

# Glyne Gap School

Newsletter Term 4—2022

Dear Parents/Carers and Families...

I hope this finds you and your family well. I am all too aware that this end of term has seen an increased number of Covid cases in our area and pupils, staff and their families continue to test positive (some for the second time). We have worked really hard to maintain momentum throughout the term but the level of staff absence has meant that a number of classes have seen partial or full closures. I share your frustration at this, thank you for your co-operation and marvel at the resilience of our pupils who appear to take this wholly in their stride and continue to enjoy school and learn at school. You will see the success of our Supergoal Superstars and Communication Stars in this newsletter.

I am delighted that we have moved forward with a number of 'old' activities returning (Mums and Carers tea party at Ashburnham) and some new ones appearing (see Site Manager Mike's volunteer group overleaf). Just before Christmas, I told you we were wanting to look at how we support families to support learning at home. To this end, Rebecca has been appointed to the Communication Team to extend the work we do with parents on supporting communication. She has already met with some families to look at what we do that works and what could be better. She will be extending workshops on offer and offering bespoke and individual 6 week blocks of support for families.

Each (seasonal) term, Veronique will be inviting parents in to school to consult with me and other school leaders on specific issues the school is considering to ensure the school develops in the way that you feel would benefit your child and you. Rebecca ran the first consultation group and I will run the next one on Tuesday, 21st of June. If you would like to join, please put the date in your diary. Veronique will share further details nearer the time.

Enjoy the Easter break and the sunshine it brings.

*Kivsty*

A note about our pool...

Our pool is now up and running; we closed it down during the first part of the pandemic and it didn't like being woken up again and a pump needed repair. The pool is a hydrotherapy pool and its use is prioritised for pupils who need to use it as part of a physiotherapy or occupational therapy programme. Given the number of pupils who now need it for this reason, pupils who may like to use the pool for fun and/or a motivating environment will need to share slots across the school year. It is not possible for all pupils to swim weekly as may have previously been the case and pupils may swim in alternate terms or weeks. If you would like to see how your child uses the pool so that you could think about taking them to a local pool, please do contact your child's class teacher.

## Penguins—Infant Communication Café

Penguins have been working hard in their new Infant Communication Café this term, alongside their friends in Seagulls.

Our Café gives pupils opportunities to build and consolidate skills in an environment that has been created to reflect a café that you would see in the community. Pupils are able to see what snacks/treats and drinks are available by looking at the menus or at the counter and are encouraged to make and communicate their choices using a range of methods available to them, e.g. choice boards/menu, communication and PECS books. Our café promotes independence and problem solving so pupils are expected to queue in the line, wait their turn and solve any issues that may occur such as how to carry their bowl and book back to the table or who to ask for their snack/drink. Well done Penguins!



### Supergoal Superstars



Derry, Diyar and Harrison picking up their awards in Assembly this term.

## Rounders Fun in Seniors!

In Seniors we have been learning the skills needed to play a game of adapted rounders. We learned how to be part of a team, encouraging all our friends to do their bit. We were able to follow a set of directions and rules, and understand the object of the game.

Towards the end of the sessions we were able to set out the equipment, choose teams independently, play a tournament, write down scores and celebrate what we achieved.



Could you spare a couple of hours to support our school? We are looking for volunteers (you can just turn up on the day!) to help with:

- Light gardening
- Painting / decorating
- Tidying / organising outdoor space

Volunteer mornings (hosted by Mike and Veronique) will start on Tuesday, 26th April from 9.30 – 11.00 with a tea/coffee break after until 11.30am.

We hope to see you soon!

## Communication Skills at the Breakfast Café

Wrens have been putting their fabulous communication skills to use at our breakfast café. They have been using choice boards to select their breakfast and working hard to request what they would like. They have also been developing their independence by finding all the equipment they need and preparing their own food.



Shah uses his choice board to ask for toast and butter, he loves to spread the butter and cut his toast.

Hollie has been using her communication skills to take orders in the café and serve her friends!



Rogan can find everything he needs and operate the toaster independently.

## Diesel—Therapy for All!



Diesel is a therapy dog who comes into school once a week with owner, Alan. As well as being a great presence around school she also supports many pupils with a number of activities such as walking, storytelling, talking, following instructions and being a great feature in the playground at break time! She is a great asset to the team and we thank Alan for giving his time to our school.

