

# Baltasound Junior High School Newsletter - May 2020



A Peerie School Big Dreams Newsletter for Everyone

## SCHOOL UPDATE

Hi everyone. In what is a very strange time for all of us, I thought it would be good to post you all a school newsletter acknowledging the challenges we all face but more importantly, highlighting the positives and successes families are having during this period of lockdown. It is also an opportunity to share how learning looks during Term 4 and how we can best support each other.

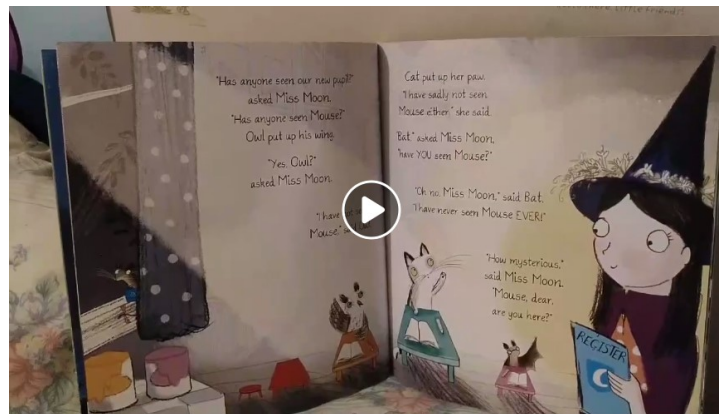
I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and looking forward to a time when all students can safely return to school.

Mr P. Thomson (Head Teacher)

## WHAT DOES EARLY YEARS LEARNING LOOK LIKE?

Our Early Years staff are keeping our students engaged, motivated and entertained through the Early Years Facebook page.

We have had great success using this as a way of communicating and sharing during this time and, more importantly, we are seeing lots of smiling, laughing and very active children.



All the parents have been fantastic sharing their own experiences of learning at home which is great for other parents and school staff to see. Well done everyone!

## WHAT DOES LOWER PRIMARY LEARNING LOOK LIKE?

Our Primary 1 to 4 students have been busy working through their learning packs. Various printed resources covering literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing were provided at the start of the term.

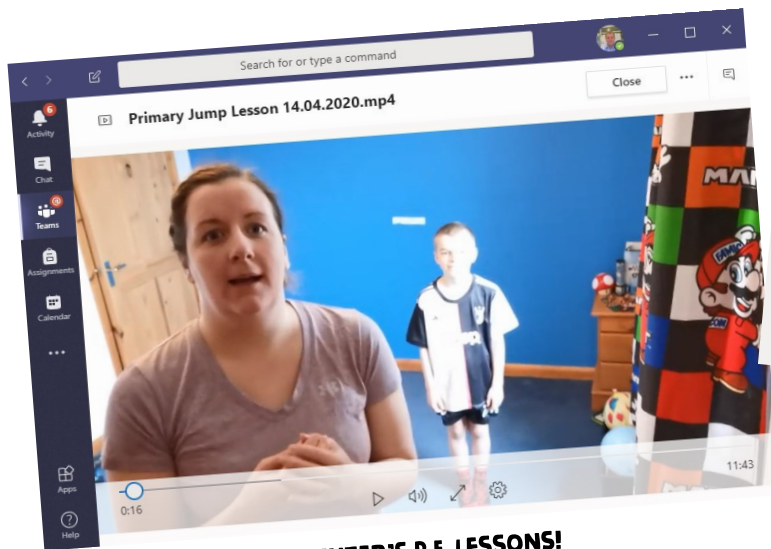
Some parents have requested additional sheets (Mystery Maths being a popular one!) - if anyone would like additional printed resources, then please get in touch with the school and we can post them out.

Our Lower Primary students can also access their Team (using their Glow login). On the Team, there are additional activities, tasks, videos and links. Turn the page to see some of our Lower Primary Glow Teams activity.

