



Bucksburn Academy

School Newsletter

June 2020

Introduction from Mr Paul, Head Teacher

We finished school, as any other day, at 2.45pm on Friday 20th March after 11 weeks of the term gone, but this was not any normal end to the school week and the learning our pupils were undertaking was about to be turned upside down. Before we look at life post 'lockdown' it is important to remember all the fantastic work done by young people and school staff before then. The Christmas to Easter term is a long hard one, dark mornings and dark nights, cold weather and, for our senior pupils, the looming SQA exams. Pupils were working hard towards these, until we were told that schools would be closing to most pupils and the exams would not take place.

Since then I have been immensely proud of the team at Bucksburn Academy. I have been proud of the staff for the way they have learned new skills, developed new techniques and found ways to make delivery of the curriculum on line as engaging as possible. We know it is not perfect, we know it is not as good as face to face teaching because we know the relationships between pupils and teachers are the key in ensuring success for young people.

But, I am so proud of the pupils for what they have done since then – creating routines, being resilient and, probably like the rest of us I am sure, shouting at their computers at regular intervals.

I am also proud of the way parents and carers have responded – you have taken up the challenge and are delivering for your young people whilst they cannot attend school. Thank you so much, it will mean that pupils continue to make progress in their learning – please remember, not all learning takes place in school, often some of the most important lessons are learned at home. Parents and carers have always been the most important and most influential educator in a young person's life – these times exemplify this even more.

This newsletter showcases some of the amazing things pupils have achieved in 2020 – be amazed (as I am) and be proud!

Mike Paul, Head Teacher

Parent Council

I think it's safe to say that when we started the 2019/20 Academic Session in August none of us would have ever predicted it to finish like this. Since March we have surely witnessed one the strangest school terms of this generation, we are all living and experiencing first hand a history curriculum topic of the future "Global Pandemic COVID-19". I wonder what our memories of these times will be in years to come.

As a Parent Council we have worked hard to support and liaise with the school Senior Management Team to share timely updates of important information with parents through our social media accounts and virtual meets. We'd like to thank parents and carers for engaging with us through these means and we look to use the success of google meet information updates for future opportunities to engage with the wider parent body going forward.

By the end of the term we will have had our learners at home for 15 weeks. Supporting and motivating them has not been an easy task for anybody, and you could certainly liken the experience to any large theme park rollercoaster ride - a bit of screaming, an occasional rush of adrenalin, and sometimes you just have to hold your head in your hands and hope for the best.

So as well as congratulating parents and carers and obviously our learners (as it really hasn't been the easy ride they had hoped for back in March), we would like to thank all our school staff. Having attended a number of zoom meets with Parent Councils from other schools across the whole of Scotland it has become increasingly apparent that the level of learning and teaching support we have received for our pupils at Bucksburn has been exceptional at every level. A huge thank you to all the staff who have worked through this term in ways they never knew they could, we hope you find some time in the next few weeks to enjoy a well-earned rest.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in August in whatever way that may be, and we will continue to share information updates with you as and when we are able to. Please remember we are easily contactable via email and social media if you would like us to raise any concerns on your behalf.

Stay safe and enjoy your Summer holidays.

Sarah and Adele
Parent Council Co Chairs

Kindness Challenge

We launched our Kindness Challenge in October 2019 to celebrate our 10th anniversary year since Bucksburn Academy opened. We are delighted to have seen many examples of acts of kindness, some small and some big, both in our school and across the wider Bucksburn community. Our S3 leadership group have been collecting food donations for the Storehouse Foodbank who support families across the Bucksburn community. This has been very well supported by pupils and parents and we hope to continue this support when we move back to 'normal'.



We are particularly proud of the kindness our pupils have been showing during lockdown. From baking for NHS staff, to playing bag pipes for care homes, the community has again been generous in its support of H&S Milne raising money to support our pupils. We want to say a big thank you to everyone who has shown kindness and hope that this will be a lasting legacy within our community.



Together We Achieve 2020 – Celebrating Pupil Achievement



Every year we look to highlight pupils' success in learning from across the academic year at our Mainstream celebration evening and at our ASN Wing celebration afternoon. This year we are going to celebrate our pupils' achievements in a video which we will share on our website on Wednesday 1 July with the theme being 'Together We Achieve'.

We continue to be very proud of our pupils and want to celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to you all.

