



Girton Glebe Primary School

Newsletter



6th March 2026



A Flying Start to Spring 2!



We are already two weeks into Spring 2 and what a busy and exciting start it has been at Girton Glebe!

It has been wonderful to see the school buzzing with energy as we launched our activities linked to the National Year of Reading. From the very first week, the enthusiasm from pupils and staff has been fantastic. Our new Behind the Beak series has caused quite a stir, and I have loved seeing the excitement (and competitive guessing!) building across the school.



We have also enjoyed some brilliant experiences already this half term. Our GG Choir had an unforgettable evening performing at the O2 in London as part of Young Voices. It was an incredible opportunity to sing alongside thousands of other children in such an iconic venue and the pupils represented our school beautifully. Year 3 also enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Sedgwick Museum, bringing their learning to life through hands on exploration and discovery.



You may also have noticed that parts of the school are looking a little different. We are absolutely loving our newly decorated and refreshed spaces. A huge thank you must go to Cambridge Punters, and especially Mr Fowler, whose generous donations have made this revamp possible. The transformation has created warm and inviting spaces that truly celebrate reading and learning.



Our new indoor shoe initiative has also got off to a brilliant start. It has been great to see children proudly wearing their indoor shoes each day. We are incredibly grateful for the many supportive messages from parents. One parent wrote:

"This is such a thoughtful idea that will really help reduce germs and keep the learning environment clean and healthy for pupils and teachers. We are fully on board and supportive with this."

Thank you for your continued support. It makes a real difference!

There is still so much to look forward to this term and we are excited about everything that lies ahead. I hope you are all enjoying the return of the sunshine and the welcome longer hours of daylight. Spring certainly feels like it has arrived at Girton Glebe.

Chris Butler
Headteacher

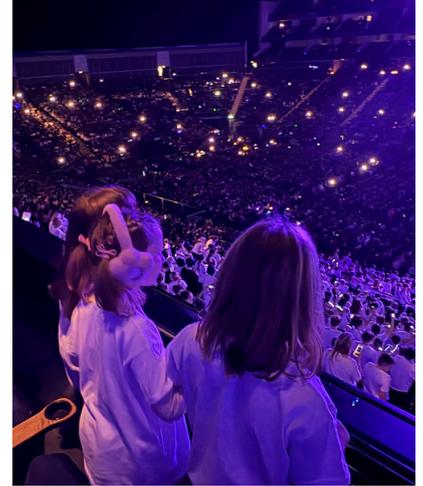


Girton Glebe Choir Shine @ Young Voices



On Tuesday 24th February, our Girton Glebe School Choir travelled to the O2 in London to take part in Young Voices, one of the largest children's choir concerts in the world. What an unforgettable experience it was!

Led by Mrs Knowler and accompanied by Miss Roddy, Mr Warren, Mrs Bates and Mrs O'Donovan, our 50 choir members represented the school brilliantly from start to finish. The staff team did an outstanding job supporting the children throughout what was a very long and eventful day, including managing hungry tummies, a touch of travel sickness, and even a coach delay! Nothing, however, dampened the excitement.



Performing alongside thousands of other young singers in such an iconic arena is truly extraordinary. The atmosphere was electric as the children performed Golden from K Pop Demon Hunters, which was an absolute hit, as well as the rousing Wellerman by The Longest Johns and the wonderfully dramatic What Is This Feeling? from Wicked. The sound of thousands of children singing together is something quite special and more than a little spine tingling!

For many of our pupils, it was their first time inside an arena, let alone performing in one. They sang with confidence, enthusiasm and huge smiles throughout. It was a bonding experience for children and teachers alike, filled with joy, laughter and a great deal of shared pride.

We are incredibly proud of every single member of the choir. Despite the long day and the inevitable travel adventures, it was all worth it. We are already counting down to the next one. Young Voices 2028, we will see you there!





Year 3 Explore What Lies Beneath at the Sedgwick Museum!



Year 3 recently enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences where they took part in the engaging Under Your Feet workshop.

The day began with a big question: how do rocks form and what are they made of? Pupils discovered how a rock from the top of Mount Everest and real earthquake data have helped scientists understand plate tectonics. They were amazed to learn that the ground beneath our feet is constantly shifting and changing over time!

The children then explored the three rock families and learned how each fits into the rock cycle. In the second half of the session, they became geologists themselves, getting hands on with real rock samples. They compared and grouped igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks by studying their appearance and physical properties, working scientifically and carefully just like experts. There was great excitement when particularly unusual specimens were spotted!