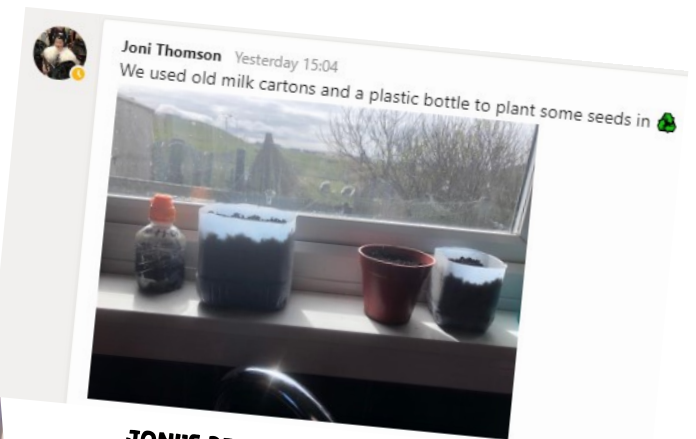


## OUR LOWER PRIMARY GLOW TEAM ACTIVITY

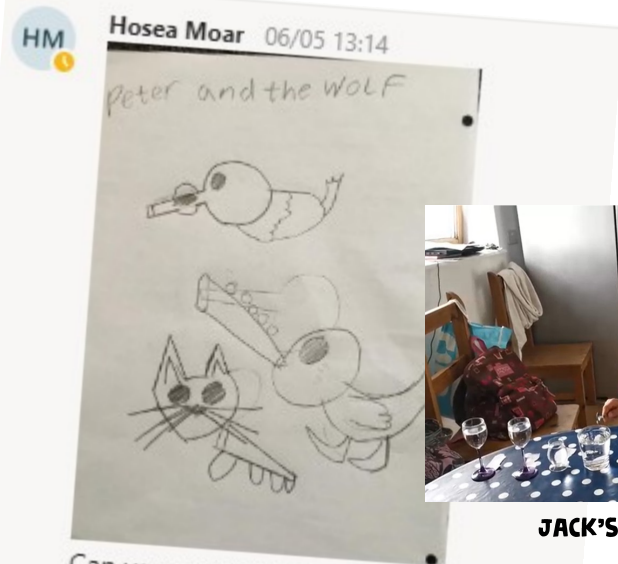
We have a video guide on our Facebook page which shows how to access Teams. Once in, Lower Primary students will see their Team. Within this are channels for Literacy, Numeracy, Topic, P.E., Chat and others. Some of the images below are screenshots taken from our Teams page. Feel free to login and join in any time!



**MRS HUNTER'S P.E. LESSONS!**



**JONI'S BEEN PLANTING SEEDS!**



**JACK'S MUSICAL GLASSES OF WATER**

Can you guess the animals? From Hosea  
**HOSEA GETTING INSPIRATION FROM MUSIC.**



**COREY BUSY CRAFTING!**



**JAXON SHARING HIS BAKING.**

Corey Thomason Yesterday 11:05  
The muffnuts look really delicious Jaxon.

We know that our Lower Primary students have been very busy with their learning packs, helping at home and outside in the garden which is great.

Our Glow Team is somewhere they can go, if they are looking for something extra/different or want to catch up or share with their class/teacher.

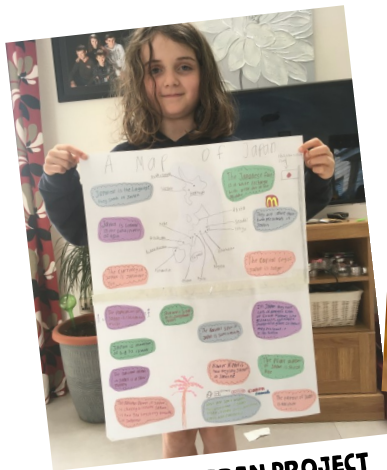
## WHAT DOES LEARNING LOOK LIKE FOR UPPER PRIMARY

Much like Lower Primary, all the Upper Primary learning packs went home at the beginning of term. And similarly, if anyone needs more resources or alternative paper based work, please let us know so we can send more out.

Perhaps you would like something different - we have resource packs from ZetTrans, the Scottish Rugby Union and more, although we don't want to swamp parents with materials. So, if there is anything you would like, please let us know. We are happy to send out materials.

