



Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 11

Friday 2 March 2018

We have had a range of exciting visitors in school over the last couple of weeks who have enriched the wonderful work which has been taking place within the classrooms at Girton Glebe Primary. Please read on for a round-up of the last fortnight's news and events...

Staffing News

I would like to extend an official Girton Glebe welcome to Ms Mary Saldanha who joined us after half-term to share the role of teaching Willow class with Mrs Knowler. Ms Saldanha has spent two weeks working alongside Mrs Knowler and Mrs Fitch and has been teaching in Willow in advance of Mrs Fitch's departure.

I also extend a very warm welcome to Miss Davidson who has joined our team to teach Birch class for the second half of the spring term!

As of today, Mrs Fitch has officially begun her maternity leave and we wish her all the very best for the next few weeks and beyond! Watch this space for Little Fitch updates...

The Solar System Comes to Girton

On February 20 we were incredibly fortunate to have Dr Mark Galloway, an astro physicist from the University of Hertfordshire, pay us a visit and take our children in to space in an inflatable planetarium which took up residence in the school hall for the day!



The planetarium, which was able to hold 30 children at a time, whisked our pupils off through space and each of our classes experienced a 40-minute tour of our solar system led by one of the UK's leading experts.



The workshops inspired some wonderful discussions and it was incredibly exciting to hear the children talking so passionately about the things that they had seen.

Dr Galloway's outreach work is funded by the Ogden Trust and we are very grateful for him coming to share his expertise with our pupils. He will be returning to Cambridge in September with the UK's largest inflatable planetarium which is due to be positioned on Parker's Piece.

Many thanks to Mrs Storer for organising this event, it was out of this world!

World Book Day

On Thursday 1 March our pupils and staff donned fancy dress in support of World Book Day. The remit was to dress up as your favourite book character and, as usual, the children and adults of Girton Glebe excelled themselves! Well done, all!



Girton Musical Theatre

On February 22 we were visited by members of Girton Musical Theatre who came to perform excerpts from their play *The Merry Widow* for our pupils.

Girton Musical Theatre have had their stage housed in the school hall for rehearsals ahead of their performances which took place between 22 & 24 and our children were treated to a few songs and scenes from the full play ahead of the opening performance.

Many thanks to the actors and musicians who came to school and spent time with our children that morning.

A Very Generous Donation

You may have noticed that, during the half-term break, we have had two sets of new doors installed leading from the school hall into the playground.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Streets Chartered Accountants for their incredibly generous donation of £500 towards the total cost of the installation of these doors. We are very privileged to have such wonderful support from the local community and this contribution has assisted us in covering some of the costs for this essential maintenance.

School Development

Staff meetings over the last fortnight have covered a number of curriculum areas. We have spent time looking at the progression of planning in English, leading from immersion in a particular text type up to the 'big write' at the end of a unit and have also finalised items which are included in the Food Guidance information which has been circulated today.

During Senior Leadership Meetings we have spent time analysing whole-school progress data and, this week, we were joined by two members of the governing body as we looked at planning for spelling and phonics from across the school.

On Thursday 1 March, Mr Simpson and Mr Russell attended a very inspirational training day led by the local authority's English team which brought together a number of Cambridgeshire schools to work on a phonics project. Thursday was the first step in a series of sessions based on incredibly engaging strategies and techniques from StoryTime Phonics and the Phonic Fairy. Girton Glebe is very fortunate to be part of the grant which is funding this initiative, and we are very excited about working with so many other schools to enrich provision for phonics, spelling and reading. Watch this space for further developments!

School Orchestra

Following a short break, the Girton Glebe School Orchestra will be starting up again this term. The orchestra is open to all pupils from Years 3 to 6 who are learning a musical instrument, either in or out of school.

The emphasis will be having fun whilst working together to perform popular pieces of music.

The orchestra will be run by Mr Peter Wright, an incredibly experienced music teacher and orchestra leader, who our Y5 and Y6 pupils will know from the keyboard lessons he has been delivering in class.

Mr Wright's time in school will be funded by the music legacy held by FOGG which we are incredibly grateful to be in receipt of.

Letters regarding orchestra have been circulated today and slips registering interest should be returned to school by Friday 9 March.

Diary Dates

Spring Term Class Assemblies – Fridays (0900 - 0930)

Oak: 9 March

Ash: 23 March

E-Safety Week: Monday 5 – Friday 9 March

NSPCC School Visit: Tuesday 6 March (assemblies for EYFS/KS1 and KS2 pupils followed by afternoon workshops for children in Y5 and Y6)

FOGG Spring Jumble Sale: Saturday 10 March

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

Cherry Class Visit to Polar Museum: Wednesday 14 March (am)

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