



Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 14

Friday 21 May 2021

Please read on for a roundup of recent events as we approach the halfway point of the summer term.

Race across the World

Girton Glebe pupils are currently taking part in our second Race across the World event, competing against three other schools from the eastern region. The event, organised by Cambridge United, sees any activities completed entered on to a database then compared against those logged by the three other schools.

At the time of writing this, Girton Glebe is leading this challenge with Friday, Saturday and Sunday remaining to log exercise. It is all still to play for and I am sure staff and pupils alike will be lacing up their trainers over the weekend. Good luck everyone and thank you for all of your hard work!

Foundation Stage September 2021

We are delighted to be welcoming our September 2021 intake to Girton Glebe over the coming weeks. Our Early Years team will be running the transition process throughout the remainder of the summer term which will be a balance of virtual meetings and face-to-face sessions (fingers crossed!) when restrictions lift at the end of June.

Our 30 new starters will take part in story sessions, visits to the Early Years learning environment, games and activities on site and a teddy bear picnic at the end of July. We can't wait to see our new pupils in school and look forward to welcoming new families to the Girton Glebe community.

School Development

Last week's staff meeting focussed on report writing and curriculum changes. This week, our KS1 team spent time working on collaborative planning, whilst our KS2 team completed their final session on the Maximus Latin training.

Ash Class

An Ash update from Miss King:

Ash Class have continued to embrace their Marvellous Minibeasts! theme this last fortnight, creating 'snail trail' patterns with various creative media and even snail racing in Forest School! During our mathematics lessons, we have introduced the concept of halving and have really enjoyed practising this in our Ash Class Pizza Parlour, halving and sharing our pizza designs with our friends! Well done Ash Class-a super term of teaching and learning!



Maple Class

Maple news from Mrs Cawley and Mrs Daw:

Maple class have been extra creative the last two weeks. The children have been learning about what a continent is and they had fun creating their own world using a balloon. The challenge was to stick the seven continents on the balloon, correctly. Another fun project that the children enjoyed was making woodland owls using sticks from the forest area. They had to hunt for smaller sticks so that the glue would hold them in place.

In Maths, we are learning about fraction, specifically halves and quarters. The children used paper plates to design their own pizza's, cakes, and cookies which they then had to cut in equal parts. We discussed as a class what $\frac{1}{8}$ would look like and how they would make sure that there all eight pieces are equal.

In English, we have been reading Owl Babies and the class have been writing their own narrative stories based on the book. The children have used time conjunctions to help make their stories flow in a chronological order.

Fantastic work Maple Class! We are so proud of the effort you put into your learning every day!

Birch Class

Birch news from Miss Evans:

This week, Birch Class have been very busy writing their own adventure stories about the seaside! They have learned all about how to stay safe at the beach and learned about the work of the RNLI. They have used this knowledge to start writing stories of daring rescues on the coastline. In maths, children have been developing their fractions knowledge and have very much impressed Miss Evans and Miss Parker with their understanding. Well done, Birch Class!

Lime Class

A Lime update from Mrs Knowler and Mrs Barber:

The whole school has had a focus on being active and healthy in the last few weeks with the Walk to School Week and Race across the World which the children and staff have loved getting involved with. We have also had some great homework contributions about 'How to Live a Healthy Lifestyle', lots of ingenious ways of presenting information; posters, lists, videos, stop frame animations among them. We are always impressed by the creativity the children show in interpreting open-ended tasks.

In English the descriptive writing about setting, focused on Stone Age Boy has been superb! Who knew you could fit in so many ideas into a short space? We continue to enjoy the antics of Stig of the Dump while grammar hunting and scrutinising the text for meaning. This week we have been looking at non-chronological reports of historical interest. A strange prehistoric artefact, the Lion Man (a 400000 year old mythical mammoth tusk sculpture) has caught our interest in art and our sketchbooks show real attention to detail and developing drawing and observational skills.



Cherry Class

Cherry news from Miss Pyle:

Cherry Class have really enjoyed beginning to build their Viking longboats. We have made our prototype and from that we have planned how to make the real thing strong and sturdy. We have decided to use wooden dowels for the oars, which will be measured to 13cm in length. "I have enjoyed decorating my Viking ship and cutting out the different parts," said Max.

One of their highlights has been The Viking Thing. This is court in the Viking days, where a law speaker would decide whether someone is guilty or not. If they are found guilty they will either be fined, be banished from their community; in which case, they cannot have any help from others (no food and no resources) and can be killed for no reason. Or, they can fight to the death, also known as a 'holmgang'.

Cherry Class acted out their own 'Thing'. This resulted in Charlie and Max fighting to the death (in pretence). Charlie was victorious! No members of Cherry Class were hurt during the 'Thing'!

Willow Class

A Willow update from Miss Jolly:

The last two weeks have been busy, as always, in Willow Class! As well as continuing to work incredibly hard on our arithmetic skills and reading comprehension, we have begun writing some excellently spooky stories based on a piece of visual literacy. We are working hard to draft, edit and improve our stories, ensuring that they contain exciting vocabulary and varied punctuation, before completing and illustrating them next week. I'm excited to read all of the children's gruesome and terrifying tales!

In Maths, we are beginning to build confidence with telling the time and converting between different units of time. This is always a tricky concept to master, but everyone in Willow Class has shown great perseverance and resilience to tell the time accurately and solve problems involving time. I am particularly proud of Tallulah, Denford and Michayla for "flearning" this week, and using their own knowledge to help others in the class to tell the time.

This week was also our final session in the forest with Mr Smart. These outdoor sessions, in which we cook, climb, swing, dig and play, have really helped us with our ongoing work about mental wellbeing and it's been great to see everybody working together, showing compassion, and having fun. This week, as well as cooking on the open fire, we also created some Earth artwork to show off what we have been learning in Geography about lines of Latitude and Longitude, the Equator, the Tropics and the Prime Meridian.

As always, I am incredibly proud of Willow Class for their continued hard work and determination to keep improving this half-term! We are all looking forward to the final half-term and to learning lots more in our We Are Explorers topic after the holiday.



Oak Class

An Oak update from Mr Austin:

We have been continuing to prepare for the 'Girton Glebe SATs' (which take place during the week beginning 14 June). In particular, the children have been focusing on ensuring that they justify their answers with evidence from the text, as well as ensuring that they are able to get through as many questions as they are able to. In maths, we have been working on our reasoning skills, ensuring that questions are read very carefully in order to identify the steps that are necessary in order to resolve the problems.

The children have now finished their autobiographies and, in some cases, their biographies of their future selves. They worked incredibly hard to ensure that their writing was as rich, varied and interesting as possible. Those that I have read are wonderful and I am looking forward to getting through the rest this weekend! We have also had fun this week with some challenges to develop our writing stamina and resilience. On Wednesday, we used a random picture generator to provide the impetus for a story that had to be planned, written and edited in half an hour. I was very impressed with the children's response and most of them very much enjoyed themselves.

Last week, we were very, very lucky to be joined on Zoom by two parents (Sally Thorpe and Alex Tate). To complement our learning on the Polar Regions, they took us on a virtual journey to the Antarctic, sharing their wonderful photographs and experiences with Oak Class. The children were rapt throughout and asked some extensive and searching questions at the end. Thank you, Sally and Alex!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Spencer

Headteacher