



## Welcome Back!

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all families at Girton Glebe. We hope you had a peaceful festive period full of rest! It has been delightful to see the children back in school with the same enthusiasm as before the holiday.

**We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the school day starts at 8:50am for every class. Please be on the playground and lining up with your class at 8:45am ready to go in at 8:50am. The school day ends at 15:20 for everyone. Thank you, also, for continuing to wear masks during this time.**

## Visit from Mr Auffret, Director of Academic Operations, ELA

Mrs Scott (CEO) and I had a wonderful walk around the school on Monday afternoon, where it was delightful to see all the lessons and hear the children talk with such enthusiasm about their learning. Children in reception invited me into their veterinary surgery, where they showed me how they cared for the all the animals, and how they could count the money in the till. Year 1 were writing their large name tags for their self-portraits with some beautiful examples of keeping neat handwriting when asked to make the letters bigger. Years 2 and 3 were having lovely discussions to wrap up their learning for the day, listening carefully to each others' ideas. As a geographer, I particularly enjoyed the Year 4 lesson where the children were keen to tell me all about the different parts of a river and show me their diagrams. Year 5 were busy creating the most enormous timeline for transition between the Roman, Anglo Saxon and Norman Britain, whilst talking through some challenging contextual inferences in their work. Finally we found Year 6 in the hall playing the ancient Mayan sport of Tlachtli, or Pok-A-Tok, where the children were trying to keep balls afloat using only their hips, thighs, chests and elbows – I had seen a recreation of this sport previously at Chichen Itza, and it was amazing to see it again in our main hall! All of this learning and variety in just half an hour!

## Update from Cherry Class

Cherry Class have returned after Christmas in a sensible and hardworking way. They seem refreshed and ready to go again. Our new topic is focused on Rivers and Mountains and most appropriately, the rain has come down in buckets to highlight at least one part of the water cycle!



Our new class book is '**Kensuke's Kingdom**' by Michael Morpurgo which not only provides us with a rich and exciting story but

also inspiration for our work on landscapes in this case the wonderful wood block print 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' by Hokusai. We also have a lovely new cheeky monkey rug in our book corner courtesy of FOGG, thank you! (Guess which is which!).

We enjoyed our class PE unit on Yoga last half term but now we are moving on to much more energetic sessions of Dodgeball while also working to improve invasion game skills with Cambridge United.

We do keep the classroom well ventilated and with an eye on the CO2 monitor, hand sanitisation, frequent nose blowing and forward facing desks; we are trying hard to keep us all safe from Covid. To that end, warm clothing this time of year even worn in classrooms is vital! Here's looking forward to warmer weather and longer daylight hours.

## Message from Dr Paine

Dr Paine has now joined our team as SENDCo for the school. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting to discuss your child's progress or support please email [npaine@gg.tela.org.uk](mailto:npaine@gg.tela.org.uk). **On 9<sup>th</sup> February Dr Paine will be running a SEND Surgery from 2-4pm. If you would like to book a 10 minute catch up please email her with your availability.**



## Cambridge United

Kicking off on Monday 10th January 2022 for 6 weeks, schools across the UK will be battling it out to be the greenest school and crowned champions of Planet Super League's first ever, Schools vs Climate Change competition.

Schools vs. Climate Change is a national schools competition, to raise awareness of climate action, whilst having fun and scoring green goals. The aim of the competition is to educate pupils and their families to reduce their carbon footprint, as they represent their school and compete to be the Schools vs. Climate Change champions.

There are over 100 activities to choose from on the Planet Super League website, that can be completed as an individual, as a class or at home, these include:

- Youth Voice - encouraging pupils to have their say on climate action.
- Meat free meals - Visit the PSL kitchen for recipe ideas.
- Leg Power - Encouraging active travel to school.

Every activity completed will score green goals and help your school climb the league table.

In November, we helped Cambridge United win the National Club Trophy; we hope to continue with this success!

## Birch discover a spaceship!

On the first day back at school, Birch Class arrived to a pile of mess and destruction on the playground, which was blocked off with red and white tape. Upon closer inspection, they discovered broken pieces of metal, springs, coils, green slime, white foam, green footprints and what appeared to be a cracked egg! The inquisitive Birch Class were full of questions: Why is it here?; How did it get here?; Why did it crash here? After much discussion and investigation of it, Birch class have produced some magnificent pieces of writing to describe the crash site:

*"The red, white and eerie tape blocked an area of misty mayhem off."* Peter S.

*"The frost, mysterious and iridescent metal laid on the muddy floor."* Grace.

*"A rusty, bouncy and sweltering spring lay next to the broken metal."* Bethany.

## Subject Focus

Over the next few weeks, we will have a subject focus in each of the newsletters, where we will be sharing some information about how we teach these subjects. We will also share with you some of the exciting work that the children do in these subjects.