



Girton Glebe Newsletter

Issue 4

Friday 22 October 2021

It has been such a busy half-term at Girton Glebe and our pupils have worked so hard over the last 8 weeks, producing some amazing learning. They have now completed their first topic since returning to school and, along with class teachers, deserve a well-earned rest!

Relate Counselling

I am pleased to announce that, from next half term, Girton Glebe will have provision for counselling support via play therapy courtesy of trained professionals working with Relate. This support is generously funded by Girton Town Charity and will offer provision to pupils, via referral, to work with a trained counsellor.

Cheryl Warren will replace our previous counsellor, Ash, and begin working with us on Thursday 4 November.

School Library

Since returning to school in September, we have been incredibly fortunate to have received some generous donations of books and lots of support from our new library volunteers to help to make our school library a better-stocked and more inviting and comfortable space for our children.

It has been so lovely to see classes finally being able to use this space again! From independent reading, to parent volunteers leading group reading sessions and whole classes enjoying a good book, it really is wonderful to see the children engaging in reading for pleasure and making the most of this space after not being able to for so long. Thank you very much to everyone that has played a part in helping to improve our school library. Watch this space for more exciting improvements to come!



School Development

This week's staff meeting was focused on parent communication and update training for safeguarding logs. This week, staff have also received first-aid update training on the use of auto-injector pens for use in managing anaphylactic shock.

Diary Dates

KS2 Autumn Term Class Assemblies

Lime: Thursday 25 November

Cherry: Thursday 18 November

Willow: Friday 3 December

Oak: Wednesday 10 November

Classes will now perform these assemblies to the rest of the key stage and images and videos will be shared with parents following the event.

Parent Consultations:

Tuesday 9 November (1530 – 1900)

Thursday 11 November (1530 – 1800)

These sessions will take place virtually and links to book appointments will be sent out following the half-term break. Pupil books will be sent home for you to view on Friday 5 November to be returned on the following Monday.

Ash Class

An Ash update from Miss King:

Well, what a fantastic first half-term in Ash Class! The Ash Class team are so proud of how the children have settled into school life and enjoyed making new relationships with their peers and familiar adults! Well done!

Last week, the children really enjoyed Fluffy Wren's 5th Birthday celebrations (our class pet) and were busy writing cards for him and creating party decorations, such as balloons and bunting! This week, the children have been reflecting on their learning around our 'Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes' theme, using a 'Talk for Writing' mind map strategy. Comments included "It was fun" and "Pete the Cat is my favourite book!". We complete our Pete the Cat celebrations today with a 'Super Slipper Catwalk', showcasing our favourite designs to the Year One audience!

Maple Class

Maple news from Ms Cawley and Mrs Daw:

As we approach half-term, we would like to give a huge shout-out to all the Maple Class children for their perseverance in learning new routines and skills in Year 1. We are so very proud of their positive attitudes towards challenges and new learning.

In Maths, we have been learning about fact families, focusing on addition. We are using our part-whole models to help us create the number sentences.

In English, we are reading the poem by Ruth Mертens – *Superheroes: All Sorts* and creating our own superhero poems based on the children's superhero that they have created.

This week, Maple Class had their first trip to the library since it has been reorganised by the amazing library helpers. They enjoyed browsing new books and reading with a friend or adult.

To finish of this half-term, and our superheroes topic, Maple Class are going to be cooking pumpkin soup in the forest area and having a fun-filled superhero day to celebrate. We hope everyone has a wonderful and relaxing half-term.

Birch Class

Birch news from Miss Pyle:

This week Birch Class have been brilliant engineers. We have investigated the properties of dry and cooked pasta and used what we found out to create models (and a big mess), including bridges and forts. In project we learnt about Captain James Cook, including his untimely death in Hawaii! We also had our final scootability session with Julie, which we have really enjoyed.

In maths we have worked hard at adding and subtracting on a number line and challenging ourselves to become quicker at mental maths. In English, we have enjoyed using 'talk for writing' to help us write an information text about pirates.

Lime Class

Lime news from Miss Giraldo-Perez:

Lime Class have had another fantastic two weeks, full of exciting happenings. A highlight was earlier this week, when we welcomed one of our parents into Lime Class, as she came in to tell us all about rocks and to show us some very cool fossils. We even got to use a microscope, which was amazing!