Pupil Support Team – P7 Transition 2020

On March 3rd all P7 pupils from our feeder primaries joined us for a team building morning led by the Army. Pupils had a great morning getting to know each other whilst testing their resilience and teamwork skills.

Our pupil support team have been working hard supporting the P7s as they prepare to transition to Bucksburn Academy. Mr Paul and Mrs Stephen visited the P7 classrooms virtually and held a question and answer session with the pupils.



Google meets for the S1 classes have been taking place every Wednesday, with pupils having the opportunity to meet their peers and ask any questions they may have about the Academy. S2 pupils have joined these meets and talked about their own experiences in S1, and all of the opportunities they have had in subjects and extra-curricular activities.

Our S1 pupils have a Pupil Handbook to work through as they discover more about the Academy. Through subject videos and power-points, they have been introduced to the subjects taught at the Academy and to their new subject teachers.

Our S2 pupils have been producing welcoming posters to let the S1 pupils know how welcome they are to Bucksburn Academy as they move into the Secondary phase of their Learner journeys. Here are some examples below.

We look forward to having our P7s join Team Bucksburn in August.

Welcome Posters



Connecting Classrooms, a Visit from Esubha Pandey, a Nepalese Head Teacher



Last year, the pupils in the ASN Wing worked on Zero Hunger in collaboration with pupils in Pragyan Academy, a school in Nepal. They looked at the causes of hunger in their local area and both schools looked at steps they could take to make positive changes in their community.

Esubha Pandey, the Head Teacher of Pragyan Academy, visited Bucksburn Academy in February. He spoke at the ASN Wing assembly, visited a few classes and was given a flavour of Scottish traditions, including haggis tasting and ceilidh dancing!

Working with Connecting Classrooms

“ I think both Bucksburn Academy and Pragyan Academy found out about each other’s environment and circumstances for our common project on the SDGs, especially Zero Hunger. Our class led a Zero Hunger afternoon assembly. The whole ASN Wing worked together to find out more information and made posters to show their learning about the issues in both countries, about the causes of hunger and the actions each country takes, as well as local communities.

With our Zero Hunger project, I feel we made a big difference in the pupils’ approach to wasting food and a more responsible consumption. We organised a collection for a local food bank and I am more mindful about not wasting food.

I spoke at Assembly, Learning for Sustainability afternoon and the SDG conference hosted in another school and it has built my confidence in public speaking. I feel I am a more responsible citizen because I do litter-picking, recycling and usually many small changes which would make a big difference if done globally.”

Tilli-Anna Charles, pupil in ASN 10 in Bucksburn Academy.



Ashley and Tilli-Anna, 2 of the pupils who worked on the Zero Hunger project, with Mr Esubha Pandey

ASN2 Scottish Project January 2020

The pupils of ASN 2 enjoyed learning about all things Scottish when they did some research on Robert Burns and general Scottish Culture at the beginning of term 3. They enjoyed making cranachan, porridge, scones, Scottish pancakes and shortbread. The class also organised a Burns Supper and learned to recite the Selkirk Grace. Mr Thomson also accepted the invitation to join us and he performed the Address to the Haggis very well for the class.

The pupils had an opportunity to watch and listen to a performance of a visitor playing the clarsach (Scottish harp) and they also enjoyed having a try of this Scottish instrument as well as the Bodhran drum. Part of the project involved presenting an assembly to the ASN Wing where every member of the class shared an interesting fact about the topic and contributed to creating slides. The assembly was rounded off by the class confidently leading the Wing in a rendition of the bard’s most famous song, Auld Lang Syne.

ASN 2 Scottish Project



HE

One S2 pupil and his aunt decided to show their appreciation to a neighbour who works in the theatre department at ARI. He made a summer strawberry cake and Mr Whippy cupcake cones for a task in Home Economics, but then decided to make some extra cakes and traybakes to donate to the hospital staff.

He received a card to show how much his efforts were enjoyed and appreciated. Well done.



John Muir



We were awarded the full sum of £610 in our bid for funding to turn part of Cloverfield Park into a wild flower garden. The funding came from Young Scot and Future Routes.

Unfortunately, the transformation is on hold, but we did manage to plant trees just a few days before lockdown started.

Geography



We had an excellent day's fieldwork down at the beach with our Higher pupils collecting data for their assignments.