## OUR UPPER PRIMARY GLOW TEAM ACTIVITY

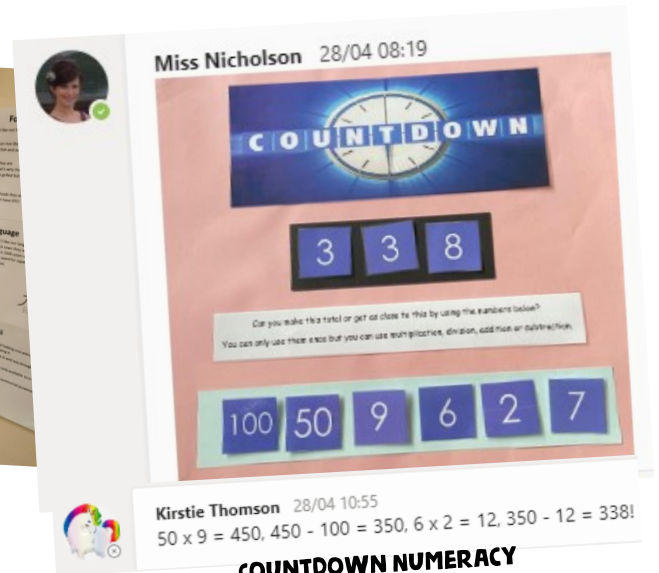
Our Upper Primary class have been very active on Glow Teams. Here's a few screenshots of what they've been up to.



