



Girton Glebe Primary School

Newsletter



20th December 2024



What a busy few weeks we have had!

We are fully in the Christmas spirit at GG after lots of singing and festivities, including the wonderful Ash & Maple Class Nativity, a choir performance at King's College Chapel, a whole-school Carol Service at St Andrew's Church, and our annual Christmas Concert! A huge thank you to Mrs Knowler for organising so many exciting events for our Key Stage Two choir over the festive season! We've also enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner and lots of visits from our cheeky elf friend, Buddy!



Classes have also been busy with lots of other fun around school over the past few weeks. Year 6 and Year 3 have completed their Bike Ability training, Years 4 & 5 participated in a movement and characterisation workshop run by the V&A, and we have had lots of other visitors, trips and excitement around school, too! One of my highlights was the Cross Country event, in which we are proud to have performed extremely well once again, and of the way that all of our pupils represented Girton Glebe and our core values.

It's been a busy term! From all of us as GG, we wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Read on for the latest news...

Reading Recommendation

Mr Butler

Book: I Want My Hat Back

Author: Jon Klassen

Age Range: 1+

Perfect For: A cosy bedtime story and all those with a cheeky side!

"I haven't seen any hats anywhere.
I would not steal a hat."



GG Choir Sing @ King's College

On Tuesday 10th December, a selection of children from our Key Stage 2 choir were invited to attend the King's College Chapel for a primary schools' carol concert.

The Carol Concert was an opportunity to see inside Henry VIII's famous chapel and listen to traditional Christmas Carols sung by the world-famous King's College Choristers. The choir also had the opportunity to join in with singing two of the songs, as well as sharing Christmas readings at the concert.

This was an amazing and very exciting opportunity for all of the children involved and we were very fortunate and grateful to have been invited to such an exciting event this Christmas. Our pupils read and sang beautifully and we couldn't be more proud!



News from Miss Pyle!

Miss Pyle is very excited to announce that she is expecting her second child! Joshua's little sibling is due at the end of March. We are sure you will join us all by sending Jo and her partner your congratulations.



Cross Country Success!

On Wednesday the 4th of December, 48 children (6 boys and 6 girls from each class) were driven to Milton Country Park to attend a Cross-Country race. The distance was 1600m (a bit more than a mile) through mud, leaves, sticky ground, pebbles and stones. We were very lucky in having 4 students in the top three:

Nico - Year 4 (2nd)

Peter - Year 5 (3rd)

Delilah - Year 6 (2nd)

Arwynn - Year 6 (1st)

The race was fun, and the adults cheered us on. Even when we felt like giving up, they encouraged us on. Thank you for all the support we received. Although some children didn't get the results they were hoping for, they all did very well. All students tried their best and persevered. Well done to all who participated; overall, we had a score of 1488.

Written by Arwynn, Clara, Delilah & Thea in Y6

St Andrew's Church Visit

Last week, our pupils from Ash Class through to Willow Class had the wonderful opportunity to visit St. Andrew's Church, where they explored a captivating display of Nativity sets from around the world. The sets were made from a variety of materials, including wood, clay, and fabric. It was an incredible chance for the children to see the diversity in how the Nativity story is represented across different cultures.

The children listened carefully to the Christmas story, followed by a creative activity where they made their very own story wheels to help retell the Nativity. It was a fantastic way to engage with the traditional story!

A huge thank you to the staff and volunteers at St. Andrew's Church for their warm welcome and support throughout our visit. The experience was enjoyed by all and will surely be a memorable part of our Christmas celebrations!

Birch Class Assembly

Last week, we were treated to Year 2's wonderful Class Assembly, in which pupils shared poetry and descriptive writing, as well as all of their learning from around the curriculum. This included information about Marco Polo and his trip from Italy to Asia, different animals and how they have adapted to suit their habitats, and a fun guessing game which the audience enjoyed participating in. Year 2 also beautifully performed The Kindness Song, spreading smiles and joy to lots of faces in the audience! Well done for all of your hard work in putting this together; it is clear you have learned so much this term!

FOGG News

Thank you for all your support with FOGG's events this half term!

We raised an amazing £469 with the school disco, which was as popular as ever. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to help make this event a success.

Well done to all who entered the bauble competition. There were some beautiful designs which helped to decorate the Christmas Tree at the Christmas Fair. Thank you too to Mr Butler for kindly agreeing to choose the winners. The lucky winners each received art supplies as well as a free ice-cream courtesy of Jack's Gelato. Full total received tbc.

The Christmas Fair was on 30th November this year. Thank you to all who helped, whether by donating, setting up, running stalls, clearing away, or attending. Thank you too to Mrs Knowler and the School Choir for your wonderful performance. We took **£1290.21** (before costs), which is fantastic amount.

Money raised by FOGG is used to enhance the education & opportunities for the children.

Look out for our next events:

**Christmas Tree Shred on Sunday 5th
January 9.30-11.30am**

Ceilidh on Friday 24th January from 5.30pm

Thank you for all your support

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas
FOGG



Willow Class Update



Lion King Movement Workshop

On the 3rd December, Willow pushed aside the tables and chairs to let loose and take part in the Victoria and Albert Museum's presentation of the Lion King movement workshop (along with Year 4). Everybody got involved in learning and practising an energetic Lion King themed song and dance routine before putting all of their moves together at the end to produce a brilliant performance. It was great to see so much enthusiasm and all members of the class giving it a go!



Ukraine Zoom Call

On Thursday last week we spent part of the morning on a Zoom video-chat with another similarly-aged class all the way in the Ukraine as part of a cultural exchange. We all thought of adjectives to go with our first names and introduced ourselves to the other children. The Ukrainian children also introduced themselves and presented a slideshow all about their school and their city of Irpin, near Kiev, in the Ukraine. We also showed them information about Girton Glebe Primary School and both sets of children had lots of questions for each other. We are hoping to maintain this relationship going into the new year and potentially starting up pen pals to write to as well. We have started by creating Christmas cards to send to the class and are wondering what we also might receive from them!



Christmas Unwrapped

On Friday 22nd November, Willow Class took a stroll down to Girton Baptist Church for 'Christmas Unwrapped' hosted by Rev. Nick Lowe. The children found out all about the true meaning of Christmas and the Christmas story, learning some interesting facts along the way. There was some Advent crafting as well as some very yummy refreshments and a very noisy Christmas 'rap' to finish off! A huge thank you to Rev. Lowe and everybody at Girton Baptist Church for their warm welcome; the children had a brilliant time and were buzzing throughout.

Learning

This term Willow have been continuing to learn all about the ancient Greeks and thinking about how their innovation and ideas have helped progress humanity as part of our transdisciplinary theme. We've learned about some very famous Athenians (people from Athens) and their impact on the world. Like Socrates, who developed a unique question-and-answer method that still influences teaching today, or Cleisthenes who helped develop the idea of democracy that is the foundation of many modern governments today. We are still need to do more research to understand why so many ancient Greeks had beards though!



Upcoming Dates

5th Jan

FOGG Christmas Tree Shred

6th Jan

First Day of Spring Term

24th Jan

FOGG Ceilidh

30th Jan

Cherry Class Assembly

30th Jan, 4.30-5.30pm

EYFS & Y1 Phonics Presentation

5th Feb

Young Voices

14th Feb

Last Day of Half-Term

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

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You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday