



FISHERTON PRIMARY & EYC

NEWSLETTER Term 2



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to all families who are new to the school.

It is very nice to see a full school with all the children well and back with us learning with their classmates! As I stated in the previous newsletter the children are settling in to our new Covid, new normal routines and I want to say thank you to all of the parents, carers and grandparents who have cooperated with our new arrival and departure procedures and followed our routines. Please continue to do so for everyone's safety.

Thank you for all of your efforts at home schooling. Our children have completed some in-class teacher assessments in reading, maths and spelling. We will be working on recovery learning for any missed episodes this session. Please keep the reading going for all children as increased fluency is important and please offer opportunities to write if you can, we are trying to encourage the pupils to pay attention to their presentation and handwriting, as a lot of home learning involved remote devices.

As previously mentioned, a huge focus for us in the school and EYC this year is around our mental wellbeing. How we look to help and understand each other through greater awareness of our differing needs, and how vital it is to be healthy of mind and have the confidence to speak about how we feel.

This term our focus is on RESPECT, learning about care and compassion. Staff are using a variety of resources through Phunky Foods to support the Government's "Change4Life" initiative as this provides a programme of healthy lifestyle curriculum activities. Parents can access some resources through this website on <https://www.phunkyfoods.co.uk/parents/>

The school improvement plan is now available for all to view on the school website.

P1/2 Outdoor Learning.

Outdoor learning has let us explore our local environment. We have used this as an opportunity to exercise and promote the outdoor areas available. We have worked on counting using natural materials. We have described the local environment while 'Going on a Bear Hunt' to encourage vocabulary for story writing. We got creative with Transient Art... making art using natural materials. We have used natural materials to make wands to support potion making and writing. The class are now showing a keen interest in animals and this will be our focus for Term 2 with the inclusion of Christmas activities.

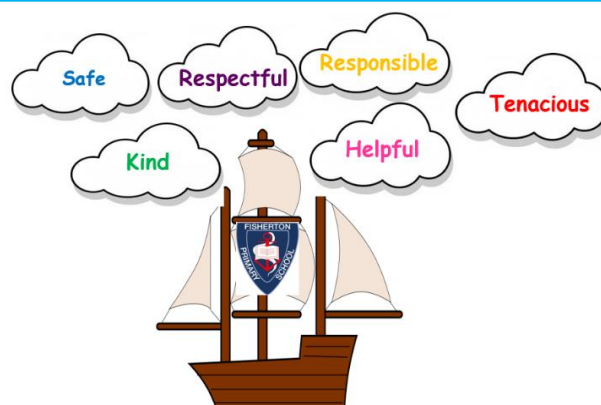
EYC

Muddy Puddle Success

Thank you for all your kind donations and support for our Muddy Puddle Walk, we raised £51 for Save the Children. I am sure your children have told you how much fun they had participating in this, so we have decided to do it again 😊. This time we will be jumping in puddles as part of The World Puddle Jumping competition!

Wellies & Appropriate Clothing

As the weather is changing and becoming wetter and colder, we will still continue to be going outdoors and taking part in our Daily Mile walks. We ask that you can provide wellies/appropriate clothing to be kept at the nursery. It may also be a good idea to bring your children to nursery wearing their wellies as they will be changing into their indoor shoes on arrival. Wellies are easier for children to take off and put on, therefore helping with the promotion of independence.



Term 1 Learning P4-6

Reading: P4-6 got straight back into their Accelerated Reading routines and throughout term 1 they collectively read **609, 599 words!** They are on target to read **1,000,000 word by Christmas**. Motivation for reading has been high and pupils enjoy completing the AR quizzes. They have had opportunities to develop a range of reading skills and enjoy topical comprehension activities. Mrs Hamilton also helped the pupils to develop their research skills in order to create presentations for Maths Week. After researching famous mathematicians, the pupils worked together to give some brilliant presentations.

Writing: Mrs Holland has been focusing on creative writing through stories and the pupils looked at VCOP to enhance their story writing. They also enjoyed taking their active spelling outside and had a go at graffiti writing.

Mrs Hamilton focused on letter writing, diary writing and poetry. Pupils wrote some fantastic thank you letters to people that had sent gifts to the school.

Listening and Talking:

We had some fantastic speeches and presentations from all of our P5&6 pupils in the lead up to the captain elections. We were truly blown away by the effort and confidence. P4 became a film crew to capture presentations which enabled us to share them with other classes and staff.

Pupils enjoy 'Morning Blethers' at registration time and share their views, likes, dislikes, things they have done outside of school and the things they are looking forward to.

Maths and Numeracy:

Mrs Hamilton has taught the pupils a variety of maths games that they can play at home using cards and dice. This is a great way to extend their mental maths skills and share some learning at home.

