



# Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 3

Friday 10 October 2021

We have had an exciting couple of weeks at Girton Glebe Primary School; the children are fully immersed in their project work and there is a wonderful buzz around the classrooms. Please read on for a flavour of what has been going on around school...

## Harvest Festival

Last Friday it was wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers of children in EYFS and Year 1 to our harvest assembly.

Our Early Years and Year 1 classes performed in front of a school audience for the first time and did themselves proud with two beautiful harvest-themed songs. Following this, we were treated to performances by children in Year 2 – Year 6.

It was such a pleasure to share this event and we look forward to welcoming parents and carers to school for similar performances throughout the remainder of the academic year.

## Family Support Worker

A reminder that we now have a new Family Support Worker in place who is based at Girton Glebe on Tuesdays between 1145 and 1430. Rachel operates drop-in sessions but also works by appointment during these times. If you wish to speak to Rachel, please drop by on Tuesday or, alternatively, contact her via [rstearn@ivc.tela.org.uk](mailto:rstearn@ivc.tela.org.uk)

## Inset Day

A reminder that this coming Monday, October 11 is set aside for staff training and development and the school will be closed. We will reopen to all pupils on Tuesday 12 October.

## School Development

This week's staff meeting focussed on a number of key areas: curriculum development, subject leadership and differentiation within lessons. Last week, we reviewed our curriculum vision statement and reflected upon how the experiences of our pupils evidence this intent.

## Homework & Class Dojo

From this week, all school homework will be sent in hard copy only in the children's homework books. This is a return to how homework was previously circulated prior to lockdown. All homework will come with an outline of the tasks set, including reading, spellings and timetables (this will vary for younger year groups) and also provides an opportunity for pupils and parents to share feedback on the activities with class teachers.

During the remote learning phase, all schools had to adapt their provision and from this learnt many new methods for curriculum delivery. The use of Dojo was one such key learning point for us. Class Dojo has proven to be an effective tool for linking home and school and it is something we will continue to use going forward, however, over the next few weeks we will be reviewing the content of what is shared to strike a clear balance between consistency, effective communication and teacher workload and wellbeing. Further information will be shared with you over the coming weeks.

## Diary Dates

### KS2 Autumn Term Class Assemblies – (0915 - 0945)

**Lime:** Thursday 25 November

**Cherry:** Thursday 18 November

**Willow:** Friday 3 December

**Oak:** Wednesday 10 November

### **Parent Consultations:**

Tuesday 9 November (1530 – 1900)

Thursday 11 November (1530 – 1800)

## Ash Class

Ash news from Miss King:

Ash Class have continued to embrace their 'Pete the Cat-Rocking in My School Shoes' theme, demonstrating perseverance and resilience in their learning. Last week, we explored the meaning of Harvest Festival and created different fruits and vegetables, whilst learning a new Finger Gym scrunching technique! We were so proud of their Harvest assembly performance, singing beautifully and with confidence in front of a large audience.

This week, in mathematics, we have been exploring our interest in patterns and have created repeating patterns using different media. Well done Ash Class!

## Maple Class

Maple news from Ms Cawley and Mrs Daw:

This week Maple Class have been enjoying Muddy Maths with Mr Smart. The children have started learning about part-whole models which will carry on with addition and subtraction skills.

In English, the children have been reading Superworm and focusing on describing characters and settings using adjectives. We have started reading comprehension based on the story and will continue with this next week as well.

Maple Class have been creating some amazing masterpieces in art based on Kandinsky's Composition 8 series. The children have been using a variety of shapes and lines to recreate their own Composition 8.

We are looking forward to making some superhero slime in D&T.

## Birch Class

A Birch update from Miss Pyle:

Birch Class should be exceptionally proud of the work they have completed over the last two weeks! In English, we have written some stories based on 'The Night Pirates'. These were brilliant! Every child pushed themselves to use engaging adjectives in lists to describe characters and settings. They were really enjoyable to read! Since then, we have started a new topic on Information Texts. We have identified the different features of them and have been practising writing questions about what we would like to find out about pirates. Our favourite question was 'Why did pirates think girls were bad luck?' We all have our own idea of why, but have decided that girls and boys are equally great!