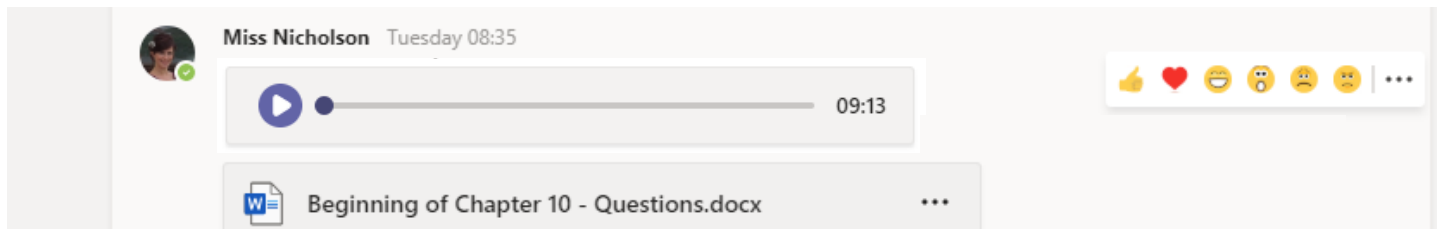
ALANA'S JAPAN PROJECT



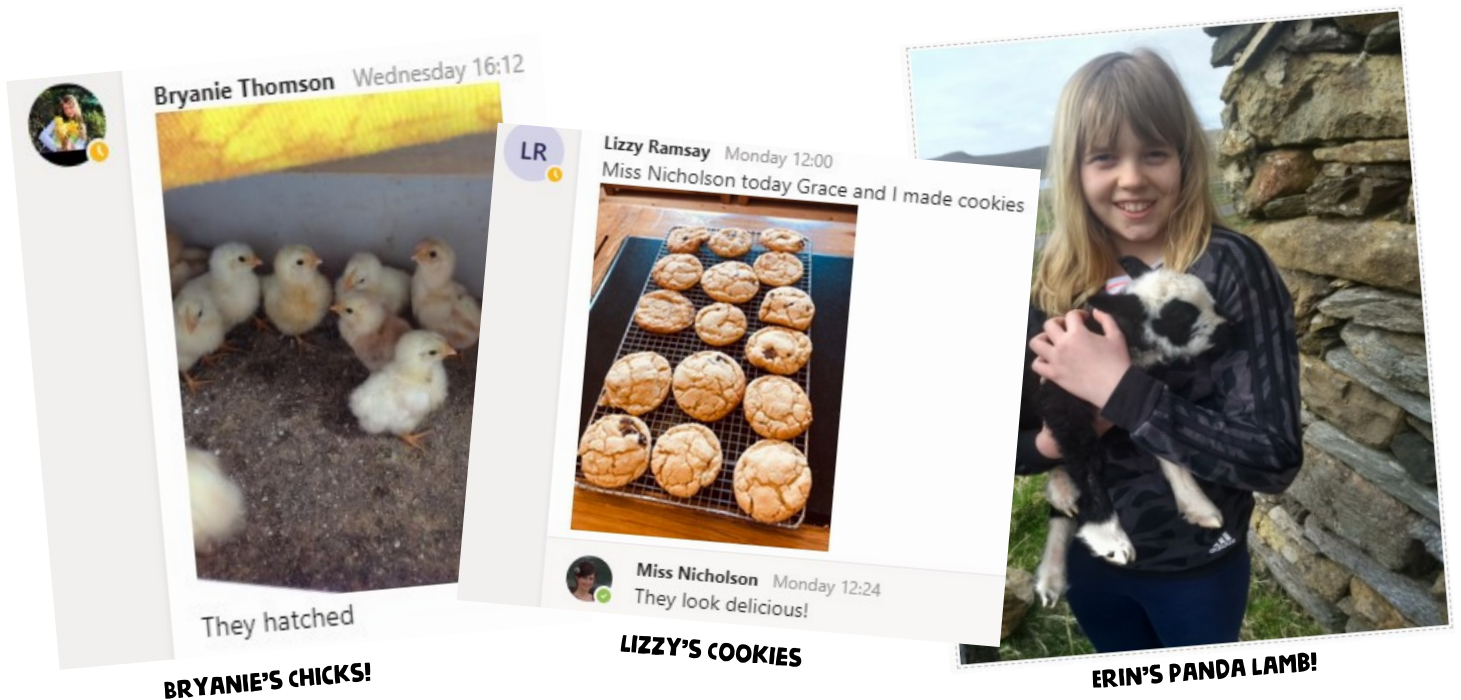
NEVE'S JAPAN POSTER



COUNTDOWN NUMERACY



MISS NICHOLSON READS A CHAPTER AND PROVIDES FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS



BRYANIE'S CHICKS!

LIZZY'S COOKIES

ERIN'S PANDA LAMB!

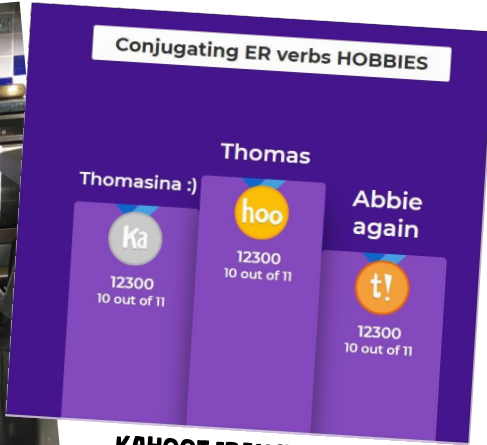
# WHAT DOES LEARNING LOOK LIKE FOR SECONDARY

All of our Secondary students are using Teams to engage with their subject teachers. Within these Teams the students will find resources, materials and assignments to complete.

It is great to see the high levels of engagement amongst our Secondary students and below is just a small sample of what they have been learning so far during Term 4.



