



Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 5

Friday 15 November 2019

There have been many exciting things happening at Girton Glebe Primary School over the last fortnight. Please read on for a round-up of our latest news...

Remembrance

Thank you to all children, parents and carers who have supported us in raising money for the Poppy Appeal. Our Year 6 children have done a fabulous job of selling poppies around school this week and were magnificent ambassadors for Girton Glebe as they attended the war memorial on Monday 11 to observe a minute's silence. It has been lovely to see so many children wearing poppies around school in support of this cause – well done all!

Children in Need



Many thanks to all children who came to school today in non-uniform to support Children in Need.

Huge thanks to all parents and carers for their kind contributions, which will be donated to the charity.

Anti-Bullying Week



This week we have been supporting the Anti-Bullying Alliance's anti-bullying week with a range of assemblies, themed-days and activities in school.

The week began with a whole-school assembly, which introduced this year's theme, Change Starts with Us. Through this theme, the children explored how they could make a big difference by making small changes to their interactions with others. The emphasis was on creating a safe, caring environment through collective responsibility.

To quote the Anti-Bullying Alliance, "Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with working together."

The children were challenged to consider their words and actions and to be more conscious of the times in which they compliment and consider others.

Tuesday saw pupils and staff arrive in odd socks and there were some fabulously whacky combinations of footwear visible around the school! Thank you to all who supported this event.

On Wednesday, Ewan from Cambridge United led a whole-school assembly, which built upon Monday's theme and contained a number of effective visual demonstrations of how kind words and actions can make a big difference.

On Tuesday, I met with School Council to discuss ways in which schools could reduce bullying. During this meeting, we also discussed wider curriculum ideas.

All of the above were supported by activities that took place within the classroom. Well done to all pupils for living up to these expectations: your smiles and your kindness are contagious!

School Development

This week's staff meeting focussed on John Hattie's *Visible Learning* research, which teachers are using as a basis for the next cycle of Lesson Study, a peer mentoring approach to professional development.

During last week's meeting we conducted a curriculum review and collaboratively answered the question, *How do we know that our children are becoming better historians?*

Musicians Wanted – School Orchestra

We are currently looking for new members to join the school orchestra, which will be led by Peter Wright.

Orchestra is open to all pupils in Year 2 and above, who can play an instrument. We can accommodate all instruments, from recorders to trumpets to violins to keyboards to harmonicas or whatever you can play. The only other requirements are that you can play at least one note and are prepared to join in the rehearsals and practise your part at home!

The orchestra plays music from the charts, TV and films, as well as more traditional music. Rehearsals will take place on Friday afternoons and we aim to hold our first session on Friday 22 November.

Please let the school office know if your child is interested in joining these sessions by Wednesday 20 November.

P4C

18.11: Can creativity be a bad thing?

25.11: When did you start to think?

Open Sessions – Thank You!

Many thanks to all who came out to share our open day sessions with us last week. There was a wonderful atmosphere around school and the classrooms and corridors looked lovely – well done to all staff for their hard work and dedication in preparing for this event!

Thanks also to all children who gave up their evenings to come back and support us during the late session.

We were joined by a nice mixture of both present and prospective parents and were supported by Ryan Kelsall, Principal of Impington Village College, who gave a short presentation on the transition to secondary school at the start of each session.

Well done to all of our Year 6 ambassadors who did an exceptional job of showing prospective parents around the school - your enthusiasm and impeccable manners made a great impression! We are very proud of you all!

Many thanks also to FOGG for providing refreshments during both sessions; it is always a pleasure to see you in school!

Supporting Writing at Home

A reminder that on November 28 we will be hosting an English workshop designed to assist parents and carers in supporting writing at home. The session is designed to inform you how we teach writing in school and will provide you with a number of strategies you can use to encourage and support your child at home.

Following a 30-minute presentation in the hall, you will then have the opportunity to visit your child in the classroom and see some of these strategies being used in practice.

Joe Wicks Videos for Children



Joe Wicks, Bodycoach, has been producing videos for primary-aged pupils recently and teachers have been using some of these to support work in PE lessons. The Active 8 (aimed at KS2) and 5 Minute Move (KS1) videos are available on YouTube and are a great way to encourage children to exercise at home!

Diary Dates

Autumn Term Class Assemblies – Fridays (0900 - 0930)

Maple: 22 November

Birch: 29 November

Autumn Term Events

World Children's Day: Wednesday 20 November

Supporting Writing at Home Workshop for Parents:
Thursday 28 November (0900 – 1000)

Saturday 30 November: FOGG Christmas Fair (1400 – 1600)

KS1 Performance: Friday 6 December (am & pm performances)

EYFS Nativity: Friday 13 December (am)

Christmas Concert: Monday 16 December (1800)

Carol Concert: Thursday 19 December (0900)

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Simpson

Headteacher