



Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 6

Friday 27 November 2020

We have had an incredibly busy fortnight at Girton Glebe, with the children working hard on a wonderful array of topic work. Please read on for a round-up of our most recent news...

Staffing Update

On Monday we will be delighted to welcome Robert Niemczyk, our new school caretaker, to Girton Glebe. Robert will work alongside our existing site team and I am sure that you will see him around school cleaning and carrying out maintenance work.

School Dinners

Hot meals returned this week and our kitchen staff have done an excellent job of balancing the logistics of serving warm meals to our pupils in classrooms.

Lunchtimes remain on a staggered rota to ensure that bubbles do not cross and meals continue to be delivered to classrooms with choices now being offered from Nourish's standard menu.

A breakdown of the following week's options will be circulated to you via ParentMail every Friday.

Children in Need & The Poppy Appeal

Many thanks to all pupils, parents and carers for helping Girton Glebe to support Children in Need and The Poppy Appeal. Donations have been counted and returned to the respective charities with the totals as follows:

Children in Need: £220

The Poppy Appeal: £132

School Development

The last fortnight's staff meetings have focused on the restructuring of our long-term curriculum planning as we seek to rebuild the structure of our topics now that we are able to deliver learning to single year groups.

Ash Class

An Ash update from Mrs Tate:

Ash Class have welcomed Miss King this week. She brought with her Fluffy Wren, who learnt the expectations of the classroom. The children made birthday cards for Fluffy Wren, who was 5 on Wednesday.

The children have also continued their space theme with Aliens Love Underpants, creating their own underpants to hang on a washing line. They also enjoyed counting teddy presents on the whiteboard.

Maple Class

Maple news from Mrs Cawley and Mrs Daw:

Over the last fortnight, Maple Class has been learning to sequence events and recount changes within living memory. The children can recount what happened in the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. They have explored new words, such as extinct and evolve.

We have continued our dinosaur theme in our guided reading sessions. We have been reading *The Girl and the Dinosaur* and learning to retrieve information from the text to answer comprehension questions. Example, "What does Marianne name the dinosaur? Why do you think Marianne called him Bony?"

In maths, we have been working on our addition skills, using our number bonds to help us. The children are able to write their own addition number sentences ($4 + 6 = 10$ or $10 = 6 + 4$). Next week, we will start on subtraction within 10.

Finally, Maple Class has drawn some very detailed dinosaurs and worked really hard to follow the step-by-step instructions. Excellent work Maple Class!

Birch Class

Birch news from Miss Evans:

Another amazing couple of weeks for children in Birch Class! Recently, the children have been learning about writing letters. They have written their own letters to try to persuade Mr Spencer to let Birch Class have a Christmas party at the end of the term.

They did such an amazing job and truly put all their effort into their writing. Next week, the children will start drafting and writing their very own letters to the Queen, as we have been learning all about her during our Magnificent Monarchs topic.

Lime Class

A Lime update from Mrs Knowler and Mrs Barber:

Lime class have finished their volcanoes and painted them in very realistic and splattered colours. By the time you read this they will hopefully have exploded (in a very controlled way and with no disastrous tsunamis to go with them!) and made a mess everywhere except on your children and in the classroom.

As part of our project work, children have learned to write in the style of a news reporter using the recent unfortunate earthquake in Turkey as their background event. The quality of writing was really excellent and built on many different literacy skills. We read 'First News', a quality children's weekly publication, as our news model. It is impressive how cleverly the children manage to fit in some of our Powerful Words into all their writing; gargantuan is a particular favourite. This has been a fascinating topic but we have now moved on to the equally exciting Roman Empire. We hope to have a 'Roman day' in school eventually, in place of a trip out, to bring the subject to life but we won't be throwing any children to the lions (unless of course they are really naughty!).

In maths, we have moved on from column addition and subtraction to revising multiplication and division. Muddy Maths last week focused on team building and problem solving, with some children showing great thinking skills and everybody having a lot of fun.

Cherry Class

Cherry news from Miss Pyle:

Cherry Class have had a very busy couple of weeks. We have been working exceptionally hard on learning our times tables and speeding them up. Lots of children have achieved new personal records for how quickly they can fill in a 12X12 times table grid accurately – well done to all of them! Recently, we have been writing our own versions of 'Theseus

and the Minotaur'. It has been lovely to see the children so engaged with their writing and challenging themselves to use our Powerful Words, engaging similes and expanded noun phrases. Their stories are a delight to read!

In Project, Cherry Class have been learning about the lives of Ancient Greeks and using their historical detective skills to discover more about them using Greek artefacts.

Willow Class

A Willow update from Miss Jolly:

We have had another busy and productive couple of weeks in Willow class, with the children working incredibly hard on a range of exciting projects. As our history investigation answering the key question **Who Fought In The Great War And Why?** comes to an end, the children have been working hard on drafting an essay to present their findings. It is great to see the progress in both the quantity and quality of their writing, and lots of the class are beginning to use mature punctuation such as brackets, dashes, colons and semi-colons!

In maths, we are still working with fractions and, having mastered adding and subtracting them and converting improper fractions to mixed numbers, we are now beginning to multiply and divide fractions. The children's speedy times table recall and impressive knowledge of their division facts has really helped with these skills; all of their hard work on their daily times tables at home is paying off.

Oak Class

Oak news from Mr Austin:

I would like to start by commending the children with the way in which they remained focused, diligent and hard-working during our enforced two-days away from school last week. Mrs Tweddle and I were as delighted as the children to be back on the Wednesday: it so good being back in the classroom. In maths this week, we have been practising and refining our reasoning skills in the area of fractions, decimals and percentages. The children also enjoyed yesterday's mathematical murder mystery challenge so much that they have asked to create their own for this week's homework. In our topic work we have been studying the Battle of the Somme. There has been incisive analysis of source materials and much well-informed discussion as to whether (and why) the battle was an abject failure for the British or whether it might, in any way at all, have been regarded as a success.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Spencer

Headteacher