In Science, we really enjoyed investigating reversible changes. Following on from our investigation where we changed bread into toast, we looked at how ice can turn into water. We compared these two experiments and recognised that toast can't change back into bread, but we can change ice back into water. We also found out that putting a coat on ice stops it from melting as quickly!

In Scootability, we have been practising gliding and playing Follow My Leader. We all worked really hard to show good leadership skills.

## Lime Class

Lime news from Miss Giraldo-Perez:

Lime Class have had another busy but fantastic fortnight! Whilst practising for and performing at the Harvest Festival was definitely the highlight, we have also been having a great deal of fun with our learning. We have got stuck into our spellings by practising our words with stamps, scrabble tiles and even writing on the windows.

In maths, we have started our addition and subtraction unit, which everyone has been loving thanks to our Splat Maths Competition - with Churchill house currently holding the champion title! In English, we finished our core text (The Firework-Maker's Daughter), and after some wonderful book reviews, we have at last started to write our own short adventures stories. We've even designed our own front covers for our books in art! We have also started doing short sessions of Philosophy for Children (P4C), which have resulted in some really interesting and insightful conversations - we look forward to having many more of those! Overall, it has been a successful and rewarding two weeks for Lime Class. Well done everyone!

## Cherry Class

Cherry news from Mrs Knowler and Mrs Barber:

It was lovely to see so many parents in Harvest Assembly last week and although Cherry class parents could not be there in person the children did give a great rendition of 'Harvest Rock and Roll' for Seesaw. They were brilliant in the hall in front of parents too.

Recently in maths we have been practising column addition of 4 digit numbers, in Muddy Maths we used natural resources in our own creative way! In English The Indian in the Cupboard has inspired some excellent writing and use of different and new grammatical features. We have designed our own cupboards and used them as a template for description

Working with the wonderful Emma Clifton in PE, the class have dusted off their climbing skills and used the wall bars and other floor based equipment as part of their gymnastics unit, making a linked set of movements and poses. For our

outdoor PE lessons we have been developing hockey skills using the wooden sticks and tennis balls.



## Willow Class

Willow news from Miss Jolly:

Last week, we were fortunate enough to be visited by the beautiful Bewley, a local horse who helped us to form a stronger bond with the main character in our class novel, *War Horse*. The children were so excited to meet, pet and feed Bewley and all prepared and asked wonderful questions about him and horses in general. Using the vocabulary that we have been learning in our Powerful Words lessons, the class described Bewley as “splendid” and “impeccable” and noted that, just like Joey in *War Horse*, he had “a remarkable white cross emblazoned on his forehead”!

This exciting visit has really enthused the class about our reading and writing, and our WW1 topic in general. We have begun using a wider range of sentence structures in our writing about the war, including using relative clauses, subordinating conjunctions and brackets to indicate parenthesis. The children have also been working hard to up-level their vocabulary and improve their spellings, too.

In Maths, we have completed our work on Place Value and are now mastering the formal written methods for the four operations – including working with decimal numbers! I have been really proud of the way Year 5 have risen to the challenge and of the perseverance they show in every Maths lesson.

We also completed our first art project last week, in which the children emulated the style of Brazilian artist, Romero Britto, and created their own abstract artworks of their first initial. This linked to our PSHE work on *The Rights of The Child* (in particular the right to have an identity and the right to have a name).



## Oak Class

An Oak update from Mr Austin:

It was lovely watching and listening to Oak Class singing their Harvest Festival song last week. They sang the song beautifully and clearly enjoyed performing in front of an audience for the first time in many, many months. I was very proud of them.

In the classroom, the children have continued to work incredibly hard in all subject areas. In maths, they have been honing their formal written arithmetical methods, in which they are becoming increasingly accomplished. They have also been using them in the resolution of reasoning challenges.

In English, they wrote some excellent (and wonderfully illustrated) postcards based on our class read, *Goodnight Mr Tom*. Adopting the personas of a friend of the main character's, they wrote emotively and with an increasing sophistication of vocabulary and grammar. This week they have been crafting some nail-bitingly tense and descriptive diary entries.

Oak Class is positively brimming with excellent performers. Yesterday afternoon we had a poetry performance session, in which the children read poems that they had written based upon Neville Chamberlain's declaration of war. The poems were incredibly moving and the children delivered them with a confidence and pride that was genuinely moving to witness.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Mr Andrew Spencer*

Headteacher