



Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 4

Friday 20 October 2017

As another exciting fortnight brings this action-packed half-term to a close, please allow me to share with you the latest news from Girton Glebe Primary School...

School Field

As you will be aware, over the last 18 months there has been a significant amount of work taking place beyond the fence line near the Oak and Willow classrooms. Heavy machinery was on site during the winter, stripping and preparing the land, the grass was sown in April and I am delighted to announce that the field is now ready for use!



Over the next few weeks, our children will be heading to the field for PE lessons and in the future we plan to use this space for breaktimes and lunchtimes. It will also be wonderful to host sports days on our own turf (pun intended). The addition of this field means that school sports teams will be able to host home matches and it is an incredible space for outdoor learning.

Please also keep an eye out for the Children in Need information that is being circulated today about the events we will be holding on the school field on November 17.



Polar Explorers & Science Updates

This week in Science, Lime and Maple Classes have been making and testing ear defenders, whilst Cherry and Birch have been leaning about the rotation of the planets around the sun.

In other news, I am pleased to announce that Girton Glebe Primary has been accepted onto the Polar Explorer Programme. Its aim is to encourage and support schools who are keen to raise aspirations and attainment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and is designed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. Staff from the Polar Explorer Programme will be working alongside teachers from Girton Glebe and we have already been supplied with an exciting bank of resources to deliver lessons in support of this project – watch this space!

Further information can be found at <https://www.stem.org.uk/welcome-polar-explorer-programme>

The following pupils got the correct answer to the science questions this week. 'Rotating Earth' winners were Alex, Sofia, Beren, Sonnie, William and Felix. 'Ear trumpet' winners (!) were Toby and Merryn. Well done all!



Harvest Festival

On Thursday 12 October, we hosted our harvest festival assembly in the school hall. The assembly began at 0900 and consisted of a packed programme of poems, songs and rhymes performed by children across the school. The children did incredibly well and treated the audience of EYFS parents to a wonderfully entertaining thirty minutes of harvest celebrations.

Well done to all children who took part and a special cheer for our EYFS pupils for performing in their first assembly at Girton Glebe Primary!

All food donations this year were collected by Jimmy's Cambridge, a charity set up to assist the homeless community within the city. Thank you to all who supported us with this event!

Huge Thanks!

Many thanks to all who supported and/or sponsored me for taking part in last Sunday's Birmingham International Marathon. As you may be aware, I was raising money for Pendleside Hospice in Lancashire whose dedicated team cared for my grandfather, and with your generous support I have currently raised almost £1000.

The route was surprisingly hilly and I covered the 26.2 miles in a time of 4:16:06 and have now been bitten by the marathon bug – watch out Manchester on April 8!

Sporting Success

Our Year 6 pupils recently visited Impington Village College to take part in an Invasion Games Festival where they competed in tournaments against teams from Milton Primary and Histon Junior School.

The children took part in a series of competitive hockey, football and netball games held throughout the morning proving themselves to be excellent ambassadors for Girton Glebe Primary School with their incredible sporting attitude and teamwork.

Our Year 3 pupils have also enjoyed time at IVC and they too took part in an invasion games festival last week. During their visit, the children played football, tag rugby, and hockey as well as being involved with multi-skills activities. Congratulations to all of the children who took part in these events!

School Development

Staff meetings over the last fortnight have been focused on sharing examples of practice for developing extended writing opportunities and our Monday Inset session was centred on approaches to planning foundation subjects based on a clear progression of key skills.

Other professional development time has been spent sharing methods of formative assessment (strategies for assessing pupils' understanding within the lesson) that staff are currently trialling within their classrooms.

The Senior Leadership Team have recently been looking at foundation subject planning and homework.

Open Afternoon & Evening

I would like to invite you all to the Open Evening and Afternoon we will be hosting on Tuesday 7 November (2pm – 3pm and 6pm – 7pm) where you will have the opportunity to talk to staff, meet our governors and experience the wide range of activities taking place within our classrooms. There will be a café run by members of FOGG and there will also be a presentation at the start of each session by the Headteacher. Our Year 6 ambassadors will also be giving guided tours of the school if you wish to join them. I look forward to seeing you there!

Diary Dates

Half-term: Monday 23 – Friday 27 October

School reopens: Monday 30 October

Y6 Bikeability: Monday 30 October – Thursday 2 November

Open Afternoon & Evening: Tuesday 7 November (1400 – 1500 & 1800 - 1900)

Individual Photos: Wednesday 8 November

Shakespeare Schools Festival Performance: Tuesday 14 November, Mumford Theatre (1900 - 2200)

Lime Class Assembly: Friday 17 November (0900)

Children in Need Events: Friday 17 November (0950 – 1100)

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Simpson,

Headteacher