Whilst learning about patterns and sequences we explored number patterns, investigated the Fibonacci sequence and researched a mathematician from the past. We also looked for Fibonacci numbers in nature.

We had great fun during 'Maths Week' and enjoyed a number of games and activities that we called 'Fraction Frenzy'.

Pupils participate in 'Number of the Day' several times a week where they get to apply many number talk strategies to solve problems. They then share their strategies and methods with other pupils.

Recovery Survey

FPS- Thank you to those of you who completed our Recovery Survey. Overall the responses were very positive. I'm pleased to say that the majority of pupils are happy to be back at school with 100% of pupils feeling safe at school and that their classwork is just right most of the time. All parents were happy with the amount of communication received since our return to school.

Positive Parents evenings

Thank you to all the parents who participated in either the Skype video call or telephone call meetings recently. These were very positive and both parents and staff found them to be extremely useful.

Arrangements for entering the school

To adhere to government guidelines regarding social distancing, to minimise the risk of infection to staff, parents/carers and pupils, South Ayrshire Council have asked that we implement the following measures:

- Parents/carers are strongly encouraged to **drop children off at the school gates at 9am** and not enter the playground. Drop off and pick up is limited to 1 adult per family. Parents must wear a mask.
- Parents/carers should not enter the school building unless by prior appointment.
- Visitors are not permitted to the school unless essential and with prior appointment.
- Parents are not permitted to park within the school car park
- Pupils should not arrive at school earlier than 9am unless advised to do so for staggering purposes or via school transport.
- Pupils will apply hand gel when entering the school
- If arriving after 9am, the child should enter via the main office



Music

Our students who receive brass instruction will have their lesson in school on a Monday on a fortnightly basis. Online lessons will be offered on the other week via Teams where they can play their instrument at home. Paul Henderson the YMI music instructor will be delivering 'The Big Strum' to primary 5-7 in term 4.

Absence from School

We need to know where your child is for safeguarding reasons. If they are going to be off school **please phone the school office on 01292 612049** to talk to a member of staff and discuss the intended absence and potential return date. Please **do not send an absence message via See Saw** or send a message via one of your other children. If you have not communicated with us by 9.30am, we will try to contact you – sorry for any inconvenience this causes you but it is out of genuine concern, please save us the work and communicate with us directly - most parents are excellent at keeping us informed especially over Covid testing and concerns.

Children with sickness and/or diarrhea must be off for 48 hours from the last episode. We hope to have less 'D and V' given all of the hand washing that is going on.

The signs for Covid are:

- High temperature
- New persistent cough
- Loss of smell or taste

Please do not send children to school displaying these symptoms. We cannot allow them to stay unless they have been tested and we can categorically say that these symptoms are non-Covid related- we can't take any chances.

The school and the early years centre have placed Funding applications for a Science Grant to purchase some resources which would support and enhance science within the outdoors. Fingers crossed we are successful with this!

PE

As you are aware, all Physical Education has been taking place outdoors since our return to school following Government Guidelines. South Ayrshire have now agreed that schools can move to “indoor low intensity activities” from the week beginning Monday 2nd November.

These will be activities that are not as physically demanding, which would result in deeper/heavier breathing but a focus on other aspects within the PE benchmarks.

Examples of such activities are below

- Individual/Team Target Games eg Indoor bowls, Boccia
- Potted Sports eg Basketball shooting, target badminton serve etc
- Team Building Games eg problem solving activities etc
- Mindfulness/Relaxation activities eg Yoga etc



All Pupils from both the early years centre and primary school will be making the most of our wonderful surroundings, **taking their learning outdoors** and having fun, no matter what the weather! **Please provide us with a pair of wellies for your child that can be kept in school** so that we are ready to go outdoors for all occasions.



Thank you!

A huge thank you to Dowhill for kindly donating our Pumpkins. The classes had lots of fun with these! Thank you also to the Parent Council for arranging some sweets and crisps for our fun day and providing us with some goodie bags. The pupils enjoyed these are part of their Hallowe'en activities. Finally a big thank you to the Co-op for donating some activity bags, this helped to keep the children busy at home.



Thank you to everyone for the donations towards our Harvest Hampers. Mrs Hill and the Captains worked together to create 14 beautiful hampers. They were a delight to the grateful recipients and we are pleased that we could continue this tradition during a time when many of our normal family and community activities have needed to be carried out in an alternative way. Let's hope we can continue with more 'alternative teamwork' throughout this strange time. #teamworkmakesthedreamwork



Microsoft Teams

The Blended Learning approach is the contingency plan in all schools, however if for any reason we do have to close in future for a circuit breaker to help suppress the virus then we will communicate this with you as before and provide learning opportunities through Teams and the use of See Saw.

