I am delighted that all parents/carers responded saying that they believe their child is happy at school and has positive wellbeing. There are areas that parents/carers would like to see changes in or feel need improvement; this feedback is really helpful and I will write in term 2 to clarify what you have said and what we will do about it. In addition, we will be following up some individual comments and concerns.

There are some wonderfully dressed pupils and staff in school today - cats, witches, fairies... and an inflatable horse!

Enjoy the holiday week.

Kivshy



Travel Training at the Faculty

Congratulations to Elisha Winter for successfully completing her Independent Travel Training course with Nadia from LIFT. Elisha can now travel to and from home and college independently five days a week. An outstanding achievement Elisha ... Well done!

Dates for your Diary

Children in Need :
Friday: 19th November

Christmas Carol
Service:
Friday, 17th December
at 10am



Getting Messy with Seagulls!

Pupils in Seagulls have loved exploring a range of 'Messy Play' activities linked to the topic e.g. jelly, cornflour, shaving foam, shredded paper, pasta, paint and ice. We have been learning the signs to key words such as messy, sticky, slimy, wet and dry.

As you can see from pupils' engagement and faces they have had such fun doing this! It has also offered opportunities to learn a very important life skill—to tidy up after you have made the mess!



Lunchtime Yoga Practice with Ollie (Senior 1)

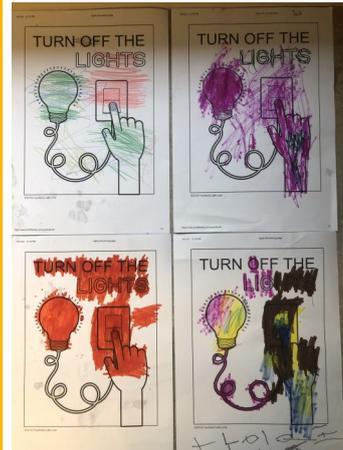
Ollie has been working hard on a Monday lunch times practicing his yoga skills. Ollie says that yoga helps to keep him fit and strong. Working with Sally (PE and yoga teacher) he has also been learning breathing techniques that Ollie says helps him feel calm and able to learn better. Here you can see Ollie demonstrating 'Plank', 'Cobra' and 'Tree' pose.

Namaste



Senior Eco Club

This term we have been looking at ways to invite birds into the Wild Garden and created some eco friendly bird boxes which we hope will keep birds happy over the winter. We've also been talking about ways of saving energy and made some 'Turn off the Lights' posters. We are also thinking about other ways we can save energy and look after our planet, we hope you are too!



'Turn off the Lights posters'

Senior 1 go to the movies



Lola and Ollie testing the string telephone

This term, Senior 1 have been investigating the world of 'Books and Films' with learning opportunities linked to this topic. Through science experiments and the exploration of computing technology, we have been thinking about the cinematic experience and the role of sound and special effects. Pupils created and tested string telephones, recorded sound effects and used a green screen and microphone to experiment with filming software to turn themselves into cartoon characters! We will have a chance to apply some of our new skills and knowledge over the next term as we work with our friends in the Senior department to stage a special Seniors' production!

Penguins

In Penguins class this term we have been learning how to use our PECS books during leisure times to ask for our favourite toys/activities. Stuart is discriminating between 4 photos, building his strip and exchanging independently.

Alfie looked through his book to choose a toy of his choice, gained adult attention and exchanged.

Nathan has just started using a pecs book and is discriminating between 4 photos, gaining adult attention and exchanging throughout the school day.

Well done Penguins, superb work!



Nathan, Alfie and Stuart learning how to use PECS to communicate.



Flinn and Ted experimenting with visual effects

Stretchy Skylarks



In PE this term, Skylarks have been learning a set of yoga poses with Sally (PE & Yoga teacher) to build strength in our muscles, allow our muscles to move and stretch in various ways, learn how to relax our bodies and experience a different form of exercise. All pupils have participated and been really motivated to learn poses such as 'boat', 'cat' and 'downward dog'!



Faculty Students At Herstmonceux

This term 8 students from The Faculty have been undertaking work experience, on Wednesday mornings, at the Bader International Study Centre (BISC) at Herstmonceux Castle.

Pupils are engaging in a variety of activities including:

- Making sure the sheep have water and all of them are there moving well, not isolated or out of character
- Edging the lawns—cutting back untidy edges and keeping them straight
- Weeding and sweeping the pathways around the tea rooms and clearing weeds from the pond
- Meadow seed sowing and bulb planting
- Cleaning out the birds and making sure they have enough food and water
- Assisting in deer, bee and dormouse surveys
- Building bug hotels

This is a wonderful opportunity and a great learning experience for our students. We thank BISC for their support.



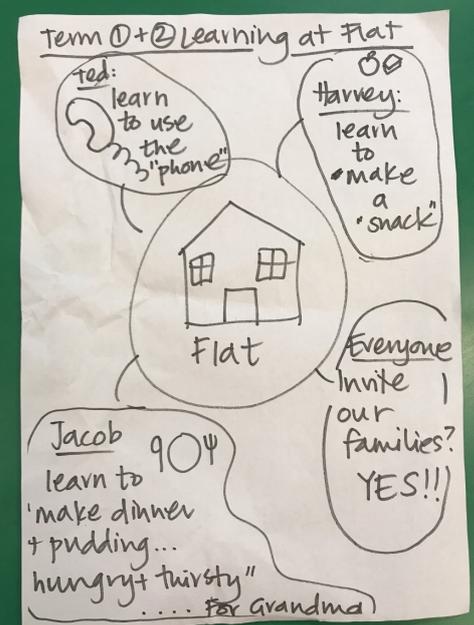
Oliver harvesting pumpkins

Growing Independence at The Flat

In Seniors we are doing lots of work on 'Thinking about our futures' and trying new things out. Some pupils are working at The Flat to develop independent living skills. This term we are getting used to this new space. Next term we will be cooking, taking showers, cleaning, making beds and inviting our families in.



Jacob and Ted becoming familiar with the Flat



Hello and welcome to our first newsletter item of the year!

Within School we have adopted a 'Total Communication Approach' over the years. This approach is the most appropriate in supporting our pupils to develop their communication skills. Total Communication incorporates and values ALL forms of communication, i.e. a mixture of speech, signs & visual supports. This enables our pupils to understand and to be understood. As a School we have always been passionate about supporting families to develop their own Total Communication Approach to use at home. We believe it is important to empower parents and carers in playing a key part in creating, maintaining and using their child's communication systems.

We are excited to announce that as of this term and throughout the school year the Communication Team are able to re-introduce 'Parent and Carer' workshops and cafés, following a long break due to the Pandemic. These will consist of:

- * Resource Making Coffee Mornings
- * A range of Communication Cafés [which focus on approaches used in school and with your child]

We will be contacting Parents and Carers either directly or via this newsletter regarding invites to specific workshops & cafés so keep your eyes peeled!

We are very much looking forward to working with you all again.

From, Amy, Jinny & Pip



How Resource Coffee Mornings have helped to support Jared & his family with his communication at home:

It was lovely to be back in school this September, visiting as a parent in need of communication advice and materials. When I rang asking for help, the communication team were quick to arrange a time and when I did visit, they were so helpful and organised. I was able to discuss Jared's needs and they advised me on what level of communication was needed. I left a happy and well equipped parent, ready to help Jared communicate better at home. Thanks as always to the team and school!



Jared using his 'now, next, then' visuals to gain information about what is happening during his day

