



Girton Glebe Primary School

# Newsletter



13th February 2026



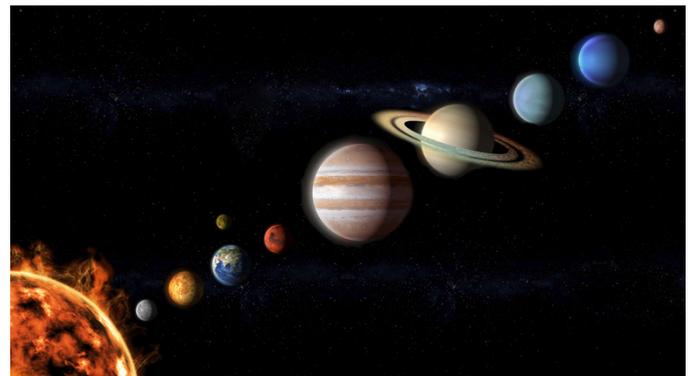
## Year 5 Trip

Last Wednesday, Willow Class enjoyed a fascinating trip to The Whipple Museum of the History of Science, where we were given a guided tour of the exhibitions, including several orreries—moving models of the solar system—that were hundreds of years old.

We split into groups to explore different replicas of astrolabes, which are historical instruments used to measure the positions of stars and planets and to help with navigation and timekeeping, as well as more orreries and the museum's impressive collection of globes showing the Earth, the Moon, and other planets.

Alongside learning more about the Earth and the solar system, the class also discovered how museums identify 'fake' items and understand the difference between a fake and a replica.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip, behaved sensibly while using the public bus, and we are very grateful to the museum staff, volunteers, and parent helpers for giving their time to support us.



What a brilliant half term it has been!

It feels as though the weeks have flown by—and with so much happening across the school, it's no wonder time has raced ahead. From exciting classroom projects to whole-school events, there has been a real buzz of energy and enthusiasm around Girton Glebe.



A standout highlight of this half term has to be our wonderful opportunity to host visitors from China. Last week, Girton Glebe took part in its first ever cultural exchange, welcoming teachers and students from Guangzhou International Primary School (Baiyun) ZWIE. It was an amazing experience for both staff and pupils—a chance to learn more about their rich culture and heritage, and to share our own in return. Our guests were made to feel incredibly welcome throughout their visit, and I felt truly proud and honoured to work alongside such a thoughtful, dedicated team who made this exchange so special. Read on to discover more about the events and learning from our cultural immersion week.

Across the board, the children have worked exceptionally hard this half term. They have thrown themselves into their learning with curiosity, resilience, and enthusiasm, showing great determination and a real passion for their work. We are so proud of everything they have achieved.

Wishing you all a wonderful, restful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another exciting term ahead!

**Chris Butler**  
Headteacher

## A Week of Cultural Connection



Last week, our school was delighted to welcome 32 children and four adults from China as part of a cultural immersion programme, creating a truly memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved.

Our visitors were placed across Years 3 to 6, where each child was paired with a buddy to shadow for the week. They fully immersed themselves in school life, joining in with lessons and experiencing the true Girton Glebe way. From spending time in the forest to engaging in maths, English and project-based learning, the children embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity.

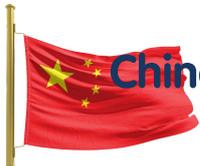
It was wonderful to see how positively our pupils interacted with the children from China. Friendships formed quickly, and our children showed genuine interest in learning Chinese words and discovering important aspects of Chinese culture, demonstrating openness, kindness and respect throughout the week.

Our Year 4, 5 and 6 classes were especially fortunate to be taught by the visiting Chinese teachers, who shared insights into their country and its rich traditions. Pupils took part in hands-on cultural activities including fan making, bamboo weaving and puppet making, giving them a deeper appreciation of this amazing country and its heritage.

The week concluded with a joyful and inclusive celebration assembly, where our guests received certificates in recognition of their participation in the immersion programme. We were also treated to a beautiful Chinese cultural dance, which was a real highlight for the whole school.

We have been incredibly impressed by how welcoming and supportive our children have been. A huge thank you goes to our buddies, and to the wider school community, for helping our Chinese children and teachers feel so welcome and at home during their time with us. Experiences like these truly bring learning to life, strengthen our understanding of the wider world and help our pupils grow as caring, informed and internationally minded global citizens.





## Chinese Bamboo Weaving in Willow!

Willow Class recently enjoyed a special experience when our Chinese exchange pupils shared their traditional bamboo weaving skills with them.

The session became a wonderful example of cultural exchange in action, as pupils learned not only a new craft but also about the traditions and values behind it.