**EWAN'S SOCKBALL GOLF**

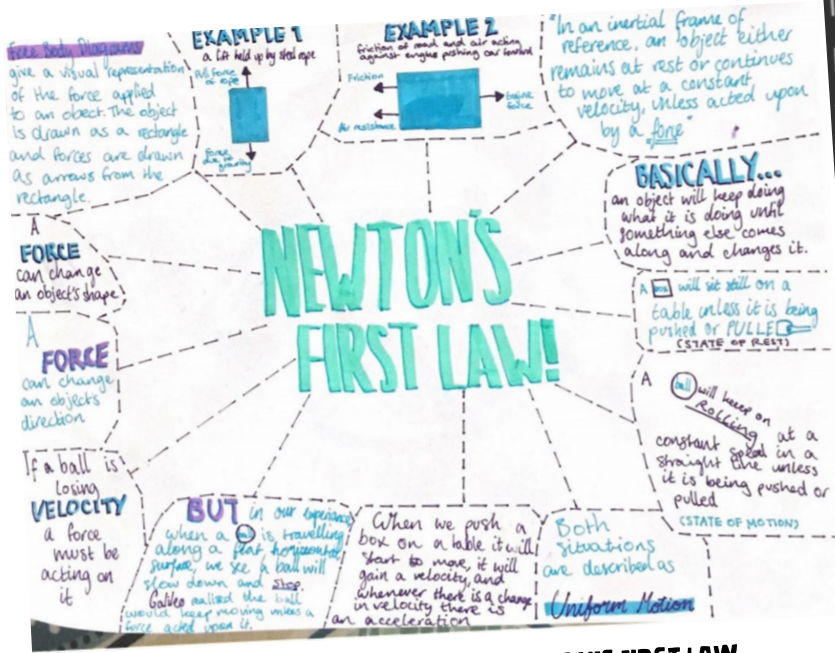


**KAHOOT FRENCH QUIZ**

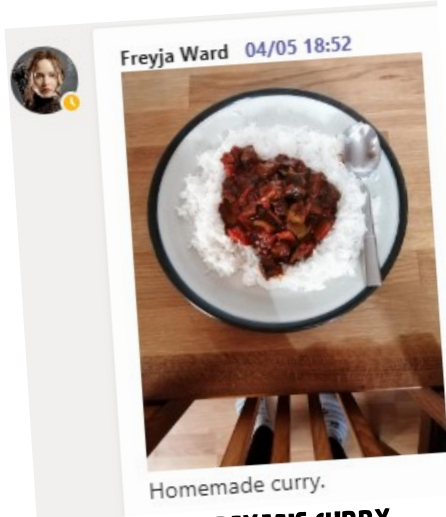
## English

- It's clean.
- It's round.
- It lives on the ground.
- It's useful, not decorative.
- It's plastic.
- Looks like a bowl.
- It can hold liquids, solids or anything in between.
- It gets a round of applause.
- You can have a moment's quiet.
- Use is rewarded but never recorded
- It's cheeky.
- It's a stepping stone.
- It's a throne

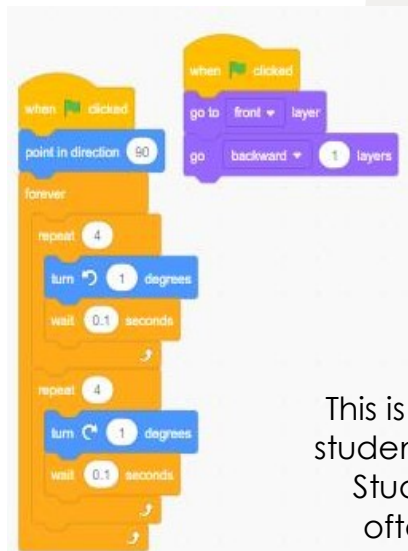
**THOMAS DESCRIBING AN OBJECT IN 12 STATEMENTS.**



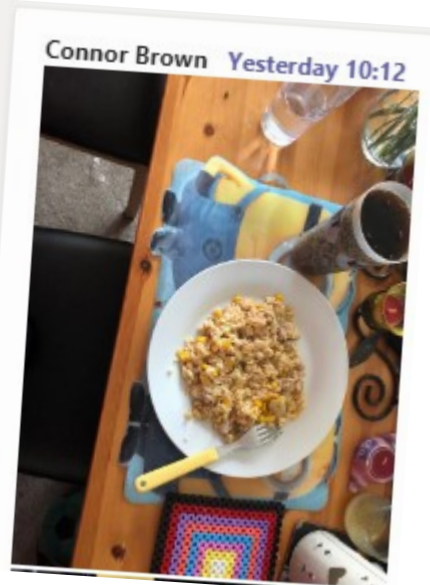
**NATALIE SKETCHING NOTES ON NEWTON'S FIRST LAW**



**FREYJA'S CURRY**



**ALI'S CODING**



**CONNOR'S FRIED RICE ASSIGNMENT**

This is just a small selection of what the students have been doing using Teams. Students are reminded to check in often and check their emails too. There's plenty to be getting on with!

