



# Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 13

Friday 7 May 2021

We have had a wonderfully busy fortnight at Girton Glebe with so many exciting activities taking place across the school. Please read on for a roundup of our most recent news...

## Girton Book Day

Friday 23 April saw our pupils arrive in school in fancy dress to celebrate Girton Book Day, following a week-long sponsored read and challenges to decorate potatoes!

At the time of circulating the previous newsletter, the total sponsorship money had not been counted and I am so delighted to announce that through such generous donations Book Day managed to raise over £1000! This is a staggering total and we are incredibly grateful for such kind donations. This money will now be used to purchase books across the school that all pupils can benefit from.



## School Development

Last week's staff meeting focussed on the development of maths mastery teaching across the school and also allowed staff the time to reflect on target setting for individual pupils.

This week we spent time following up on the orienteering training we received recently and also covered duties for subject leadership for this half term.

## Ash Class

An Ash update from Miss King:

Ash Class have continued to be inspired with their Marvellous Minibeasts! theme and the key text What the Ladybird Heard, writing fact files about their favourite minibeasts and creating ladybird biscuits, whilst practising their doubling skills! This week, we have introduced The Very Hungry Caterpillar story and enjoyed learning about story maps and 'Talk for Writing' story actions! Well done Ash Class!



## Maple Class

Maple news from Mrs Cawley and Mrs Daw:

We are so proud of our children this week with their amazing work and concentration. They also made us extra proud by getting ready for our first school assembly that took place in the hall for the first time since last year. They all sat very sensibly throughout Mr Spencer's assembly. Later, Mr Spencer paid a special visit to our class and praised us for our sensible walking in the corridor and impeccable behaviour during the school assembly attended by two classes, socially distanced.

In English, we have been learning about endangered animals, which has been a fascinating topic for the children. Specifically, we have looked at saving the rhinos and made persuasive posters to help raise awareness for this important cause. In Maths, we have been focusing on making equal groups and extending our mathematical vocabulary through our reasoning and problem-solving questioning.

Maple Class have been getting creative in art, with some wonderful animal silhouettes, which they painted using primary colours. They mixed the primary colours to make secondary colours and it sparked some very bright colour combinations, leading to wonderfully vibrant paintings.



## Birch Class

A Birch update from Miss Evans:

This week, Birch class have been having lots of fun learning more about the seaside! We have been thinking about how to stay safe at the beach and we will be writing our own adventure rescue stories about this too.

In maths, we have begun to learn about fractions and children are using their fantastic knowledge about grouping and sharing to do this.

In project, we have been thinking about human and physical features of the coastline. Have a look at our wonderful display showing all our seaside knowledge! Well done, Birch Class!



## Lime Class

Lime news from Mrs Knowler and Mrs Barber:

Since the last newsletter, Lime class have been focusing on measuring and understanding perimeter in maths; we even managed to include some perimeter in our Daily Mile activity by running round the outside of the field markings and making forest gardens with a set perimeter. This week we

are having fun with fractions, finding different ways to represent half and a quarter. Ask your children to explain POG in relation to maths!

Stone Age Boy features in our writing, where we are developing adverbial phrases to improve our vocabulary and improve our style. We also used some charcoal from the forest school fire pit as a drawing medium for Neolithic art and we have looked at how and why prehistoric people created their cave art.



We have enjoyed hearing the children talking about their varied interests as part of their oracy homework and it was clear how many had rehearsed thoroughly with support from home; thank you.

## Cherry Class

Cherry news from Miss Pyle:

Over the past two weeks, Cherry Class have been engrossed in their new project, "Traders and Raiders". In DT, we have created prototypes for building Viking long ships. We have used these to create detail plans, with improvements, to then build the finished products. "I have learned not to rush and to line up the ends of the boats properly," commented Tess. Cherry Class are very excited to safely use saws and glue guns to create the finished products!

In English, we thoroughly enjoyed finishing Holes, which is still the inspiration for our writing. We have found Holes very "intriguing" commented John. Some of our English writing includes:

"As the afternoon progressed, a deep-dark blue carriage, with horses as white as snow, trundled along the outside of the lake." Lovely descriptions, Iris!

"The burning heat hit Stanley like a bullet through a glass window." Great simile, Reuben!

"The devious, excruciating heat of the sun scorched the ground." Fantastic, Delon!

## Willow Class

A Willow update from Miss Jolly:

Over the last two weeks, Willow Class have been enjoying exploring the properties of 2D shapes and are becoming experts in recognising right angles, parallel lines and lines of symmetry. We have also been working hard to use known number facts to solve problems efficiently and our arithmetic scores are improving every week!

In English, having successfully applied to Captain Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the South Pole, we have written some exciting and emotive diary entries in role as Frank Worsley, on board Endurance during his treacherous journey to the Antarctic. The children have really impressed me with their mature punctuation and ambitious vocabulary choices, such as "incessant", "chaotic" and "impeccable".

In music, we are beginning to create harmonies as a class, working together to play both classical and current pop music on the keyboards in our lessons with Mr Wright. We have also been improving our drawing skills in our daily 10 minute art lessons, in which we are learning to draw animals in a cartoon style. The children have really enjoyed this and have loved bringing their characters to life with different expressions and personalised features. This time has not only helped with our drawing skills, but our mental wellbeing too, as we continue to explore the impact of different activities and exercises on our emotions and mental health.



## Oak Class

An Oak update courtesy of Mr Austin:

We continue to prepare for the 'Girton Glebe SATs', which will be taking place during the week beginning 14 June, working, amongst other things, on the children's retrieval and inference skills in their reading comprehension and ensuring that they are recognising, using and applying the full range of Year 6 punctuation and grammar in their writing. In maths, we have been mastering our ratio and proportion problem-solving skills.

In English, we have been looking at a variety of autobiographies, including Michelle Obama's, Steve Backshall's, Agatha Christie's and Maya Angelou's. The children have also been turning their writing skills to their own autobiographies and imagined future biographies. There are some lovely, rich pieces of writing in development and I think that the children have enjoyed looking back on their first eleven years! We have also been discussing Robert Scott's journals in our topic work, as well as discussing what our equipment priorities would be if we were to embark on similar expeditions. Some excellent letter and diary writing is also emerging from our topic work.

In PE, we have been developing our orienteering and key reading skills, as well as beginning to get in shape for the next round of the Cambridge United Race Across The World challenge. The children also enjoyed the presentation in assembly last week of the trophy that they won in the original Cambridge United competition!

Thank you for your continued support,

*Mr Andrew Spencer*

Headteacher