



Newsletter

April 2018

Notes from the Headteacher

It has been another fantastic, hectic and inspiring term at Glemsford Primary Academy. It was a lovely way to finish the term - being part of such a lovely Easter celebration at the church. To see the church so full and to hear the superb singing made for a special afternoon. This was the final event of a term that had many highlights.

I thoroughly enjoyed being able to spend 24 hours with our year 5 and 6 children at Kingswood. To see so many children really challenging themselves and stepping out of their comfort zone was very inspiring. The last week of term also saw year 3 and 4 perform their version of *The Tempest*. The confidence of all of the pupils on and off the stage was amazing and I was proud of them all. Thank you to everyone who helped make this production such a memorable one. Another memorable event was our sponsored run and visit from Laura Samuel. As it stands we have raised over £1500 which will be split between the school, funding Laura Samuel's training and Alzheimer's Society.

The Spring term saw the school closed due to the heavy snow. For those children that were able to come into school on the Wednesday, they will no doubt remember the opportunity of being able to pummel their teachers and teaching assistants with snowballs. Thank you for everyone's understanding during this week – it is not easy deciding to stay open or not but in the end I think we got it right.

Next term promises to be just as busy. We have several trips planned, a Summer Fayre, Sports Day and many more exciting learning opportunities. Year 2 (w/c 21st May) and Year 6 (w/c 14th May) will be taking their SATs. It is essential that your child attends school during these weeks.

I am pleased to tell you that once again we have very few staff changes at Glemsford next term. We have recently appointed Mel Crown who will be joining us on Wednesdays in a new role as our Family Liaison Worker. Congratulations to Mrs Dobedoe, who will be working across the county every Wednesday in the Summer term, to help Primary Schools with their teaching of Maths. The class will be taught by Mrs Corke.

I hope you have a restful Easter break and the sun finally comes out. I look forward to seeing you all back at school on Tuesday 17th April.

Kind regards
Ben Jeffery,
Headteacher



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Field Mice and Dormice

This term we welcomed new Mice to both rooms. All of the children joined in with some whole-school theme days and events, including Number Day, the sponsored sports event, World Book Day and writing week and French morning. We also held our own event to celebrate Mother's Day, welcoming lots of visitors who joined us for fun and tasty treats! We have also continued to explore the changing weather, including chasing bubbles in the wind and trying to crack ice. Now we just need some sun!

The Fieldmice have added a mud kitchen to the outdoor area, which we have enjoyed exploring. We have also been developing fine and gross motor skills, including digging in mud and mark-making on a large scale. We have also had a special visitor for story time – is it a Gruffalo or Mr Jeffery?!

The Dormice joined in with exploring the story 'The Journey' for writing week, acting out an imaginary journey and drawing magical doors and what they thought was on the other side. Mrs New also came and did some shared writing with the class. For Talk4Writing we started the term with the story of Goldilocks, which including a tray of porridge oats to explore. We then moved on to a story called 'The Baby Mouse'. The Dormice love cooking, especially when we get to eat the results! This term we have made jam tarts (for Goldilocks), chocolate chip buns, shortbread for our mums and chocolate nests for us! We have also been working on our fine motor skills, including exploring gloop and salt dough and starting to develop our sewing skills. We have also welcomed 'Mousey' to the Dormice, who goes home with the children on lots of adventures.

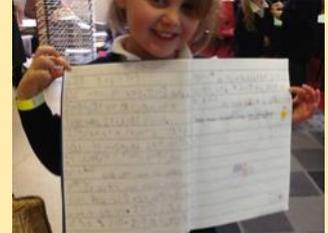
All of the nursery team would like to thank everyone for their support this term – we look forward to a fun-packed summer term!

As well as singing this term the choir have also been trying out playing ocarinas and hand chimes.

Miss Reeve and Mrs Arch



EYFS



Mrs Clutterham

Robins

The Spring term has been full of exploring and learning in our nest of growing Robins. We welcomed our Grandparents for a special assembly and took part in our first class assembly showcasing our storytelling, singing and dancing! The class have been working hard to develop their all-round confidence and 'can do' attitude towards learning. Writing week gave us lots of opportunities to develop our writing skills and we combined this with writing stories as a class, building on our growing vocabulary. The Robins are steaming ahead with independent reading, embracing the exciting world that books and stories offer us. The world of make believe, adventure and all those important skills we need in order to read for ourselves.

