



Headmistress' Letter

Dear Parents,

It is so motivational looking through the newsletter this week to see an overview of the varied, exciting, and inspiring activities that our pupils have been getting up to. Whether it is quiet study time with a beautiful view, or skateboarding in the grounds at dusk, I find it incredibly life-affirming and I really hope that you do too. It was a real pleasure to host a virtual coffee morning with our Upper School Parents on Thursday morning. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces and to be able to discuss all the many facets of Godstowe that exist at the moment. I am looking forward to similar events that are coming up with Lower School and Lodge Parents over the next few weeks.

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There is certainly a level of concern among parents and staff about screen time for pupils. We are working very hard to make sure there is a balance of having the opportunity to interact with teachers and friends on screen whilst learning, studying independently, and having valuable downtime both indoors and outside with screens of all sorts put to one side. We are encouraging all of our pupils to venture outside or at least away from their study spaces as often as possible, and we have two upcoming off-screen activity afternoons which I hope will help.

On another note, I am pleased to say that our Lateral Flow Test Centre is running well and we hope to have it operating at capacity in readiness for when School reopens. There has been quite a lot of controversy about these tests in the press this week, but if it is true that they help us to identify asymptomatic cases with heavy viral loads, then they do form a valuable part of our toolbox of measures to reduce risk.

As I am writing this the sun is shining and I hope that it continues over the weekend so that we can all enjoy some relaxing and well-deserved downtime.



Typing Assessment Success!

Lots of our Main School girls have worked extremely hard over the holidays and since returning to school following our Typing Curriculum. This is such an important life skill that will help them in all areas of their education. They have achieved certificates for the different assessments. Well done girls, keep up the hard work! [See the full list of certificates awarded here.](#)



Weekly Awards



Artwork
Alexandra L
Tabitha L
Imogen B

Accelerated Reader
Ruby D

Boarders of the Week
Highlands - Darbey
Walker - Chrissie
Turner - Precious

Sports Stars
Mala
Jessica
All of the Lower Thirds!

Mila
Angel
Violet

School House Shield
Franklin

Monday Badge
Maxine
Jasmine
Zoe

Music
Naomi B
Jasmine
Vivienne Y
Sophia S
Luisa M

Camilla
Millie W
Taeyeon K
Emily W

Claire Gillett, Head of Lodge, Hannah Smart, Head of Nursery

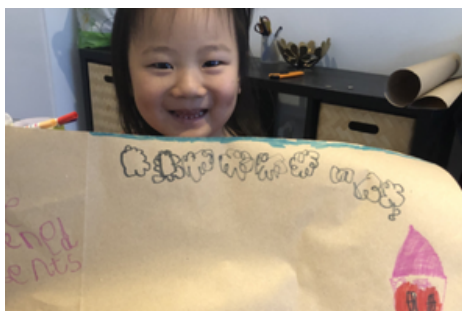
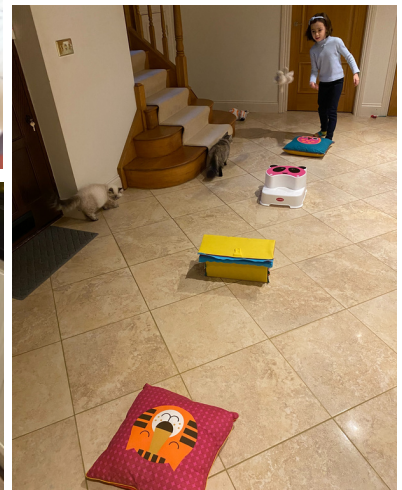
Nursery have been enjoying a pirate themed week this week, some of the most popular activities have been baking cupcakes and decorating them to look like fish, pirate counting and addition, pirate handprint art and some extra imaginative pirate role play. It was lovely to see the children have so much fun as they sailed off in their very own pirate ships to far away islands! The sound of the week in Nursery has been m, the children have made masks and monsters. They filled their own magic bags with m items that they could find.

This week, the Beginners were all very excited to get started on our new topic all about dinosaurs! We have been very busy finding out lots of facts about dinosaurs and doing lots of fantastic dinosaur artwork! We also read a book called 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs' and we thought about what dinosaurs we would like if we had a bucket full of them too! We have also been busy learning some new digraphs in Phonics, and in Maths we have been focusing on numbers 6-10, practising our number writing and our counting skills. A big well done to the Virtual Beginners who have had a whole week of live online sessions, learning lots of new computer skills. We have also enjoyed showing all our friends our dinosaur toys and books from around our houses too!

Kindergarten children have enjoyed the start of their Antarctic topic in Geography, carrying this into their Art lessons with compositions showing Emperor penguins surrounded by the icy scenery, having focussed on the variety of colours that can be reflected by snow and ice. Having covered different methods of addition last week, the children have now turned their attention to subtraction and are learning how to decide which operation to use when tackling word problems. Kindergarten were delighted to access live, online lessons this week for PE and Music, following the introduction of live French lessons last week. The children continue to become more comfortable with communicating on screen and have presented some very interesting and lively Show and Tell topics, as part of the Literacy curriculum.