It was a wonderful opportunity to bring their learning about rocks and the rock cycle to life. The children asked thoughtful questions, handled the specimens responsibly and represented Girton Glebe beautifully throughout the visit. A brilliant day of discovery!

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our parent volunteers. We absolutely love having parent helpers on our trips and are so grateful for the extra support. Your time and help make experiences like this possible, and we truly appreciate it!



Mrs Knowler
Y3 Teacher





ASH CLASS UPDATE



Last half term we read lots of stories! We liked Ning and the Night Spirits, Halibut Jackson and The Hairy Toe. We made our own night spirits. We designed clothes for Halibut Jackson. We liked saying "You've got my hairy toe!" in funny voices.

We have been building lots of things with the construction. We are getting very good at making strong buildings!

We have also been practising patterns. We can spot patterns and make our own repeating patterns.



We like writing silly sentences. They make us laugh!



This week Mr Holt brought his guinea pigs to visit us. They were very soft!

We made shelters and toys for them. The guinea pigs liked them.



We have also learned about Chinese New Year. We heard the story about how the years were named after animals. We made red Chinese lanterns because red is a lucky colour. We also tried writing some Chinese characters.





The Breakfast Book Swap



Friday 13 March - 8.15am to 8.45am

We are delighted to introduce The Breakfast Book Swap, a cosy community reading morning that we hope will become a much loved annual Girton Glebe tradition. Families are warmly invited to join us before school to share a book together and enjoy a hot drink or juice in a calm and welcoming space.

How the Book Swap Works

Children are invited to donate one (or more!) book(s) from home that they are happy to pass on to another child. The book(s) should:

- Be age appropriate
- Be in good condition
- Be fully wrapped so that the cover and title cannot be seen

Books can be wrapped in newspaper, wrapping paper, kraft paper or any paper you have at home. Please make sure the book is completely covered so that it becomes a surprise.

On the outside of the wrapping, please clearly write:

- The recommended reading age
- A clue about the book

The clue can be a short phrase, a few key words, a sentence, or even a small drawing. Get creative. The idea is to spark curiosity without revealing the title!

Books must be handed into the school office by Monday 9 March.



Join us for the
BREAKFAST BOOK SWAP

Friday, 13th March
8:15 AM – 8:45 AM

How the Book Swap Works

Children are invited to donate one (or more!) book(s) from home that they are happy to pass on to another child. The book(s) should:

- ✓ Be age appropriate
- ✓ Be in good condition
- ✓ Be fully wrapped so that the cover and title cannot be seen

Wrap your book in secret!

- ✦ Write the recommended reading age + a clue about the book on wrapping paper!
- ✦ Books must be brought to school by Monday, 9th March

No need to bring a book on the day itself, but please contribute in advance so all children can join in.

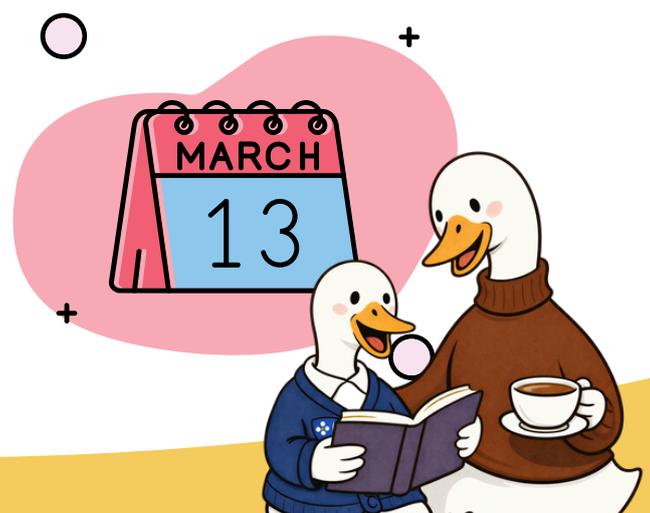
- ✓ All wrapped books will be displayed at the swap.
- ✓ Each child will choose a surprise book to take home
- ✓ Hot drinks + pastries provided. Families welcome!

Clue: It's a funny story for ages 8+

On the morning itself, all wrapped books will be displayed. Children will choose a surprise book to take home.

Hot drinks and juice will be provided. Families are welcome, though not expected, to bring a small pastry to share!

Please note that attendance at the Breakfast Swap is linked to donating a wrapped book. This ensures that every child who contributes a book will receive one in return.





Little Wandle @ GG

At the start of the Spring term in January, we moved to the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised phonics programme to support children in learning to read and write. Little Wandle is a structured and systematic approach that is closely aligned with the latest government guidance and reading research. We introduced this programme to ensure that all children receive consistent, high quality teaching that builds skills step by step and helps them become confident, fluent readers as early as possible.