Our S3 entered an innovative Thinking Sustainability competition to interview Tim Peake and, although not the winners, were invited along to an audience with him (virtually) as part of Aberdeen StemFest.

History

Bucksburn History would like to make a big shout out to all pupils in S2 and S3 who have worked so well over the last ten weeks. We have seen fantastic examples of family research and investigations into famous events from history. We have had awesome models of Viking longships, Roman villas and even videos of pupils' medieval castles built on Minecraft!



For the last few weeks of term, our new S2 cohort will be exploring medicine through time. We have investigated the Black Death and the crazy cures created to treat it. We will also explore the gruesome tale of Burke and Hare!

Our new S3 cohort have made an excellent start to the new term. They have been uncovering the key reasons behind the start of World War One. A story of ambition, assassination, fear, paranoia and new technology!



Finally, please make sure to follow Bucksburn History on social media to see the best examples of pupil work. Twitter: @BucksburnHisto Instagram: Bucksburn_History

Music

Lunchtime Concerts

The Music department hosted the 4th in a new series of lunchtime concerts on 10th February, featuring the Trad Band, senior vocalist Karli Gordon, Emily Manson on saxophone and the S4 Steel Pan band. The lunchtime concerts have been a great success this year, providing pupils with an opportunity to perform for their peers, parents/carers and teachers. A big well done and thank you to the four senior pupils (Emily Manson, Ailsa Smith, Julia Marshall and Isla Baillie) and to our woodwind instructor Miss Hunter and brass instructor Mr Gregory, who organised the performances.



Young Musician of the Year

The first Bucksburn Academy 'Young Musician of the Year' competition, which was due to take place on Thursday 19th March, had to be postponed. However we're sure that our talented musicians have been practising hard while learning from home, and we plan to try and run the event online instead.



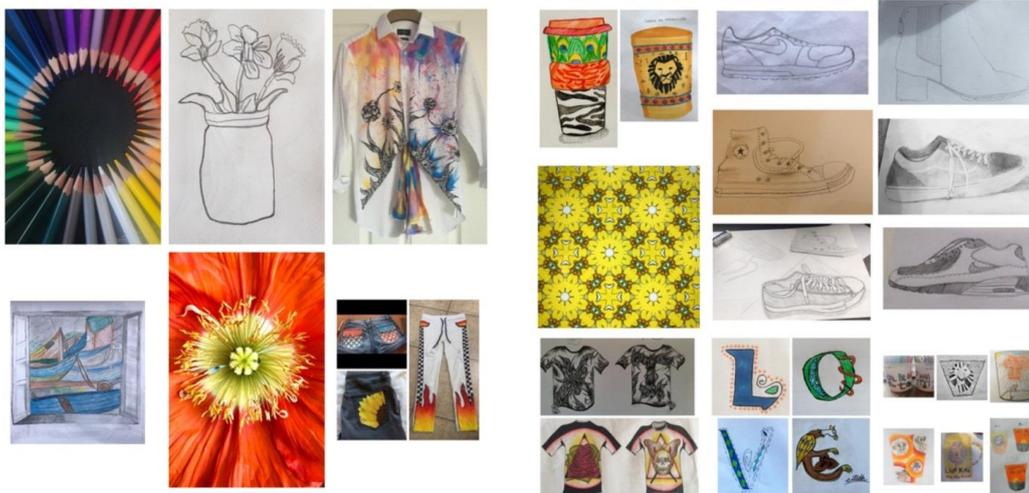
S3 Performance Evening

One of our S3 classes recorded a virtual "class concert" to share with their parents/carers, in lieu of our usual S3 Performance Evening. If your son/daughter was involved or you are interested in the S3 Music course, check it out on our Twitter page: @BucksburnMusic.

Art

The Art and Design BGE online learning programme has involved lots of different topics and we have had wonderful results. Pupils have been designing Lion King cups, Celtic lettering and using technology to create patterns, drawing from both observation and imagination and photographing things around them and relating it to colour ideas.

These images show examples of the BGE work which has been completed at home. Our seniors have been busy working on exam preparation and developing knowledge and understanding of their subject area. Again we have been impressed with the commitment shown from our seniors.



Drama

Drama students have been working very hard and have created some fantastic masks and sets to go with the themes and plays that they are studying online.