In English, we finished our short stories based on *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* and some fantastic work was produced. We then moved on to news report writing, which allowed us to learn about volcanoes in more depth and to follow the story of La Palma volcano in Spain more closely. To tie it all in, we also made our very own volcanoes in DT, which we all loved, and we're so looking forward to exploding them all on Thursday and Friday.

In Maths we have continued learning about addition and subtraction. The champion of our Splat Maths Competition is currently Robinson!

Over the last two weeks, we have also been talking a lot about friendships, inclusion and kindness in PSHE, which has led to important conversations about how we treat each other. In Lime Class, we are all kind and respectful to one another and we will continue to emphasise this throughout the year.

Cherry Class

Cherry news from Mrs Knowler and Mrs Barber:

Cherry class have had a great time this last week with the Friendship Run, chatting and getting exercise together and improving our mental and physical health. We have also been working together to improve fitness and stamina as a whole class and also for participation in the cross country event coming up.

In English, we have all worked incredibly hard to write stories based on the first part of *The Indian in the Cupboard* using many different descriptive devices to give our stories interest and excitement. We were incredibly pleased with the quality of the writing that came from it. Column subtraction with multiple exchanges was our focus in maths and the muddy maths session culminated in a pumpkin soup treat courtesy of Rowan's allotment, thank you!

We have finished the half term with a very exciting cinema session to watch the film of the book of *The Indian in the Cupboard* which was sad, terrifying and startling all at once but I think the children really enjoyed seeing it right the way through. We also worked in very cooperative teams to make an Iroquois longhouse model. It has been a very positive start to our school year and the children have made so much progress already, well done all.



Willow Class

Willow news from Miss Jolly:

What a busy week we have had in Willow Class to end the half-term!

This week, Year 5 wowed with their fantastic homework projects. The children have drawn, painted, sculpted and even baked the most incredible WW1 Trenches at home, demonstrating their knowledge about what life was like in both British and German trenches and showing such enthusiasm for our History topic. Our classroom now looks like a WW1 museum!

Alongside creating our own trenches and learning about trench warfare in our History lessons, we have also been working hard on our own No Man's Land setting descriptions, focusing on using powerful vocabulary, figurative language and a range of sentence structures. Samuel wrote the following powerful phrases this week:

No Man's Land was sporadically littered with leafless skeletons. Constantly, shells whined in the sky, hit the ground and then roared like lions. Everywhere, explosions seemed like earthquakes and bullets fell from the sky like rain. At night, rats – who roamed in silence – skulked around in the wasteland that was the trenches.

In Maths, we have mastered place value and the four operations and have been busy learning to problem solve and reason like an A.P.E! The children have really enjoyed using our class ape, Geoff, to help them to Answer it, Prove it, Explain it when solving problems and this has really helped to develop their reasoning skills!

Willow Class have all worked incredibly hard this half-term, in all lessons in the classroom; in learning our new favourite sport, Korfbal; and with all of their homework, too! I wish everyone a well-deserved rest over the half-term break and am looking forward to continuing our learning on WW1 and to having lots more fun after the holiday!

Oak Class

An Oak update from Mr Austin:

I can't believe that we have already reached the half-way point of the term; it seems like just a couple of weeks ago that the new term started!

The children of Oak Class have, as ever, been working very hard across all subject areas. In maths they have been honing their long division skills. Their competitiveness was also on display when they took each other on in board games that required application of their division skills in order for them to progress around the board.

With their Anderson Shelter model homework, the children demonstrated their astonishing design and building skills: the imagination and skill that went into their construction is extraordinary! Thank you so much for supporting your children with this project. They have also been using these powers to produce detailed formal instructions for the building of a real Anderson Shelter. In these instructions, to be completed today, they have been showcasing a wide range of grammatical and punctuation skills, including use of the passive verb and semi-colons.

The children's design skills were also evident when they worked brilliantly in teams to produce a design for a 1930s car that was 'comfortable, affordable and unique'. They presented their proposals confidently and with aplomb to the class, too.

Oak Class' singing skills have again come to the fore in the last couple of weeks, with wonderful renditions of 'Doing the Lambeth Walk' during our Stage and Screen sessions. The singing was also accompanied by some excellent dancing! The script that the children are developing for this project is also coming together very well. Full casting, read-throughs and rehearsals are to follow!

Finally, thank you again for all the support that you have given your children this half term. They have been an absolute credit to themselves and to their class and they deserve a well-earned rest next week.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Andrew Spencer

Headteacher