



# Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 9

Friday 26 January 2018

With the Spring Term well and truly underway, there have been many exciting things taking place at Girton Glebe Primary School. Please read on for a round-up of some of the things which have been taking place in and around school over the last two weeks...

## Staffing News

I am pleased to announce that, on Friday 19 January, we appointed Ms Mary Saldanha to the post of Willow Class teacher in preparation for Mrs Fitch's maternity leave.

Mary is an incredibly experienced teacher and will be joining us after February half-term, two weeks prior to Mrs Fitch's departure, to allow all three members of staff the opportunity to complete a thorough transition. The time will also allow Ms Saldanha to teach alongside Mrs Fitch and get to know our pupils ahead of her official start in class.

## Celebrating Uniqueness

This week, our pupils have been celebrating their uniqueness and the strength this adds to our whole-school community through a range of anti-bullying activities.

The week began with an assembly on this theme and our children were encouraged to come to school wearing odd socks in support of our work on individuality.



The aims for the week were to empower children to celebrate what makes them, and other pupils, unique and to help them understand how important it is that every child feels valued in school, without the fear of bullying.

There were many activities taking place around school, some of which included poems written from the perspectives of victims and perpetrators, the creation of posters focussing on what makes a good friend and debates around how people can hold both similar and opposing views about an experience or object.

Our pupils took to the forest to complete an activity called 'The Unique Stick' with Mr Smart.



During this session, the children were asked to find a stick, give it a name and decide what things, based on its appearance, it may be good for. The children then discussed their perceived individual strengths and weaknesses before they 'picked on' a stick, breaking it up and making fun of it. The children then 'healed' the stick by showing compassion towards it and showering it with support.

The session ended with a friendship web where the children stood in one large circle, passing on a ball of string and a compliment to somebody else within the circle.



Well done to all of our children for completing this week's activities with so much thought and compassion, and thank you to all of our staff for leading such engaging tasks – special thanks to the unique Mr Smart!

## The Golden Mile

Our launch of the Golden Mile got off to a flying start with all children eagerly completing laps and adding to their totals as the week progressed. Our Golden Mile Monitors will be collecting these totals on Monday morning and shall be collating the first set of data on our school system.

Well done to all pupils and staff for your hard work in clocking up so many miles around our playground!

## School Development

During last week's staff meeting, we focussed on teacher development through peer-to-peer support and are encouraging staff to spend time observing other colleagues to see examples of the great practice that is taking place in classrooms at Girton Glebe. Staff will identify a focus for their visits and work alongside a colleague in order to develop a specific aspect of their teaching.

This week, we spent time planning logistics for the use of the school field and how this can be used for break times and outdoor learning.

The focus of this week's Senior Leadership Team meeting was the monitoring of standards in writing across the school.

## Battery Recycling

Many thanks to all pupils, parents and carers who have been sending batteries in to school for recycling. We now have quite an extensive collection and, this week, received an impressively large battery to store them in before they are sent away to be recycled. Our Year 6 pupils have been busy

sorting and filling this container and it is now already full. There is a second container due to be delivered soon and this will be kept by the school office – please keep them coming!



## Mathletics Workshop

A reminder that on Wednesday 31 January we will be hosting a Mathletics workshop in the school hall at 0900.

This 30-minute session will show you how Mathletics is used in school and the scope for its use at home, detailing how class teachers tailor its functions to individual pupils – please do come along and join us!

## Diary Dates

### Spring Term Class Assemblies – Fridays (0900 - 0930)

**Willow:** 2 February

**Oak:** 9 March

**Ash:** 23 March

**Mathletics Workshop for Parents:** Wednesday 31 January (0900)

**Year 6 Parent Consultations:** Tuesday 6 February (1530 – 1900), Wednesday 7 February (1530 – 1800)

**World Book Day:** Thursday 1 March (Dress up as your favourite book character)

**French Breakfast Information Session for Year 6 Parents:** Friday 2 March (0900)

**E-Safety Week:** Monday 5 – Friday 9 March

**Year 6 Trip to France:** Monday 12 – Friday 16 March

**Science Week:** Monday 19 – Friday 23 March

**Parent Consultations (EYFS – Y5):** Tuesday 20 March (1530 – 1900), Thursday 22 March (1530 – 1800)

Thank you for your continued support,

*Mr Andrew Simpson*

Headteacher