The Robins continue to show how they 'Care of others' and 'Care of the environment' - we have been learning about how to respect each other, celebrate our individual uniqueness and the importance of kindness. Our mindfulness session everyday continues to encourage a sense of calmness, reflection, positivity and skills to help us with our learning.

We celebrated Chinese New Year in style with making lanterns, lucky envelopes and opened our own Chinese takeaway - tasting lots of yummy foods. We have explored the festivals Holi and Easter with the Robins painting beautiful bunnies, eggs and daffodils to showcase in the Easter service at the church.

We have been eagerly watching our frog spawn change into tadpoles and talking about change in the seasons. We have been developing our drawing skills looking closely at the detail of daffodils and how they change as they open. The snow has certainly played a huge part in this terms exploring with lots of adventures both at School and home.

Thank you to all our families who continue to support learning at home and School - this truly makes a huge difference to your child's learning potential.

The Easter holiday dojo challenge has been set by Mrs C.....Good Luck Robins!

Mrs Clutterham



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Squirrels

What a crazy term it has been for the Squirrels class, with Zoolab, a famous athlete, world book day, the sponsored run and to top it off: SNOW!

The Squirrels class have been extremely busy this term developing their number work, focusing on adding and subtracting, working out the difference by comparing numbers and working out the correct method to solve different word problems.

In English the children have been looking at two stories this term, the first being 'Hairy Maclary' where the children looked at individual characters through researching the different breeds and also comparing them to other characters within the story. They also focused on emotion and how they could identify how the character felt. The other book we looked at is 'Oi Dog' which was a roaring success in the classroom, the children thoroughly enjoyed investigating rhyme and the children created some fantastic new rhymes, which could be used in the book.

In topic the children were comparing Glemsford to Bangkok which they found extremely interesting, especially the food aspect where they found out that you can get cooked scorpions to eat! They all created a fact file for each place and this will be continued into next term.

I am extremely proud of the Squirrels this term, as I have seen some tremendous progression from every student, especially with their reading and mathematics. Well done to all and thank you for working so hard!

Miss Stephens

Miss Stephens

Mrs Myers

Otters

What a fantastic term we have had in Otters! We all dressed up at the beginning of writing week, then created some excellent pictures of what was behind the door in Grandma's garden. We enjoyed a writing session with Mrs New, followed by us writing our own exciting stories.

Our topic has been about famous individuals that have changed aspects of modern life. We have enjoyed our debates about whether one of our nurses was a hero or a traitor and completed some extended writing about their lives.

This week we finished the term by writing a poem about Easter and the children performing it brilliantly in the church.

Mrs Myers



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Kingfishers

What an amazing start to 2018! We have been completely absorbed in our learning, we hardly noticed the time whizzing by. Our main learning has looked at our teeth and the digestive system. Following on, in the next half term, we focused on sound and rounding off with our play and work on The Tempest.

We loved creating our own digestive system, watching how the cereal we eat for breakfast travel through our bodies, right through to the other end... The squishy sounds that the body makes definitely made it fun.

The play was a huge success, with the children exploring and being fully immersed in each scene, getting a deeper understanding of the play and the characters within it. We even looked at how the current affairs of the time influenced the topic of William Shakespeare's plays.

The money we raised from the tickets will be put towards our two trips next term. We will also be fundraising later to again help reduce the cost of the trip further.

I cannot wait to see where our learning takes us next term...

Mrs Dobedoe

Mrs Dobedoe

Mrs New

Badgers

What a fantastic term! I am really proud of all the children for their hard work and resilient attitude. It is so nice to see them develop and grow as individuals and mature into the demands of KS2 and preparing for year 5 and upper key stage 2.

The main highlight for me (and probably the children) was our production of 'The Tempest'. Thank you for your support with costumes and I think you will agree that the children were amazing! They should be incredibly proud of their achievement – I know I am!

So onto our final term as year 3! I am sure it will be as positive and successful as the year so far.

