

It's been a brilliant few weeks in school since we all returned in March and I love seeing the children all happy and back in school learning. The atmosphere in school is wonderful and the staff are working so hard to ensure the very best outcomes for all the children. I know I say it a lot, but I am very proud of all the children and staff in school.

I loved launching our new book vending machine with the children last week and if you haven't seen it yet, have a look on the website. We will be using it to promote a love of reading and books and from now on all the children will have the opportunity to win, in various ways, a golden token to choose a book of their choice.

<https://www.gillibrand.lancs.sch.uk/news/2021-04-20-easter-reading-challenge-winners>

Our wonderful Y1 and Y2 children are currently raising money for Marie Curie by completing a 150 mile sponsored walk. More information can be found on their Just Giving page if you would like to sponsor them. The total so far is £250. Amazing! Thank you to all those who have sponsored the children!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gillibrandks1>



## EYFS

The children have returned to school, following the Easter break, full of excitement and enthusiasm. Our topic this term is 'Plants and Animals'. We started our learning on this topic with the theme of Jack and the Beanstalk. We

have planted our own beans, carrots, peas and other vegetables. The children had lots of dramatic fun acting out the roles of Jack and the Giant. We are now thinking about the features of animals. We have observed mini beasts in our outdoor area and will be looking closely at other animals in the weeks to come.

## Year 1

April has got off to an amazing start! The children have returned refreshed from the Easter holiday and ready to learn. The summer term marks the final term in Year 1 for the children and they are working super hard.

Following the sad news of the passing of Prince Philip, the children wrote messages of support to send to Queen Elizabeth II.

The 'Easter Reading Challenge' competition, was judged on Monday 19 April and the lucky winner of KS1, is a member of our Year 1 class! The winner received a golden token to use in our brand new book vending machine.

April also brought the celebration of St. George's day. The children spent time that day learning about St. George and his importance to our country.

The month will end with a fantastic sponsored walk in support of the Marie Curie Cancer charity as the children are learning all about Marie Curie in their topic work.

## April Newsletter 2021 Early Years and Key stage 1 News



### School uniform

We have been asked by a number of parents recently about ordering uniform for September. This is a reminder that it can be ordered online from Slaters and delivered for free to school.

<https://www.slaters-schoolwear.co.uk/product-category/gillibrandprimaryschool/>

## Year 2

Year 2 have had a very busy April. Firstly, we have welcomed Edge Hill University student Mrs Collantes, who will be working with us until June. In English we have been using our learning in PE to write instructions about how to run really fast - we have loved learning outside! In Maths, we have been focusing on measures, using both centimetres and metres to estimate and measure different objects, many of the Year 2 children have shown great perseverance when learning to use a ruler. In science, we have started to learn about plants. We have made collages that identify the different parts of the plant and we have planted seeds in different conditions to test which ones will grow. Finally, we have started to learn about Marie Curie. The children really enjoyed looking at different x-rays and learning about the huge impact Marie Curie had on the world. We are really excited to complete our sponsored walk and raise lots of money for Marie Curie!



### Year 3

This half term we have finished our 'Global' topic. The children have used all the recycling products brought from home to complete their art pictures - they look amazing!

This week saw the start of our transport topic with Steven Fisher, a motor enthusiast, bringing in bikes for the children to look at. They all really enjoyed looking at the vehicles and asking questions about how they work and where and when they were made. I think we might have some bike enthusiasts in our class now! We are also using this great weather to continue our 'Plants' topic. The pupils have planted seeds and will be monitoring them at home to see how they grow in their mini green houses.

In PE, we have started our archery lessons and the children are doing really well, learning how to load their arrow and how to fire them into the target. Most children can hit the target now.

## April Newsletter 2021

### Key Stage 2 News

### Year 4

Year 4 have started summer term off brilliantly. They have been working really hard in all subjects and have been enjoying their learning.

For our English, we have been looking at story writing and the children have been trying their best to make sure that they include lots of different features which we have been learning about. I am really impressed with their effort and perseverance in trying to improve their writing. We have also started an exciting writing project run by successful children's author Pie Corbett.

This half term we have started drumming lessons and the children have had the opportunity to play different drums which they have loved! We have also started archery lessons and the children have learned how to hold a bow correctly and have been practising their aiming skills.

### Year 5

The children have quickly settled back in after a short term before our Easter break. This half term our new topic will be Famous Architects and we will be looking at some famous London building. This will be linked to The Great Fire of London we learnt about in Year 2.

Our new class novel is also linked to our London topic and has us thinking about a mystery that has occurred.

We have also started an exciting writing project run by successful children's author Pie Corbett.

In English we will be covering a range of skills from descriptive writing to writing biographies and working our brains hard learning about fractions in maths.

### YEAR 6

It's great to be back after the Easter holidays - the sun is shining and it is starting to feel like spring has sprung! We have started our new topic of bridges through time. Through this topic, we will be looking at some famous architects through the ages and mapping some famous bridges across the world. We also had the opportunity to speak to some actual bridge designers and engineers, who told us about their working life and inspired us to maybe become engineers one day ourselves. They set us some bridge building challenges that really tested us. Did you see our fantastic photographs on Twitter? We can't wait to start building moving bridges of our own later with our own electrical circuits in the half term and adding lights and buzzers. We have also started an exciting writing project run by successful children's author Pie Corbett. Keep an eye out on Twitter!