Microsoft Teams is a video and audio meeting space that children can join to talk to their teacher and their class mates.

We will try to ensure as before that all children engage and remain engaged but need your help if this is the case.

Time will tell, but for now we are open and everything is going well so far - the staff are so willing and motivated and enjoying teaching the children in class.

Microsoft Office 365

Thanks to Microsoft, all students in the UK are eligible for a full copy of Office 365 for free. The following guide is designed to get you started with Microsoft Teams at home.

Logging In

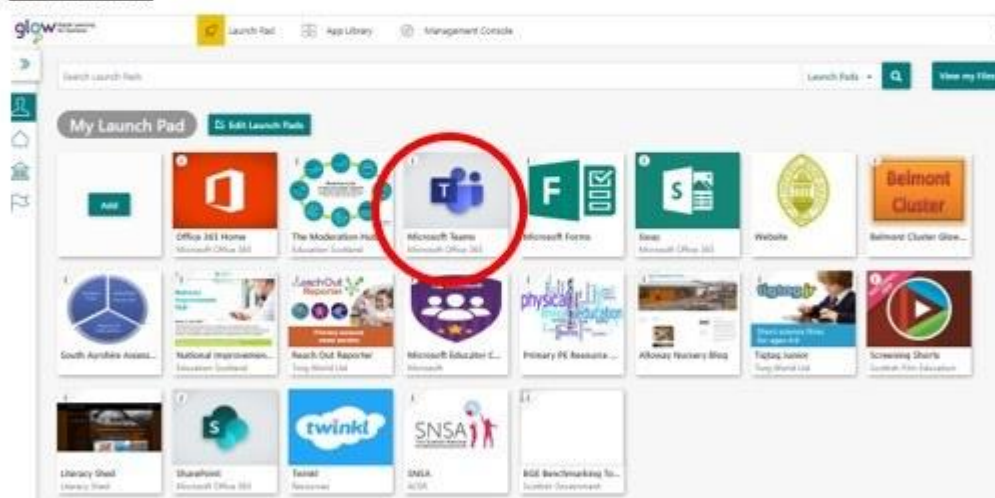


All children at school will have been given their own personal login details in the following format:

glowusername@glow.sch.uk

In order to login, you will need to go to <https://sts.platform.rmunify.com/Account/SignIn/glow> where you will see the page displayed to the left. Here you can enter your Glow username and password. Alternatively you can download the Office 365 and Teams apps on mobile devices and log in.

Glow Launch Pad



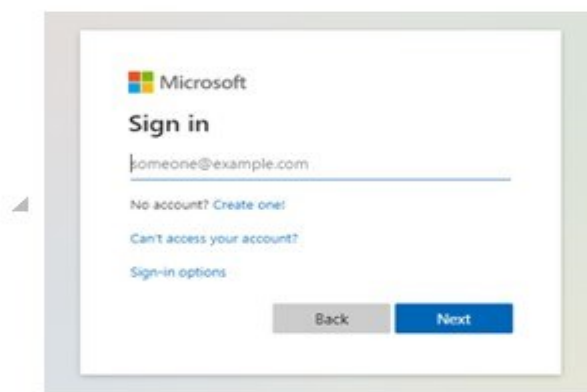
When you first log in to your account on a computer, you will be able to access all of the apps on your Glow Launch Pad. Access teams by clicking on the highlighted app above (you may need to scroll down to find the Teams App)

Office Document Creators

Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Sway, Forms and Publisher are all apps that we utilise in school. They are used for creating documents in various types. You have free access to all of these amazing apps via your Glow launch pad, if required.



On your first log in, you may be faced with a Microsoft log in request that looks like this:



Please use your **Glow** email address (glowusername@glow.sch.uk, e.g. sa18smithj@glow.sch.uk) at this point.

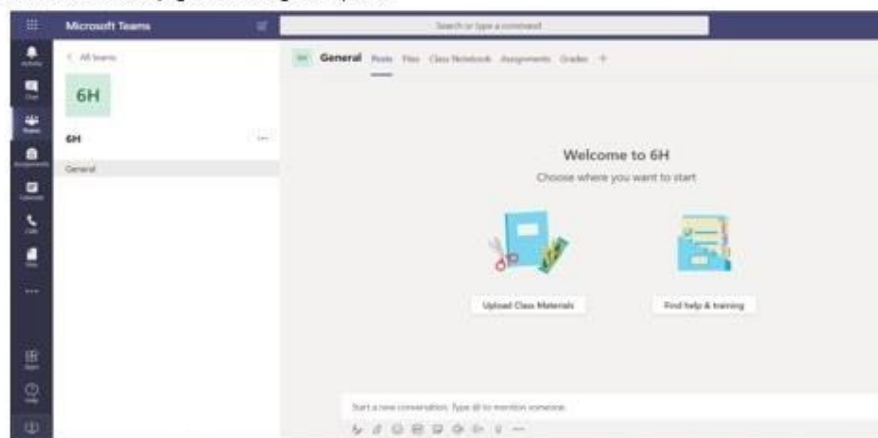
Microsoft Teams



Teams is a video and audio meeting space that children can join to talk to their teacher and their class mates. There are two key areas you will use: Teams Posts and Files.

Microsoft Teams – Computer Instructions

This is the team homepage when using a computer.



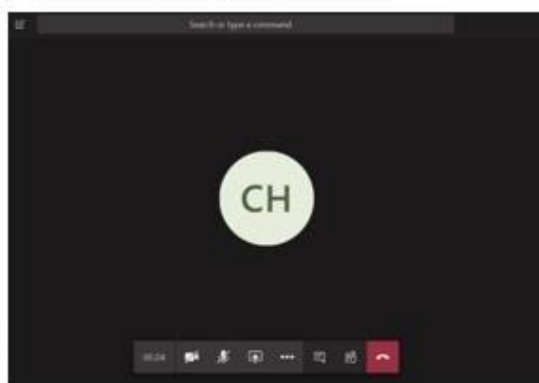
If you click on the 'Posts' button, you can see any posts, comments and documents shared by your teacher, and also any live meetings that you can join. You will find any Homework and Home Learning activities under the 'Files' tab.

Your teacher may schedule or set up a Teams Meet in order to do some Home Learning with you.

When joining a team's meeting, this is what you will see on your screen. You can turn on and off your video or audio (or your teacher can). Whoever is currently talking, their name will show on the screen (or video if they are using it). Teachers can share slides, whiteboards and videos with you through teams.

If your teacher has muted you all so that she can talk, you can also press the little message icon (in the middle of the screen) to type a question for your teacher while she is talking or to ask to share something with the class. There is also the little hand icon. This is your virtual 'hand up', so if you click on this, your teacher

will know that you have something you would like to ask or say 🙋 That way the teacher may ask you to unmute your microphone to listen to your questions or share your stories!



October was Dyslexia awareness month.

'Mical': <https://bit.ly/362pS8b>

'Mical' is an award-winning film based on a true story of a child struggling with dyslexia. If you know someone who is parenting a dyslexic child who is experiencing difficulties with literacy this would be a film link worth watching or passing on to help understand the barriers they face and how it can be overcome.

It is an interesting and emotional watch - thankfully we are a Dyslexia Friendly school and provide a variety of tools and resources to support any child who is dyslexic.



READ,WRITE,COUNT

The Read, Write, Count programme aims to support parental engagement in literacy and numeracy. Gift bags were distributed recently to all P 2 and P 3 pupils in Scotland by Scottish Book Trust. The gift bags contain essential literacy and numeracy materials to support children's learning, as well as advice and support to parents. Studies show a direct link between a strong family learning environment and progress in reading, writing and counting. In addition to the parent guide included in the gift bags, the Parent Club website:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/> offers a range of hints, tips and advice to help parents engage in their child's learning.

PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT AND DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN: HOW THE LAW IS CHANGING

From 7 November 2020 all physical punishment of a child will be illegal, meaning children in Scotland will have the same protections against assault as adults. You can read more information on the on the Act here.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/physical-punishment-and-discipline-of-children-how-the-law-is-changing/>

Being a parent is one of the best jobs in the world but it can be hard work to help families manage the challenges, especially during these difficult times, the Positive Parenting Campaign brings together tips on coping with the challenges of being a parent and keeping calm and focusing on building a rewarding relationship.

Parent Club Positive Parenting Campaign is now live. Details of information and how this can be shared with parents can be found in the Positive Parenting Stakeholder Toolkit.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Poppies on sale from early November.



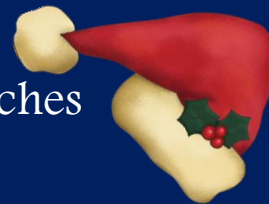
13th November – Dress Down day for
Children In Need

16th November – Road Safety Week

17th November – PC McGinlay visiting School
Road Safety & Internet Safety

1st December – Tempest Photographer

10th December ~ Christmas Lunches



(Wear Christmas Jumper)

Class Christmas Party Weeks ~ We ask that children
arrive in their special outfits for the day ~ no lunch
time collection please.

18th December~ Big Class Party

21st December – EYC & P1~P3 Party

21st December – EYC & P1~3 to watch online
performance ‘Toy Town’ by FIB2

22nd December – Wear your Christmas jumper

22nd December Close at 2.30 pm for
Christmas/winter break.

6th January 2021 Reopen for the New term.