We have been delighted with how well the children have adapted to the clear structure and pace of the lessons. Since January, we have already seen growing confidence, improved fluency and real enthusiasm in phonics sessions across EYFS and KS1.

To help parents and carers understand the programme in more detail, Miss Pyle, our Deputy Headteacher, will be running an after school Little Wandle workshop for families in EYFS and KS1 who would like to find out more about how phonics is taught and how to support reading at home.



On Tuesday 24th March, we will be hosting a Little Wandle Presentation for parents and carers of children in Ash and Maple Class. This session will give you the opportunity to learn more about how phonics and early reading are taught in these classes, as well as information about the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.

The workshop will take place in Maple Class at 15:30.

If you are able to attend, please let us know by completing the form below by Friday 20th March:

Little Wandle Workshop – Fill in form

If you are bringing children with you, we kindly ask that they remain quiet so that everyone can fully benefit from the session.

Parents can also find out more about how Little Wandle works and access helpful guidance by visiting the Little Wandle parent page on their website.

Grapheme chart Phase 2 and 3

s	t	p	n	m	d	g	c	r	h	b	f	l	j	v
ss	tt	pp	nn	mm	dd	gg	ck	rr	h	bb	ff	ll	jj	vv
							ck	cc						
w	x	y	z	qu	ch	sh	th	ng	nk	a	e	i	o	u
			zz	qu	ch	sh	th	ng	nk	a	e	i	o	u
			s											
ai	ee	igh	oa	oo	oo	ar	or	ur	er	ow	oi	ear	air	



NSPCC

The NSPCC has partnered with Vodafone to develop an online safety guide for parents and carers of children under 5. The guide contains useful information about common risks this age group face, some guidance around screen time limits and lots of practical tips for families:

A parent's guide to online safety for children under five

Learn about the risks, get practical guidance, and discover ideas to help keep younger children safe.

CLICK HERE

Technology is part of everyday life. And that means even very young children are using shared devices to watch videos or to play simple games. For children under the age of five, technology can offer fun and support learning. It also brings risks. Children at this age are curious, quick to click, and unable to recognise danger. That's why parents and carers play a vital role in making screen time safe, purposeful, and age appropriate.

What do experts say about screen time for under-fives?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommendations for younger children by age group.

Children aged between three and four years old

Children of this age should be spending no more than one hour a day on sedentary screen time and less time is preferable. When they are sitting down and using devices, it's best for children to be engaged in reading and storytelling with a caregiver.

The WHO's recommendations highlight that screen time should be limited and purposeful. It's not about banning technology completely, but about making sure it supports children's development rather than replacing play, conversation, and movement.

Introduce them to Techosaurus!



Common risks for under-fives

Young children don't yet have the skills to navigate online spaces safely. Some of the most common risks to them include:



- autoplay traps – video platforms often play the next clip automatically, which can lead to children seeing content that isn't suitable for them
- inappropriate content – even child-friendly apps can show adverts or videos that aren't suitable for this age group
- accidental purchases – in-app purchases and pop-ups can tempt children to click, leading to unexpected costs
- inappropriate use – young children may explore their bodies using cameras or devices without understanding privacy or boundaries
- sharenting and image misuse – parents might share images online while others might take and misuse children's photos. That can create long-term privacy and safety issues
- overuse – long periods of passive screen time can affect children's sleep, play, and development.

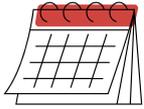
Understanding these risks helps parents take simple steps to protect children while still enjoying the benefits of technology.

Role modelling healthy habits

Children learn by watching adults. If you take breaks, avoid oversharing, and follow family rules, they're more likely to do the same. Try:

- putting your phone away during meals
- talking about why you limit your own screen time
- showing that you enjoy offline activities like reading or playing outside.

Role modelling isn't about being perfect – it's about showing balance and making healthy choices visible.



Upcoming Dates

9th March

West End in Schools Drama Workshops

11th March

Rashmi Sirdeshmande (Y1/2 Virtual Author Visit)

16th March

Maz Evans (Y5/6 Virtual Author Visit)

17th March

Year 6 Duxford Trip

17th March

Parents' Evening

19th March

Parents' Evening

20th March

Year 4 Grafham Water Trip

24th March

Ian Eagleton (Y3/4 Virtual Author Visit)

25th March

Y2/Y3 Spring Production @2pm

26th March

Y2/Y3 Spring Production @9am

27th March

Bethan Woollvin (EYFS Virtual Author Visit)

Year 4 Visit to Girton Baptist Church

Last Day of Term

Celebration Assembly

Well done to all of the pupils who earned a Celebration Certificate this week and last week. We always love to celebrate achievements chosen by our pupils, from in and out of school!



