



Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 12

Friday 23 April 2021

It was such a pleasure to welcome all of our pupils back following the Easter break and it has been lovely to see the classrooms their usual hive of activity as children are engaged in their new topics for the summer term. Please read on for a round-up of our most recent news...

Staffing Update

We are delighted to announce that Miss King will remain part of the term at Girton Glebe next year, having been with us since January in Ash Class. Miss King will continue as our Foundation Stage lead next year as our new pupils will soon begin their transition from pre-school.

Unfortunately, we will be saying a fond farewell to Miss Evans at the end of this term as she relocates to Yorkshire. Miss Evans has been part of our teaching team since September 2018 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her dedication to the role over the last three years. Rachael will be greatly missed and we wish her well in all her future endeavours.

Pupil Progress Updates

Following this week's parent consultations, I would like to remind parents that, if you wish to know more information about your child's progress in between parent consultation periods, staff are more than happy to discuss this with you at any stage of the school year, should you have any questions.

If you would like the opportunity to discuss your child's work, please do not hesitate to contact to the class teacher, who will gladly arrange a time to meet with you at a mutually agreeable time. For the time being, under current restrictions, these meetings will be restricted to telephone conversations.

School Development

During the Inset day, class teachers spent the morning taking part in orienteering training led by Will Huntington from Cross Curriculum Orienteering. Staff spent time outdoors using the site-specific maps and explored the use of the orienteering posts around the school to support cross-curricular learning.

Last week's staff meeting centred on the development of SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development) across the curriculum.

Girton Book Day

Well done to all pupils for taking part in Girton Book Day today and many thanks to all parents and carers for your support with costumes, book donations and sponsorship!

The school looked magnificent with pupils and staff dressed as their favourite book characters and there were many kind donations of books that we can use to support class libraries.

As I write, pupils are still taking part in their sponsored read, the event running Monday – Friday, and the potato decorating competition is yet to be judged. Take a look at a sample of some of the spudtastic entries below!

Prizes will be handed out next week in a virtual whole-school assembly once all sponsorship forms have been returned.

Many thanks to Miss Jolly for organising this event!



Ash Class

Ash news from Miss King:

As we all look forward to a sunny summer term, Ash Class have returned to their teaching and learning with great enthusiasm! Over the last fortnight, we have introduced our new Marvellous Minibeasts! theme and enjoyed learning new facts, which includes how the Trapdoor Spider catches his prey!

We have been creating unique spiders and spider web designs in Finger Gym, as well as building minibeast habitats/hotels in Forest School! Our mathematics has been great fun too, as we continue to explore the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Well done Ash Class!

Maple Class

A Maple update from Mrs Cawley and Mrs Daw:

We would like to thank all our Maple Class parents for their encouraging kind words during parent's consultations. The support was overwhelming and we appreciate it.

As usual, Maple Class children have been making great progress in all their learning and we are especially impressed with all of their spelling work and reading. They practise their spellings every day and are becoming confident writers.

The children enjoyed their football practice in PE lesson and were very eager to show their skills.

In English, Maple Class children have been learning about zoo animals. We have been reading *The Zoo Vet* and focusing on grammar. The children also prepared a poster for the animal of their choice which escaped from the zoo. They used amazing describing words for their choice of animal.

In Maths, we have been learning about counting in 2s and 5s. They are getting more confident with seeing the patterns which will be very helpful with learning times tables.

Birch Class

Birch news from Miss Evans:

This week, Birch have been working very hard in English learning all about imperative verbs and adverbs. They have also been working very hard in PE, enjoying the new painted playground obstacle course and being able to use the trim trail once again!

Our topic is entitled Coastline and so Birch class have been enjoying developing their art and maths skills, making paper beach huts to bring our seaside display to life. Well done, Birch Class!