## Spring Time in Skylarks!

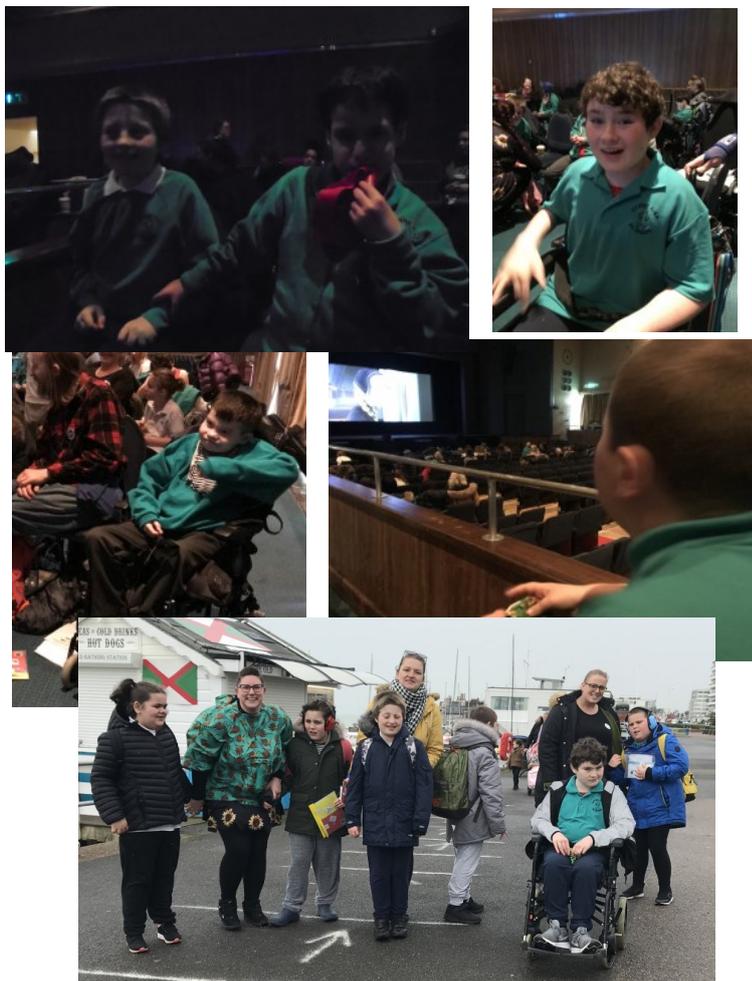
Skylarks have really been embracing their 'Spring' topic this term with an array of animals residing in/visiting their Classroom this term. They've had frogspawn/tadpoles, chicks, dogs and even the Easter Bunny paying a visit! Here you can see

Violet, Lilly and Efe enjoying the chicks which hatched in class and have been causing a stir ever since!



## Junior 3—Whole School Trip to Cinema

We came, we went in and we conquered! A great morning for J3 at the whole school cinema trip to watch 'Frozen'. Fun was had by all and we even walked all the way back to school!



## FE2/3 Collaborative Working at Herstmonceux

Last week, Evie, Elisha and Luke L were invited to Herstmonceux Castle to watch two presentations given by some of the teaching students that Glyne Gap Faculty work with on Wednesday mornings during their work placements at the castle. What really came across during both presentations was how much they had enjoyed working with our students and the relationships they had built. Several had reported to their co-ordinator that they were now considering specialising in SEN teaching. It was a pleasure to see how both the Queen's University students and Glyne Gap students have benefited so much from this experience.

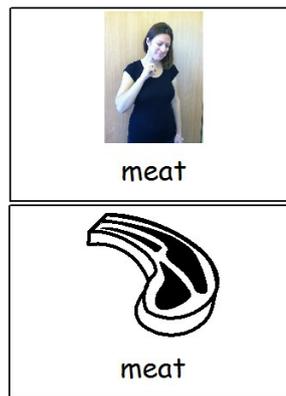
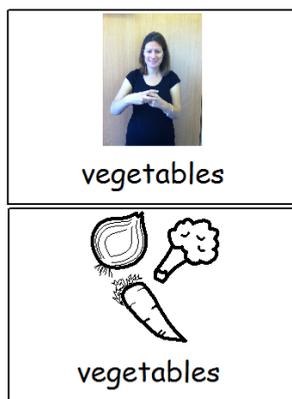
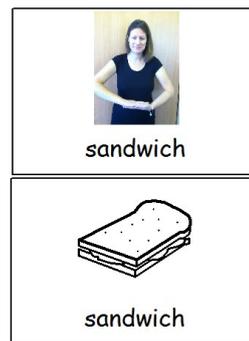


## News from the Communication Team!

Hello Everyone,  
This term we'd like to share some of the key signs and symbols for food and drink....

### *Something for you to try at home.....*

You could use these signs in lots of ways. Here are 2 ideas. You can tell your child what is for dinner, for example, 'tonight it's curry for dinner signing 'meat' when you say curry if it's a meat curry. If your child appears upset you could say 'do you want a drink (sign) or something to eat (sign food). Good Luck!



### Communication Stars



Arwen is discriminating between a non-motivating and motivating symbol to make a choice. She was able to travel across the hall and exchange her symbol with an adult to get her snack.

Well done Arwen!!!

George is using his communication book to request his snack with less-familiar adults. He linked 4 key symbols un-prompted 'I want more cake'

Good work George !!



Lola is able to listen to her peers request in the café, record that choice on her checklist and then relay that information to the café staff to fulfil her peers order.

Go Lola !!!