## SURVEY

We have an online survey for parents of Primary and Secondary parents—the link has been emailed out to all parents. If you have the time, you can still complete it.

From the results so far, it is very heartening to hear that parents appreciate the work and support offered to all our students whilst they are at home. Some of the key responses are shown below.

The level/challenge of work in the pack provided for my child looks:

[More Details](#)

● Too difficult	1
● Too easy	0
● About right	9
● Too early in the term to tell	2



Please tell us about your child's access to laptops/computers/tablets.

[More Details](#)

● access to laptops/computers/t...	5
● having to share but managing...	7
● lack of access to laptops/com...	0



How do you feel about using Glow and Teams? Is it easy/difficult to use?

[More Details](#)

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Responses

Latest Responses

*"easy we manage to help each other if needed "*

*"Good the bairns are good aunt using at using it as they have had gre...*

*"Not something I feel confident in "*

Some of the comments from parents which highlight the reality of learning from home. It is very challenging and parents are often having to juggle their jobs, learning from home and keeping their sanity!

**Remember - we are all in this together and we are all trying our best.**

Everyday is different, we are trying to make the most of the situation and take advantage of the resources around us. If the weather is good and we can go outside all day, we will. If something's not working we stop and try something else. Downtime like movies, board games, tv are just as important as the literacy and numeracy in the packs.

This has been a time for us to be closer as a family which has been wonderful.

It can be difficult to balance out helping the children with learning and work from home at the same time, some days are more productive than others.

My child enjoys sending photos and videos to her teachers and is delighted to receive a reply. As a parent, I really appreciate the responses. Happy to receive some set challenges.

## COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

The school have been actively keeping up with parents throughout the term. Mrs Kavanagh has been regularly checking in with parents of children with Additional Support Needs.

Mr Spence (DHT) and Mr Thomson (HT) have been contacting families once a fortnight to see if there is anything else the school can do to help further. This could be speaking with a Teacher to clear up an issue, sending out paper packs or extra materials, resetting passwords, providing additional jotters or just as an opportunity to catch up with a member of school staff; sometimes it's good just to speak to someone else for 5 minutes!

The school are here to support you, so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

# 25TH MAY - 29TH MAY CATCHUP & WELLBEING WEEK

**NO ADDITIONAL WORK SET. A WEEK OF CATCHING UP ON ANY WORK STILL TO DO. AN OPPORTUNITY TO RELAX AND RECHARGE THE BATTERIES HALFWAY THROUGH THE TERM.**

## EMERGENCY CHILDCARE & ASN HUBS

Most parents will be aware that the school has been open as an Emergency Childcare Hub since before the Easter holidays. This is childcare provision for the children of keyworkers, who have no alternative available. Applications for this are made through: [elc@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:elc@shetland.gov.uk)

We also have an ASN Hub twice per week which provides respite and childcare for students with Additional Support Needs. Families who require this service are asked to speak to the school in the first instance. These facilities are staffed by the BJHS Early Years and Learning Support staff, with additional staff from within the Shetland Islands Council where required.

## NEW STAFF

There are lots of staffing changes happening during Term 4 and into the Summer holidays, so this newsletter provides an opportunity to share these with parents and students.

In Summer we will say a cheerio to Ms Morshead who leaves us for pastures new and Ms Ward, who retires during the holidays. Ms Sasnauskaite has moved to the Scottish mainland and Mrs Johnson is on maternity leave until Easter 2021 (a big BJHS welcome to Joe!).

The Art position has just recently closed with several applicants, so interviews will take place shortly. We have applied for a Home Economics and Social Studies probationer and we will know more about this at the end of May.

In Lower Primary, we will welcome Mrs Margaret Fordyce to the role in June and she will (hopefully!) be able to move up from England to Unst to join the BJHS team. Mrs Fordyce is a keen baker and fan of the Great British Bake Off as well as being a very outdoorsy person; she enjoys walking, gardening and growing her own vegetables.



**BABY JOE**