Last week's certificate winners were:

Ash: Erik & Leo

Maple: Finn & Arlo

Birch: Natasha & Eliza

Lime: Jensen, Mika & Thea

Cherry: Sakura & Lewis

Willow: Eddie & Hunter

Oak: Charlotte & Peter



This week's certificate winners are:

Ash: Ben

Maple: Rosellie & Dante

Birch: Ali & Sam

Lime: Ilyas & Orla

Cherry: Jen Nah & Lydia

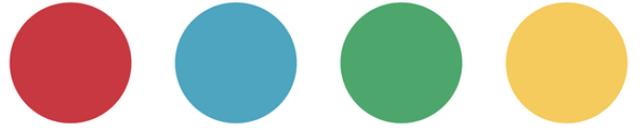
Willow: Ece & Caleb

Oak: Grace & Jacob



House Points

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



Here are this fortnight's totals:



LIME & BIRCH PRESENT

ROCK POOL

Year 2 and 3 invite you to our
claw-some Spring production,
Rock Pool - crab your seats
now!



Afternoon Show
Weds 25th March
@ 2pm

Morning Show
Thurs 26th March
@ 9am



GET YOUR
TICKETS HERE!

Girton Glebe
Primary School



WHAT?!



OMG



Wow!



BOOK NOW

info@smarkkidzplayandlearn.co.uk

WRAP AROUND CARE AT GIRTON GLEBE

For all children aged between 4-11
Monday to Friday
www.smarkkidzplayandlearn.co.uk





WHAT WE OFFER

All of our settings run on the ethos of indoor and outdoor, child led play. This means that the children are free to play in their own way and staff are on hand to facilitate the children's play if and when needed.



magicbooking

You are fully in control of your Magic Bookings account, this means you are able to register and manage your bookings from the comfort of your sofa.

To get started, scan the QR code 



SCAN ME



Breakfast and After School Club Schedule

Our breakfast club sessions are held from 7:30 a.m. until the school day begins, while our after school clubs continue until 6:00 p.m.

During each session, we provide options for a delicious breakfast during the breakfast club and a tasty snack during the after school club.



If you would like to book a tour of our setting and speak to one of our playleaders, please email us and we can arrange a date to meet you and your child. In the mean time you can check out our website and follow us on facebook to see what we get up to.



We look forward to meeting you!





EASTER & SUMMER 2026



LASER TAG

MINECRAFT

SCIENCE

VIRTUAL REALITY

ANIMAL WORKSHOPS

STREET DANCE

ROBOTS

INFLATABLES

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play

All in one camp

www.nextthing.education



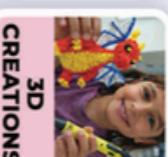
SCAN TO BOOK!

EASTER & SUMMER CAMPS

Tech-powered camps, packed with **WOW** experiences!

Example camp activities

Camps run 9 am - 4 pm



★ NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES ★



Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

At Next Thing Education, our goal is to ignite curiosity, fuel creativity and empower young minds for the future!

Blending hands-on tech exploration with unforgettable WOW experiences, we inspire children to invent, create, and discover. Led by DBS-checked, friendly and supportive instructors, kids build confidence while diving into exciting activities, challenges, and real skill-building adventures.

LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!

WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150



ECOCOACH CIC PRESENTS

Easter Activity Camp

Spinney Primary School

**Games & Sports · Movement & Dance · Arts & Crafts ·
Easter Egg Hunt**

DATES: 30 March -10 April

TIMES: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Early drop-off (8:00 AM) & Late pick-up (4:00 PM) available for £5 each.

AGES: 5 - 11 years. 4-year-olds welcome for half-days (8:00 AM or 9:00 AM to midday).

WHO CAN JOIN: Open to all schools - all abilities welcome! SEND friendly & fully inclusive!

PRICING AND DISCOUNTS: EARLY BIRD 17% OFF available until 8 March (USE CODE: ECOEASTER17)

Standard prices apply from 9 March of £22.50 per day. 15% OFF for FSM, 10% OFF for NHS and Military families (Cannot be combined with the early bird offer).

BOOKING: Visit <https://pbbl.uk/EcoCoachCIC> or scan the QR code to secure your space.

WHY ECOCOACH?

We are a not-for-profit coaching CIC working in schools across your community. Every child matters, every penny goes back into supporting inclusive, joyful, child-led sport.

Our camps are designed around what children need most: freedom, fun, friendship and movement.

"EVERY CHILD SEEN, EVERY CHILD SUPPORTED"



billy