



Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 3

Friday 9 October 2020

It has been so inspiring to see the children engaged in such incredible topic work over the last fortnight. The classrooms have had a real buzz of excitement about them and class teachers are so impressed with the learning behaviours that children are displaying on their return to school.

School Development

Staff meetings over the last fortnight have been spent analysing gaps in pupils' understanding on their return to school so that class teachers can tailor provision and intervention to assist children in getting back on track. We have also spent time within these sessions adapting our provision for remote learning.

Parent Consultations

Please be reminded to book a slot for parent consultations via <https://girtonglebe.schoolcloud.co.uk>

Consultations will take place on Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15 October and will be hosted online via the above website. Sessions will last for 10 minutes and we request that parents log in ahead of their sessions to be placed in a virtual waiting room. The platform does operate on strict timings and sessions will not overrun.

Remote Learning and Team/School Closure

The school has two different protocols in place to support remote learning should children have their learning disrupted for reasons relating to Covid-19.

Short-term provision: If children are isolating at home in the event that either they, or a member of their household are awaiting test results, then class teachers will send learning resources via ParentMail. These will be sent daily and will follow the content of what the rest of the class are completing in school.

Long-term provision: In the event that we are advised to close a team by PHE (following a positive test result) then remote learning will take place and will be communicated to

parents via a weekly ParentMail. This will consist of a weekly Provision Menu containing links to online learning and resources set by the class teacher. The learning will also be introduced by a video made by the class teacher, who will outline the content the children will cover during that period.

Whilst we will make every effort to keep teams open, it may be necessary to close classes temporarily in the event that a teacher is unwell with non-Covid-related issues. Current guidelines and risk assessments mean that it is not possible for us to be as flexible with staffing and supply agency staff as in previous years and, should a member of our teaching team become unwell, it may be necessary to close a team.

A closure of this nature would be a last resort for us and we will inform parents of these arrangements at the earliest opportunity. Remote learning would be put in place to minimise this disruption and the type of provision (short-term or long-term) will be dictated by the perceived length of absence.

Ash Class

An update on Ash class, courtesy of Ms Cansdale:

The children in Ash Class now have the use of their sandpit as the new sand has finally arrived. They are also very excited about plans to add more seating areas to the outside play area and choose a literacy trolley to give independent access to reading and writing - thanks to FOGG for sponsoring this!

We have our forest pegs ready for our wellies and waterproofs and have been having fun in Forest School – mud, mud, glorious mud!

Maple Class

Maple news, courtesy of Mrs Cawley and Mrs Daw:

This week, Maple Class have been working on ordering numbers and objects from greatest to smallest up to 20. Mrs Cawley and I are really impressed with the class's ability to count backwards and forwards. In English, we have been continuing our story, *Superworm*, by acting out the story and then retelling it in our own words. Maple Class have been

amazing at remembering their capital letters and full stops in their writing this week. Last week, we created some Kandinsky circles in art, whilst practising our cutting and sticking skills. Cutting circles seemed to be a challenge but Maple Class persevered and created some lovely art.

Birch Class

A round-up from Miss Evans:

This week, Birch Class have written some amazing stories based on the book 'Pirate Stew'. They have worked very hard on using capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and adjectives in their writing. Not only this, but they have practised their handwriting by writing up their stories on special pirate paper - some of these will go on our 'Land Ahoy!' display. Well done, Birch Class!

Lime Class

A Lime update, courtesy of Mrs Knowler and Ms Barber:

Since the last newsletter, Lime class have been working hard on developing their writing skills and using paragraphs to organise their work. The descriptions that have come out of this have been really stunning... words like 'minuscule, bombarded, exceptionally and pungent' and liberally sprinkled throughout! We have had some excellent contributions to homework challenges and children are doing well in spelling tests.

We continue to enjoy the Rocks topic, finding out about the amazing fossil hunter Mary Anning and printing some beautiful ammonite motifs. Muddy maths is really engaging the children and consolidating their number skills for adding and subtracting 1 digit numbers from 3 digit numbers in a fun way!

We would like to remind you about the need for children to be well-layered up every day as the temperature is decreasing and the windows are still kept open for good ventilation. We hope you are enjoying getting updates on Seesaw from time to time too.

Cherry Class

All the recent Cherry news, courtesy of Miss Pyle:

Cherry Class have had a busy two weeks and our highlights include Totem Poles and a visit to Niagara Falls. In English, we have finished writing our own version of a chapter from 'The Indian in the Cupboard', where a plastic toy gets placed in a magical cupboard and comes to life! The children worked really hard with them and their stories were a pleasure to read.

We are now busy learning about the Iroquois tribe and the children have really enjoyed sharing all of their interesting -

and sometimes bizarre - facts about them! After a trip to Niagara Falls, with our own specially-designed ponchos, we made Totem Poles. These look fantastic in the classroom (alongside our own magical cupboards that we have designed and described) and bring a splash of vibrancy to it too! Can you tell which animals we have chosen for them?



Willow Class

Miss Jolly's update on Willow:

In Willow class, we have been continuing our work on The Great War. This week, the children have learnt all about what life was like in a WW1 trench and have written some beautifully emotional diary entries. They have also begun to create some wonderful shoebox models of trenches at home! In art, we have been creating some abstract self-portraits in the style of Canadian artist, Sandra Silberzweig.

Oak Class

Mr Austin's Oak update:

The children in Oak Class continue to be a delight to teach. The new routines are now second-nature to them and I must commend all of them for the safe and sensible way in which they have quickly adapted.

In the classroom, the children's enthusiasm for learning continues unabated. In maths we have been mastering formal methods for multiplication, as well as long division; the children's increasing speed and fluency with all of their times tables is paying dividends here. We have continued to share our World War One homework with each other over the course of the last two weeks and, as I have previously mentioned elsewhere, I have been enraptured and deeply moved by the amazing stories about their ancestors that your children have unearthed. It is also wonderful seeing the pride with which they present their findings to their classmates. We have also been enjoying our investigations into the causes of The Great War, which have served as an excellent backdrop to this week's writing task, in which our children have become journalists, reporting on the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Spencer

Headteacher