Working side by side, everyone showed great patience, teamwork, and respect, helping one another master the careful techniques required. It was very tricky and intricate, but Willow Class created some beautiful bamboo creations with the help of our new friends.

Thank you to all of the Chinese children and teachers for their time and energy!



## Chinese Shadow Puppets in Oak Class By Shiri

Last week, Oak Class enjoyed making shadow puppets with our visitors from China.

We loved creating different characters from the tale of the Monkey King, including the Monkey King himself, dragons, the Demon Princess and many more. We coloured and pinned the pieces of paper together with help from some of the Chinese students. We then made a short show using all our characters.

Thank you to our Chinese visitors and teachers for encouraging us – we had lots of fun spending time with you all!

## Fan Making in Cherry Class

Year 4 enjoyed a Chinese fan-making activity with our visitors from the Immersion Programme. During the session, the children learned about the history and cultural importance of fan making in Chinese culture, including how fans have been used for both practical and artistic purposes. The children loved working alongside our visitors and showed great creativity and curiosity while designing their own fans.



## NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Workshops



Following on from last week's NSPCC's assembly, Year 2, 5 and 6 were joined by a representative of the NSPCC to deliver some workshops about 'Speak Out and Stay Safe'.

The children heard stories about children who have received support and help from the NSPCC and showed great insight into how these children were feeling throughout this time.

We also considered who are safe adults are at home and at school and were reminded of the ChildLine phone number, **0800 11 11**

If you would like further information please visit the website [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout).

## Birch experience The Fitzwilliam Museum

On Thursday 29th January, Year 2 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum, travelling together on the public bus. During the visit, the children took part in an engaging workshop where they explored nature and the environment, learning how artists have recorded the world around them and how art can be used to express ideas about nature and environmental themes.

The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the museum's wonderful works of art, especially in the Flower Gallery, where they had great fun searching for and spotting the many hidden insects within the paintings. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and careful observations made the day a real success.

A huge thank you to the parent volunteers who accompanied us on the trip and helped make this memorable learning experience possible.

## Mental Health Awareness Week

This week, we have celebrated Mental Health Awareness week. This year's theme is "This is My Place", focusing on helping children feel they belong – at home, in school and in the community. On Monday, we launched this theme with a whole school assembly and then every class spent some time delivering this message and doing some activities to promote the feeling of belonging.

How families can support wellbeing

Small daily routines can make a big difference:

- Keep regular routines (bedtime, mealtimes, calm after-school time).
- Talk about feelings in simple, everyday ways.
- Use stories to start conversations – many children find this easier.
- Look out for the Reading Well for Children books at your local library to help explore emotions like worry, sadness, anger or confidence.

Local support for young people

- YOUnited – emotional wellbeing and mental health support for ages 5–17.
- Centre 33 – free, confidential support for young people up to 25.
- H.A.Y. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough – ideas for positive activities in your local area.

Every child deserves to feel safe, supported and that they belong. Small steps at home and in school can make a big difference.





## Year 3 Open Class

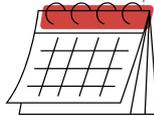
Year 3 loved welcoming parents and carers into the classroom last Thursday morning for our open morning. Families joined us for an English lesson where the children were learning about the present perfect tense and using their new skills to create some beautifully written letters.

It was a real joy to have over 15 extra adults in the classroom, supporting, encouraging and celebrating the children's learning. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the morning such a positive and memorable experience for Year 3.

## Cello Taster Lessons

Cello lessons are offered to students at Girton Glebe Primary School through Cambridgeshire Music and take place weekly. 20 minute or 30 minute lessons available. Taster sessions to try out the cello will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at 13.15 onward. If you would like your child to attend a free taster session on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, please e-mail Sarah Queree on [sarah.queree@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.queree@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Upcoming Dates



### February

**16th – 20th February:** Half Term  
**24th February:** Young Voices at The O2  
**26th February:** Year 3 Sedgwick Museum Trip

### March

**5th March:** World Book Day  
**17th March:** Year 6 Duxford Trip  
**17th March:** Parent's Evening  
**19th March:** Parent's Evening  
**25th March (2pm):** Year 2 and 3 Production  
**30th March:** Easter Holidays Start

## Celebration Assembly

Well done to all of the children who were presented with a Celebration Certificate last week.