T. Akindileni
C. Webb
O. Thompson



K. Kubas
B. McMurray

S2 created some fantastic scripts and sets for their own plays based on Our Day Out by Willy Russell



A. Fagan
M. Davies

R. Greig
A. Mitchell

S3 also made set designs for DNA by Dennis Kelly.



S. Whittle
R. Dang

Young Leaders of Learning



This spring, a group of pupils and staff from Bucksburn Academy ASN Wing were delighted to collaborate with peers from Orchard Brae School on a Young Leaders of Learning project.

Young Leaders of Learning, or YLL, is a national project, developed by Education Scotland, which involves young people actively in improving their school. Our project was a pilot in settings specialised to learners with Additional Support Needs.

On the first visits, the pupils from Orchard Brae enjoyed visiting our

Life Skills flat for some inter-school Uno, followed by Assembly and a social lunch in our Canteen. On our visit to Orchard Brae, we were excited to discover the playground and equipment at Orchard Brae, followed by a social lunch in their Canteen and their wonderful Makaton Choir, where we all joined in, singing and signing together!

The study visits themselves were very focused and we took photos, videos and notes as we went around on our tours. Each pupil in our group has shared ideas about things they like at our school and things they liked when they went to Orchard Brae. They have also all contributed their views on what they would like to change for the better, often giving good reasons behind their suggestions.

We can be really proud of all our pupils, they have done an excellent job so far and are a real credit to themselves and our school! Our Education Scotland Officer highlighted how friendly the pupils were with each other, how well they worked together across the project and visits to date and how much she has enjoyed being part of this project and is looking forward to moving it on next year.

When it is safe to do so, we will be resuming and finishing this year's project, as well as moving it forward into a new year. We are all looking forward to sharing our YLL findings and making a positive impact on our school community - together we achieve.



Biology News



Leave a Vibe!

Just wanted to let you know the great work our biologists have been doing throughout lockdown. They are engaging really well and are participating in a variety of online tasks. The S6 AH have been submitting presentations - they are very good. So good I think some have an eye on my job!

Our S4s have been experimenting using Flipgrid. They have been carrying out Osmosis experiments using gummi bears and sending videos of their work to Flipgrid. It's great to see the active learning. I've attached a screenshot from one of the videos.

You can also see the video with this link <https://flipgrid.com/s/80e87d3b924b>

Languages

European Day of Languages

This year, to celebrate European Day of Languages, students in S1/S2 engaged in quizzes and carousel activities. Students had the opportunity to learn from their fellow bilingual students; core phrases in multi-languages such as Dutch, Polish, Arabic, Malayalam, Turkish, Spanish, Romanian and Azerbaijani. Students took ownership of planning mini-language workshops. Following this fantastic experience, students have commented that they have continued learning these languages through apps such as Duolingo.

Mexican Culture and 'Día de los Muertos'



To celebrate 'Day of the Dead' BGE students completed their first-ever unit in Spanish on Mexican culture. S2 students studied the Disney Pixar film COCO, learning about the traditions around the day such as altars, sugar skulls and also starting to build core vocabulary on family/greetings. Students created their own skull displays,



participated in a Mexican themed photo booth and learnt lyrics to songs from the film such as 'Recuerdame' and 'El mundo es mi familia'.

French Penfriends

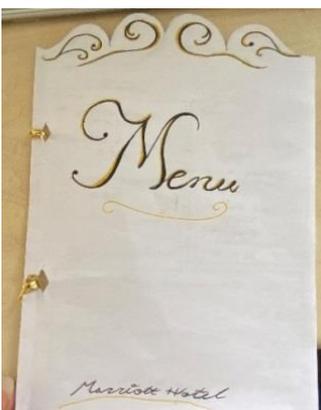
This session, we continued our partnership with our school in Grenoble, France (Collège Jean Ferrat). At the start of the term, BGE students received a letter from a penfriend in English, about themselves and their interests. We then replied in French, writing about our home area which was the class topic we were studying. All students loved receiving a personalised letter and discovering what they have in common with their penfriend.

University Student

After Christmas, we were delighted to welcome Cristina, a Languages undergraduate student from the University of Aberdeen. Cristina wanted to gain classroom experience before embarking on her year abroad to Peru, where she plans to work in a school. Working with S1 classes studying Spanish, she focused on arranging speaking tasks and interactive games, for example, Kahoot, to help students reinforce the vocabulary they had been learning. As a polyglot, she was a real inspiration for our students who loved working with her.



Mariott Hotel

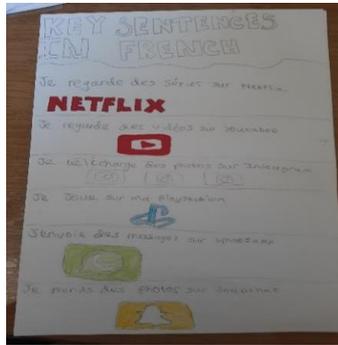


S3 students have again this year had the opportunity to gain an SQA qualification studying the Languages for Life and Work Award. Students partnered up with the Marriott Hotel in Dyce, creating group projects for them using employability and languages skills they have gained through the qualification. Unfortunately, due to the closure of the school, students did not have the opportunity to present their projects to the hotel. However, we will be sharing their fantastic efforts with them when school reopens.



Online Learning in Languages

Students in both the Senior Phase and BGE have been engaging excellently with online learning. Students are accessing their work weekly on Google Classroom, using Forms, Docs and Slides to complete tasks. Many students are going above and beyond and are accessing apps such as Babble, Duolingo and Quizlet to strengthen their knowledge and challenge themselves. Some students have been participating in online courses run by Scotland's National Centre for Languages in N5/Higher French and beginners Arabic. From all Literacy and Language faculty, thank you for your efforts and keep up the great work!



Literacy News

World Book Day

Thursday 5th March brought World Book Day to Bucksburn Academy. This was marked with an assembly for S1 and S2 pupils. Pupils were quizzed about some famous book characters in a friendly competition to see how much they knew.

A scavenger hunt was also organised and pupils had to see who could find the most members of staff and discover which book title they had been given. Three prizes were awarded for getting them all. Nikola was camera shy but the other winners were less so.



Library Update

Throughout this session, all the S1 and S2 pupils have been using Accelerated Reader to track their reading. This encourages them to read at a suitable level and take quizzes on the books that they have read. The program keeps track of the number of words that they have read and from this, we can see who have become word millionaires and multi-millionaires. So far with a month to go, we have the following multi-millionaires:

Siva (3,773,448); Vinayak (3,040,193); Logan (2,326,376) and the millionaires are: Kirsty (1,713,662); Angel (1,219,820); Ben (1,095,041); Jenny (1,040,960); Justine (1,020,867); Richard (1,018,983).

This session, again, we have been joined on a Friday afternoon by reading dog Bruno (and his human Fiona Watt). He has joined 2A2 for their personal reading time and has enjoyed hearing various pupils read to him. Hopefully next session we will eventually be able to welcome Bruno back.



Grampian Children's Book Awards

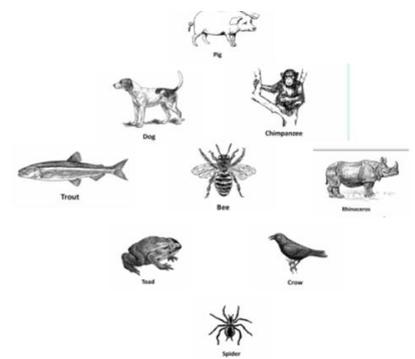
The Grampian Children's Book Awards have been running for over 10 years, and again we have encouraged two classes to take part in the award. This year 2A1 and 2C1 have had the opportunity to help shape the shortlist of books and then read these books and vote for their winner. Just before lockdown, they were completing their competition entries (Book reviews, Book trailers and Film posters), which we will hopefully get completed when we are back in the building. These will then be judged against others in the city and ultimately with the entries from Aberdeenshire and Moray, with prizes for the winning entries. Normally the winner of the award would have been announced at a ceremony in early May but because of circumstances that has not been possible this year. When we can, we will get the votes in for our school and also the votes for the rest of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray and announce a winner.

RMPS

S1 - This year pupils have been very busy in RMPS. S1 pupils have been examining the following topics:

- Big Questions: Can a machine think? Where do right and wrong come from? How do I know this world is real?
- World Religion: Hinduism, Celtic Religion, Islam and Jediism to name just a few.
- Animal Ethics: Animal rights, animals used as entertainment and factory farming.

S1 pupils have been developing their critical thinking by justifying their own personal beliefs and actions through games, higher order thinking questions and practising Socratic questioning with each other.