It has been another busy week for Transition, with great enthusiasm being shown throughout the curriculum. In Maths, we have started our new topic on Length, and have been enjoying measuring things at home and at school using metres and centimetres. In Literacy, we have been improving our expressive writing, and it has been lovely to read so many imaginative stories and descriptions of pets and toys this week. We have been continuing with our Food Tech topic, this week using a claw grip to practise our cutting skills and then using the food to create some lovely faces. Well done to everyone in Transition for their continued hard work!



Boarders' Corner

This week, the boarders have been getting creative! Whether it is drawing or sewing, baking or music, Highlands House is full of all the supplies we could ever need. There has been mask-making with Miss Watt, cross-stitching with Miss Gardner. Some of the girls have been showing dedication to their art scholarships by working hard on their portfolios. We have enjoyed making some delicious 'loaded' hot chocolates and every day someone is either singing or playing the piano!

We are taking advantage of so few people being on the school site at the moment by finding the best slopes to skateboard down. Charley, Mrs Olliver's dog, has been introduced to the whole site as we enjoy taking her on walks and exploring with her. The boarders are truly making the most of their Spring Term at Godstowe!



A poem written by Wegu (Hannah) W, LIIIC

Dear Anne Frank

I came to your old house today
I saw pictures of your family on the wall
It made me very happy
To see you smiling in them all.
You liked to write in your diary
It was a friend to you
I also do the same
To always think of you.
You were hiding from the Germans
But you were eventually found
Every time I think of it
My mind goes round and round.
You went to prison camp
And died from typhus, so thin
It's awful to think of it
As you are my diary twin.
But I hope you feel safe now wherever you are
And remember, you are always in my heart.



WEEKLY QUIZ!



1. Which poet is remembered in Scotland on 25th January every year?
2. What makes up the traditional meal eaten on this day?

Last week's answers: 1. The Northern Lights 2. Aurora Borealis

Young Climate Warriors

It's great to hear the new American President prioritising action on climate change. The US is responsible for about 15% of global carbon emissions, second only to China, and Joe Biden has outlined a \$2trillion Climate Plan. However, it's more than just the numbers, a change in heart from the US signals a renewed focus on the urgency for action, the 'green' investment plan will stimulate technological innovation, and a commitment to reducing US carbon emissions will have a positive impact on global supply chains.

At Young Climate Warriors we emphasize that 'little by little, a little becomes a lot'. We can't easily influence decisions taken by world leaders, but we can often influence how we choose to lead our lives. This week's challenge considers the humble cup of tea, and the emissions from the carbon-guzzling kettle.

Climate Change is the number one issue facing humanity; and it's the number one issue for me.

Joe Biden, Incoming 46th President of the USA. January 2021

This Week's Challenge
22nd January

Remember to Hit the RED BUTTON - CHALLENGE COMPLETED!

Brrr, it's cold outside... time for a nice hot drink?
Can you make a cup of tea for your parent or carer - and help combat climate change by only boiling as much water as you need? (Ask before using the kettle)
You might need to do some measuring experiments ...
How big are your mugs? Is there a measuring gauge on your kettle? How much water do you really need to boil?

#VirtualGodstowe Showcase

Thank you so much for sending in your photos and videos, we love seeing what Godstowe pupils have been getting up to as part of their remote learning! Here is a selection of #GodstoweHappy photos from this week. Please keep sending in your photos to marketing@godstowe.org, or tweet using the hashtag #VirtualGodstowe



Scout (MIII) has the best seat in the house for Friday morning French, making the most of the lovely weather today with a beautiful view (and canine companion!) for her studying.



Critical Worker School girls enjoying their playtime on the field.



Trying our culinary skills in Transition



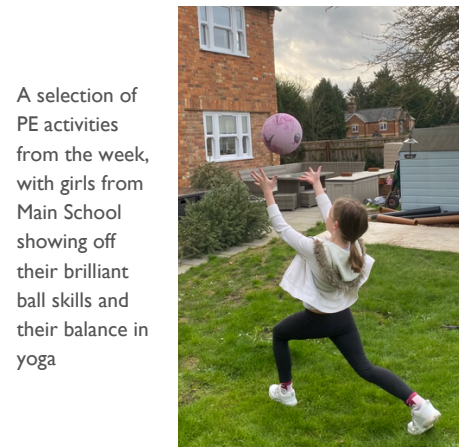
Tate (LIII), logging in from Dubai to take part in her classes!



Eloise (Kg) completing her artwork this week. She had a wonderful time creating this masterpiece! She most definitely is #GodstoweHappy



Jessica (LIII), choosing a lovely window seat to do some reading away from the screen.



A selection of PE activities from the week, with girls from Main School showing off their brilliant ball skills and their balance in yoga



In an effort to be totally off screens after school, Annabel (LIII) has been super busy baking and doing tie dye (she's wearing and holding up her creations!) among many of her chosen activities.



Arabella (TrG) doing her Science work on local habitats.