Last week's (6th February) certificate winners are:

**Ash:** Ellie and Josie

**Maple:** Alastair and Caitlin

**Birch:** Iris and Lorena

**Lime:** Amelia, Giorgio and Leonard

**Cherry:** Darcey, Rex and Mikey

**Willow:** Ruby and Theo

**Oak:** Jasmine and Dash



This week's (13th February) certificate winners are:

**Ash:** Olivia and Elio

**Maple:** Alex and Livia

**Birch:** Nate and Owen

**Lime:** Adhu and Nishtha

**Cherry:** Eleanor

**Willow:** Heath and Adeline

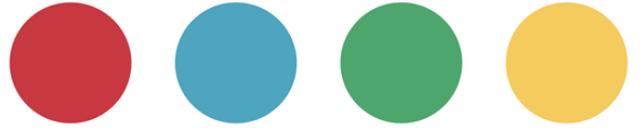
**Oak:** Lena, Mia and Finley





## House Points

Congratulations to this week's House of The Fortnight: **RED HOUSE**



Here are this fortnight's totals:



681



539



491



364



Please see the upcoming family activities at  
the Norris Museum this February half term

# Clay Owls

## ★ Family Workshop ★

Friday 20th February, 10:30am to 12:00pm

Enjoy a relaxed family clay workshop making your own clay owls. Learn a simple shaping technique, then decorate your owls with eyes, jewels, feathers and textures to give them plenty of personality. Create a whole family of tweet little owls to hang around your home!

Aimed at children 4+ and their adults (also taking part!)  
£12.00 for two at a table, £16.50 for three, £20.00 for four  
(Tickets numbers include adults – there must be at least one adult per table)

Limited places - online booking essential  
<https://tickettailor.com/events/norrismuseum/>



**THE  
NORRIS  
MUSEUM**

Wherever Your  
Curiosity Takes You

[norrismuseum.org.uk](http://norrismuseum.org.uk)  
01480 497314  
41 The Broadway, St Ives PE27 5BX

# Owl Babies

## Family Story Time & Crafts

★ Tuesday 17th February, 10:30 to 11:30am ★

Join us for an owl-themed adventure at the museum!  
Enjoy hearing the lovely Owl Babies story alongside other owl tales, followed by hands-on creative fun.

Make your own paper bag owl puppets and an owl family fingerprint hanging decoration to take home and then see if you can spot all the owls hidden in the museum!

Aimed at children aged 3+ but everyone is welcome  
£7.50 for 1 child, £14.00 for 2 children, £19.50 for 3  
(One accompanying adult to every three children required)

★ Limited places - online booking essential ★  
<https://tickettailor.com/events/norrismuseum/>



**THE  
NORRIS  
MUSEUM**

Wherever Your  
Curiosity Takes You

[norrismuseum.org.uk](http://norrismuseum.org.uk)  
01480 497314  
41 The Broadway, St Ives PE27 5BX

# ART ADVENTURE CLUB

A family art club aimed at 6-11 year olds and their adults

## 7 WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Spring Term 2026

Saturdays, 2:00 to 3:30pm

10th January: Egyptian Tombs - junk modelling and collage

24th January: Terracotta Army Figures - clay

7th February: Aurora Borealis - silk Painting and kaleidoscopes

28th February: Hanging Gardens of Babylon - fabric and card collage, with weaving

14th March: Great Walls in Colour- acrylic painting on wood

Tickets per session:

£12.00 for two at a table

£16.50 for three at a table

£20.00 for four at a table

Tickets numbers include adults

(there must be at least one adult per table)

Booking essential <https://tickettailor.com/events/norrismuseum>



**THE  
NORRIS  
MUSEUM**

Wherever Your  
Curiosity Takes You

[norrismuseum.org.uk](http://norrismuseum.org.uk)

01480 497314

41 The Broadway, St Ives PE27 5BX



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR  
**JUNIOR BAKE OFF**

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

# 2026

+44 7854 779896

[my.special.occasions@outlook.com](mailto:my.special.occasions@outlook.com)

[www.facebook.com/Farmersfayres](https://www.facebook.com/Farmersfayres)

[www.instagram.com/farmersfayres/](https://www.instagram.com/farmersfayres/)

**2nd**  
**Saturday**  
Every month

## FARMERS MARKET

**FREE  
ENTRY**

from 14.00  
to 16.00



### GIRTON

The William  
Collyn,  
Community  
Centre,  
Cb3 0GP

**No market in January**

14th February

14th March

11th April

9th May

13th June

11th July

**No market in August**

12th September

10th October

14th November

12th December

info@smartkidzplayandlearn.co.uk

**WHAT?!**



**OMG**



**Wow!**

**BOOK NOW**

Ad-hoc and emergency bookings available as long as you are registered with us!

# WRAP AROUND CARE AT GIRTON GLEBE



SCAN ME

Monday to Friday

7:30am to 18:00 (term time only)

[www.smartkidzplayandlearn.co.uk](http://www.smartkidzplayandlearn.co.uk)



WINNERS OF THE PLAY SETTING OF THE YEAR AWARD 2022

