

# Newsletter 2020/21

Please follow this link to watch our end of year video.

<https://www.gillibrand.lancs.sch.uk/news/2021-07-20-end-of-year-video>

## EYFS

What an extraordinary first year it has been for our youngest children! The children have shown great resilience in coping so well with the changes that have occurred over the course of the year. Some of our highlights have included our Nursery Rhyme challenge, 'Welly Walks', to experience the changes of the seasons and producing our Christmas Nativity video. Some of our favourite stories and themes have included; Superheroes including 'Supertato' and the Evil Pea! We loved celebrating World Book Day and making a fabulous 'Masked Reader' video. Children have planted vegetables and watched them grow. Memorable experiences also included our cherry blossom walk and hunting for bears! This month, we have rounded our year off with a celebration picnic and a letter writing project. Well done children, you have learned and achieved so much this year!



## Year 1

Well, what a year! As we are all aware, this academic year has been a year of change, challenges, resilience and enduring friendships.

The year began with a return to school for the full class. The children greeted one another like long lost friends and revelled in the time they were able to play, learn and discover together. The children settled well into Year 1 life and, within days, it was as if they had never been away. We adapted to a new normal of staggered starts, bubbles and virtual meetings - even performing our first ever virtual Nativity at Christmas and meeting 'Lightning' the reindeer!

In January, we returned to school only for a national lockdown to come into place the following day! The children enthusiastically welcomed a new way of remote learning, virtual meetings and live lessons. Surprisingly, the new situation brought many new opportunities including virtual meetings with authors who, ordinarily, would not be able to travel the distance to our school. Remote learning also meant we could compete in the 'Masked Reader' competition and take part in not one but TWO live bake-offs!

A timely return to school in March brought the children back together again and, once more, they relished being together.

Whilst we had returned to bubbles, the children worked hard to ensure that assemblies, celebrations of learning and even our sports day could be shared with parents. We also completed a sponsored walk and raised an amazing £1200 for Marie Curie cancer care!

To round up, it has been a challenging and hugely rewarding year with each and every child in Year 1 showing our school values of; kindness, perseverance, honesty, self-belief, pride in our school and learning from our mistakes. I shall always look back on this class with such pride.



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## Year 2

WOW! What a year it has been! This year and this Year 2 class has reminded me of why I absolutely love my job and why I think it is the best in the world! They are each incredible in their own way and have been absolutely wonderful all year round. When we started in September, lots of children were anxious and nervous about the new year but they soon settled into Year 2, showed perseverance and embracing all aspect of our return to school. We have all had to embrace new things, including virtual assemblies and even a virtual Christmas Nativity! Of course the biggest challenge was the national lockdown throughout the spring term. The efforts of everybody to make it a success were so clear and I really want to thank you as parents for the support shown throughout, despite its challenges, I think we all enjoyed the virtual meetings and absolutely loved our virtual Great Fire of London Bake Off! The Year 2 children produced some wonderful work on Seesaw. We were all delighted to return to school and the hard work the children showed since has made me extremely proud. We loved our Marie Curie topic and raising over £1200 for the charity is something we will all remember and it was a privilege to be a part of. The past couple of weeks, the children have really shown how much they have matured, producing some really high quality work, particularly in English where have been writing information texts and stories linked to our recent topic of 'Australia'. I will look back on this class with nothing but a smile and great memories, they have been wonderful and I am sure you are all as proud of them as I am. I hope you all have a magnificent and well-deserved summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in September.



## Year 3

What a great year we have had in Year 3 despite the challenges that have been thrown at us! The children have been absolute super stars throughout the whole of this year and, as their teacher, I am very proud of every single one of them for achieving the successes that they have.



We have enjoyed World War One and Stone Age workshops throughout the year. The children have also looked at bikes from different periods of time, we have made our own fossils and edible layers of soil and we have made Rangoli patterns with Ursula (our local artist) in our printing workshop. Throughout the whole year, the children have been amazing and I know myself and Mrs Hoyle will miss them. I even think Mrs Hoyle had a tear in her eye as we took our last class photo!



## Year 4

As we come to the end of what has been another challenging school year, I would like to say that I am so proud of every single child in Year 4 for the resilience and perseverance they have shown throughout the year. It has been lovely to get to know every child and share lots of memories with them which I hope they will remember in years to come.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their time in Year 4 and all the fun activities we have done including making poo in science, making Stonehenge out of bourbon biscuits for our Stone Age topic and pretending to be a soldier in the trenches for World War 1. There are many more activities which the children have loved as well. Well done to every one, they have worked so hard all year and have been such a delightful class to teach. I wish them all the best as they move into Year 5!



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## Year 5

Year 5 have completed a variety of activities this year. We have learned about both WW1 and WW2. We have created our own pies based on the ingredients found during these times and designed and created our own burlap bag for soldiers. We have learned about Global Sustainability and how this is affecting our planet and our future. We have covered a range of topics in science, from forces and materials, to our current topic where we are looking at sound and we have created our own set of pan pipes that we have played to support the England football team. We have learned an incredible amount about the Stone Age beginning with a lady in from History Alive who delivered a walk through time from the Palaeolithic Stone Age, through to the Iron Age. We have been out and faced the challenges of being hunter-gatherers, we have created cave paintings, constructed Stonehenge, made our own tools, created musical instruments and discovered the ancient settlement of Skara Brae. Year 5 have also been



engrossed in our class novel, 'The Wild Way Home', which has helped us to produce some super writing in English. We have also been out conducting a litter-pick and learning the value of helping our community and tackling environmental issues. We wish everyone in Silver Birch the very best of luck in Year 6 next year. The children should be very proud of all they have achieved this year.

## Year 6

Well, what a year it's been! There have been some bumps in the road but we have all made it to the end of another school year and for our Year 6 children it's their final year here at Gillibrand Primary School. There have been some amazing highlights this year but the thing that sticks most in our minds is our residential to the Anderton Centre. We had the best time! Starting with crate stack and archery then paddle boarding and jumping in Rivington reservoir and finally canoeing. The children also treasured being able to spend time with friends overnight in bunk beds and eating delicious food. It was all a fantastic experience and something the children will remember forever! Academically, the children have learned about World War 1 and 2, focused on the difficulty our world faces with pollution and global warming, created working bridges combining their construction and electrical circuit skills and learned how our stone age ancestors lived hundreds of thousands of years ago. We have had some amazing guests visit us, both in person and virtually, to bring our learning to life. We have been fortunate enough to have two visits this academic year from the great people at History

Alive who brought us artefacts and real-life objects from World War 1 and the stone age and to enable us to feel the history as well as talk about it.

We were also able to have a virtual visit from two civil engineers during our bridge's topic, who spoke so passionately about their careers and the great opportunities available in their careers. It has truly been a great year and all the children in Year 6 should be immensely proud of their efforts this year. Good luck in Year 7 everyone!

**Goodbye & Good Luck  
Year 6**