Mrs New



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Foxes

And another half-term bites the dust or should that be snow? There have been quite a few highlights of this half-term for myself and the class.

In English we've created suspense stories which we shared with Year 6 and they ranged from absolutely terrifying to the humorous and bewildering. We also had our writing week where Mr Jeffery and the case of 'The car robbery' was our stimulus. The children created stories based on this event and were able to share them with you which was great to see and be part of.

The class learned to play handball and improve their tennis skills during PE even though the weather tried to derail our lessons.

In Maths the children have really grown and extended their knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages. We had a really fun lesson finding equivalent fractions using Skittles. They were only allowed to eat them if they found an equivalent, nothing like an added incentive.

To finish the half-term there was a trip to Kingswood where children faced obstacles that pushed them out of their comfort zones and really helped develop their characters and confidence. I hear from the children that didn't make the trip that they an equally great time and made some incredible pizzas and garlic bread on the Friday.

Mr Watson

Mr Watson

Mr Scott

Red Deer

Two thirds through the final year in primary education and it seems only yesterday I was welcoming the fresh faced (some nervous) new recruits into the mighty Red Deer. How this time has flown! This term, albeit short, has been packed full of various learning opportunities and entertaining moments. Kingswood residential would probably be a highlight for many but for me it was the snow day when we had a partial closure. Some members of our illustrious class were the recipient of a rather relentless barrage of snow from me and the other teachers much to everyone's amusement (especially their parents!)

We are about to enter the final furlong of the learning calendar and what a term it will prove to be. SATs are looming their ugly head but we are prepared and ready to do battle. By the time they arrive we will be floating on a sea of quiet confidence and ready to destroy whatever is placed in front us. SATs could be seen as the pinnacle and most important part of the final year in primary however, to me, it is the time after when we can start planning our play and the emotional rollercoaster that is the leaver's assembly.

As always, I have enjoyed every moment teaching my noble deer and know that they will continue to grow in character and confidence and be more than ready for the next step in their educational career by mid-July when we part company.

Well done to all and enjoy your Easter homework...!

Mr Scott.



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PEEP

Peep is still proving incredibly successful and popular and our weekly sessions in the Burrow are very well attended.

Already we have explored the following topics: The importance of names; helping children feel good about themselves; helping children to manage and understand their feelings; understanding and managing behaviour; an introduction to ORIM; becoming a good listener; talking and listening with children; play and language and making the most of technology. The sessions include 'talk time' where we discuss the topic and share experiences, ideas and ways of supporting your child's learning at home. There is play activity time, shared snack and our family raffle. Each week there is idea information sheets to take home and families are invited to have a go at something new at home. Using the PEEP class dojo we have our own communication group and opportunities for families to add experiences from home to their child's story page. The commitment of these families to attending every week and contributing to this research project is exemplary. Beyond the research we are planning to incorporate PEEP as part of our Early Years Education at Glemsford. We know that parents who engage with their children's learning at home make a huge difference to their lifelong learning so our commitment beyond the research is to continue to support family learning.

Thank you to all our PEEP families for making a difference.

Mrs Clutterham & Mrs Webb



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Notes from the Office

Please remember to notify the school office of any changes to your contact details.

Look out for text messages and emails from us regarding notifications or important information.



Dear All,

Thank you for your continual support in raising funds towards our Tablet project. We recently held our School Disco and a fun filled Quiz, both events were well attended.

We are now in a position to start looking in to purchasing a class set of tablets for the children to enjoy. These tablets will benefit the whole school and they will have full access to them.

We will be holding our next AGM on **Wednesday 25th April at 7:00pm** (at school).

Please come along to support our Parent Teacher Association as we are always looking for new members and new ideas.

Parking Safely

Can we please remind everyone to avoid parking on the zig-zag lines outside the school. This can be very dangerous as it restricts pedestrians' view when crossing the road.

Also please can you not block the entrance to Rectory Close as the residents are unable to access /leave their homes. This is a private road. Thank you



Please see our school website for up and coming events in the 'What's On' section. This will keep you well informed of events at Glemsford.

www.glemsfordprimaryacademy.co.uk