Lime Class

Lime news from Mrs Barber and Mrs Knowler:

During the past two weeks we have continued to produce some great work across the curriculum. The children have completed lots of fantastic measuring work in muddy maths, building wickedly wobbly tall towers and miniature towers from pasta and sweets. Mammoths have featured highly in our English studies, writing instructions for washing them and making a mini mammoth washing kit. We love working in clay and have made different styles of clay pots based around the skills of the Beaker people.

Book week has seen lots of great reading and dressing up in exciting and silly ways. It is lovely to see the enthusiasm children have for getting stuck into a good story. Thank you for the contributions that are coming in for our library stock.

Orienteering continues to be a strong focus in our outdoor PE skills and builds on the teamwork we have developed so far.

Well done Lime for your continued enthusiasm and hard work.

Cherry Class

Cherry news from Miss Pyle:

It is lovely to have Cherry Class back in school! They have had a very enthusiastic start to this half term. We are all loving our new class text, 'Holes' and discovering what happens to Stanley Yelnats and his 'no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing great-great grandfather'! It has kept us very amused. We have used this as the basis for our writing and have created some wonderful work to describe settings as well as actions using the rule of three to describe the digging of holes.

In maths, we are discovering fractions and have enjoyed looking at fractions greater than one. PE has been a lot of fun too – we are enjoying the start of orienteering and reading maps to create silly faces using a range of PE equipment.

Our new project is 'Traders and Raiders'. We have taken a recap journey through the Anglo-Saxon timeline and have arrived with the Viking invaders at Lindisfarne.

We have also enjoyed learning the 'Loki the Joker' song, by adding percussion instrument accompaniment. Cherry Class have a great sense of rhythm!

Willow Class

Willow news from Miss Jolly:

Willow Class have returned from the Easter break with great energy and enthusiasm for learning and have thrown themselves into our new Project: We Are Explorers. The children have really enjoyed learning about the Arctic and Antarctic so far, comparing these two Polar Regions and discussing what makes a good explorer.

In English, we have loved stepping into the role of young sailors, writing letters to explorer Ernest Shackleton, requesting to be a part of his 1914 expedition to the South Pole on board his famous ship, Endurance. The children have been working hard to include subordinating conjunctions in their writing, as well as a range of sentence structures and punctuation, and should all be very proud of their continued hard work to keep improving the content and quality of their writing.

In Maths, we have mastered the order of operations using BIDMAS, and are now beginning our topic on shape and measure. This week, I have been amazed by the class' resilience and perseverance when finding missing angles. We have worked hard to develop efficient mental methods for calculations involving large numbers and it's been great to see the children applying these skills to their problem solving on angles.

It's been a wonderful start to the Summer Term in Willow Class! While we are working incredibly hard in the classroom, the children are also really enjoying our PE lessons with Ewan and keyboard lessons with Mr Wright, and we are all looking forward to our next Forest School session in a few weeks' time!

Oak Class

An Oak update from Mr Austin:

It has been lovely being back with the children after their well-deserved Easter break. As always, they have settled straight back into their learning. In addition to preparing for the 'Girton Glebe SATs', which will be taking place during the week beginning 17 June, they have enjoyed getting stuck into our explorers topic and, in particular, learning about Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole. We have had some excellent discussions already about the relative preparedness of Scott's and Amundsen's missions and whether or not Scott has been too harshly judged by historians.

The children enjoyed a science assembly delivered this week by Cambridge United and have already started turning their minds to the sporting inventions that they might enter into a forthcoming competition. Among the proposals are footballs and basketballs that have in-built homing devices, in order to speed up retrieval time, and suggestions for

increasing the efficiency and environmental-friendliness of electric rally cars. Oak Class is also looking forward to the soon-to-be-announced next phase of the Cambridge United Race across the World challenge, after its astonishing performance in the first competition before Easter!

We have also seen some wonderful costumes today as part of the postponed Girton Glebe Book Day! It was lovely to see everybody making such an effort!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Spencer

Headteacher