



Girton Glebe Primary School

# Newsletter

15<sup>th</sup> September 2023



**Welcome back!** It's been wonderful to welcome back so many smiling faces - old and new - and to see lots of new uniforms over the last two weeks; how lovely of the sun to join us, too! As well as welcoming children back, it was also great to open our doors to so many parents and families at last night's Meet The Teacher event - the first of many opportunities to join us in school this term.



I'm sure you'll agree that the classrooms are looking brilliant, after lots of hard work from our site team and teaching staff to decorate and prepare these learning spaces over the summer. You may also have seen our library mural, celebrating our favourite authors, which was finally completed in the holidays, too! This vibrant artwork was funded by the Eastern Learning Alliance and completed by local artist, Kate Kelly. We can't wait to welcome lots of you to our first Open Library of the year on Thursday 21st September now that this is finished.

This week, I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting classes and seeing lots of enthusiasm and energy towards our learning, as children across the school have gotten stuck into lots of exciting new topics. We are all excited at Girton Glebe for another wonderful year ahead, as we begin our journey towards delivering the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme! Look out for your class's Curriculum Organiser on Class Dojo and the [school website](#) for information on what your child will be learning this half-term!

Here's a round-up of this week's news...

**Chris Butler**  
Headteacher

## Congratulations Mrs Fitch!

Many of you will remember that **Laura Fitch** left us in July to begin her maternity leave. We are pleased to announce that Laura and her family welcomed a baby girl in the summer holidays and named her Freya. Both Laura and Freya are doing well and we are sure you'll all join us in congratulating Laura on this wonderful news!

## Welcome Miss Burnet & Mr Warren!

We are so pleased to welcome **Miss Burnet (Y2)** and **Mr Warren (Y5)** to our teaching team! We are sure you'll join us in making these two new teachers feel a part of our Girton family. Here's a little bit about each of them:

**Miss Burnet:** "I started my teaching journey by working as a teaching assistant at St John's College School. Having completed my teacher training last year, I am delighted to have joined Girton Glebe as an Early Career Teacher. I have received a very warm welcome from across the school and am pleased to be a part of such a knowledgeable and dedicated team. When choosing a school to begin my teaching career with, I was particularly excited to hear Girton Glebe was undertaking a journey to become an IB school and am delighted to be part of the team to develop this curriculum."

**Mr Warren:** "Having taught English in South Korea for four years, my first role in education in the UK was as a Teaching Assistant in a Suffolk school before re-locating to join Girton Glebe in the same role with the (then) Year 3s. I undertook my teacher training the following year and was lucky enough to re-join the school (and class) for my KS2 placement, teaching alongside Miss Roddy in Cherry class. I am privileged to be teaching the same class this year for my first year as an ECT and am excited to become a permanent member of staff in a school and community I have grown to love. I have enjoyed accompanying the children on fun residential and day trips and think that the range of extra-curricular activities that this school offers is amazing."



## Oak Class Find Happiness!

In our first PSHE lesson of the year, Year 6 looked at the importance of supporting others in finding happiness, and how this can help you to find your own happiness, too.



Using balloons to represent each child's happiness, the children were first tasked with racing to find only their own balloon. After some distress over popped balloons and lots of pushing and shoving, all children returned to the classroom feeling either "proud" or "frustrated". Following this, we then helped each other to find our balloons, discovering that this was a much quicker way to spread happiness around the classroom than when we only focus on ourselves. One child commented, "It might be easier to find your own happiness because you know what it looks like, but if someone else finds it for you, you would appreciate their kindness."

## Parent Governor Update

A note from Mr Butler: "Please note that further to our request for nominations to become a parent governor, Charmaine Coutinho has been elected as a parent governor; this was an unopposed nomination, so no election was held.

The governors look forward to welcoming Charmaine to the Local Governing Board for Girton Glebe Primary School!"

## Library & Reading Volunteers

**Would you like to volunteer in our newly-decorated school library?** We are looking for a team of friendly volunteers to support with the organisation, running and general housekeeping of our library space for 2-3 afternoons a week. The role would involve managing the checking in and out of library books, shelving returned books and supporting children to find books whilst reading in the library with their class. This would be within school time and can be arranged to be when your child's class are using the library if you would like to support with reading sessions, too. Opportunities for volunteering after school may also be possible. Please contact Catherine O'Donovan in the school office if you are interested.



## Want to read with children in class instead?

As always, our doors are open for any volunteers who would like to read 1-1 with children across the school to improve their word reading and comprehension skills. Please contact your class teacher or Miss Jolly directly via Class Dojo if you are interested in helping.



## Year 6 – Secondary School Support

If your child is in Year 6, you'll be aware that the deadline for applying for secondary schools is Tuesday 31st October. If you require any support with the application process or any advice regarding admissions, the criteria for different schools, any issues concerning transport or the appeals process, please email Tiff Christian at

[choosingaschool@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:choosingaschool@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Nut-Free School

A polite reminder that we are a nut-free school. As we have several children in school with severe nut allergies, we kindly ask that parents check the ingredients of all snacks and packed lunches carefully as no food in school should contain any types of nuts. This includes any treats that are brought into school for birthdays and special occasions. We thank you for your co-operation in keeping everyone at Girton Glebe safe.

## House Points

With our new house symbols and more simplistic names, we have already begun working hard, collecting House Points for displaying our core values around school.



Once our Year 6 House Captains have been appointed, we will begin counting and competing with each other to see which house has won the most points each week. Watch this space for our first House of The Week next week!

## Celebration Assembly

The way we celebrate our core values in our weekly Celebration Assembly has changed! To empower the children to think about and celebrate their own successes, selected children from each class will now choose which core value they believe they have shown and why. A huge well done to all of the children below who have wowed their teachers in the first days back at school and were celebrated in today's assembly; we are so proud of all of you! We look forward to welcoming lots of parents to celebrate with us each week.

(Please note that Ash Class will join in with celebration certificates later in the year, once they are settled in to school life.)

**Maple:** Gibson & Iona

**Birch:** Darcey & Lewis

**Lime:** Eilidh & Thomas B

**Cherry:** Dominik & Emaya

**Willow:** Sophie & Theo

**Oak:** Eliza & Marcus



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## Upcoming Dates

**27th September, 15:30 - 16:00**  
Ash Class Phonics Workshop

**29th September, 09:00**  
Harvest Assembly

**30th September, 10:30 - 12:30**  
FOGG Jumble Sale

**2nd - 6th October**  
Black History Week

**19th October, 13:30 - 15:00**  
Open Afternoon

**23 - 27 October**  
Half Term

**30th October**  
Term starts

**31st October, 15:30 - 19:00**  
Parents' Evening

**2nd November, 15:30 - 17:30**  
Parents' Evening

**6th November**  
Flu Jabs

**9th November, 09:00**  
Oak Class Assembly

**12th November**  
FOGG Sunday Afternoon Film

**13th -17th November**  
Anti-Bullying week

**14th November, 13:30 - 15:00**  
Open Afternoon

**17th November**  
Children in Need Day

**18th November, 14:00 - 16:00**  
FOGG Christmas Fair

**23rd November, 09.00**  
Cherry Class Assembly

**24th November**  
Inset Day

**5th December, 14:00**  
KS1 Production

**7th December, 09:00**  
KS1 Production

**11th December**  
Christmas Church visit

**14th December, 09:00**  
Ash Class Nativity

**18th December, 18:00**  
Christmas Carol Concert

**19th December**  
Last Day of Term