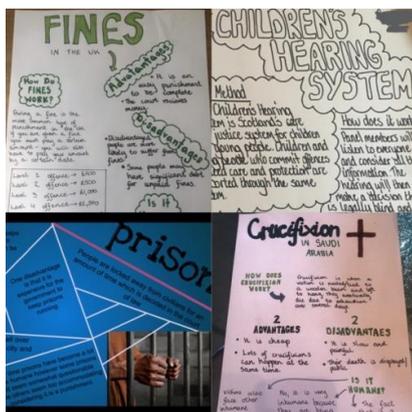


Which animal do you think is the most important and least important?

S2 - S2s have been questioning the following:

- Medical ethics: Abortion laws around the world, euthanasia rights and views on organ donation.
- Gangs and gangsters: Why kids kill, sectarianism, and preventing gangs.
- Capital punishment: Aims of punishment, does the death penalty work? And miscarriages of justice.

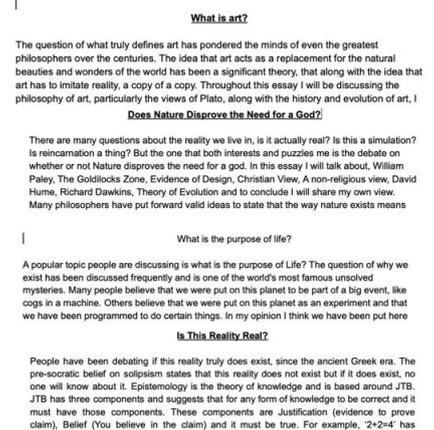
Pupils have been working to improve their evaluative skills when coming to a conclusion about these different topics.



Evaluate a world method of punishment with a UK method of punishment.

S3 – S3 pupils have also been working hard to complete their Religious, Belief and Values award throughout the year. As well as partaking in in-depth research on an essay question of their own choice, pupils have been learning about the following:

- Morality and conflict
- Metaphysics
- Epistemology



A selection of essay titles chosen by S3 pupils this year

Technologies Faculty

Junior Phase

Pupils have been working very hard in ICT, Enterprise, Business and Computing this term, producing lots of excellent pieces of work.

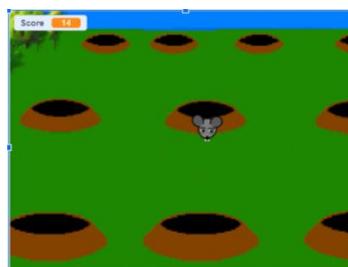
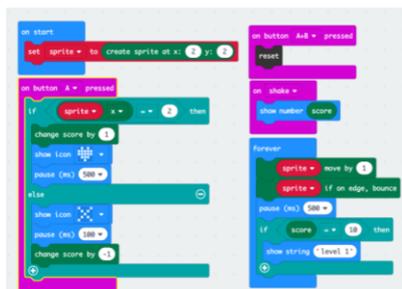
In ICT, pupils have writing programs using Scratch, writing programs to control Microbits and playing Codecombat, which requires them to write instructions in Python. With health and well-being in mind, one of the Microbit tasks involved creating and customising a step counter. Spending lots of time online this term, internet safety has also been revisited by the pupils creating posters to share their top 5 tips for staying safe online. Input-Process-Output, as well as aspects of computer systems has also been revised, giving pupils the chance to expand their knowledge and understanding of the devices we use every day.

In S3 Computing pupils are learning how to create webpages using html. They have been learning about different types of virus and other common threats- learning how to recognise them and studying their impact on computers and personal data.

In Enterprise and Business, pupils have been looking at different businesses around the world and their impact of society. Business pupils have also been looking at the need and wants of consumers and how businesses satisfy these with goods and services whilst also looking at how they plan to do this through aims and objectives.

Senior Phase

In the Senior Phase, live sessions have been run in all three subjects in the faculty and have been well-attended. Pupils have handed in an exceptional amount of work into Business Management, Computing and Admin and IT and have been very productive in these challenging times. Keep up the hard work! We appreciate it!



Item	Need or Want
Potatoes	Need
House	Want
Visit to hairdresser	Want
Fish	Want
Holiday to Florida	Want
Life saving medicine	Want
Jewellery	Want
Computer	Want

Dates for Your Diary 2020

Inservice Day	Monday 10 th August 2020
Expected Return of Pupils	Tuesday 11 th August 2020