



# Newsletter

## December 2017

### Notes from the Headteacher

Wow! This term has absolutely flown by and I have absolutely loved being the head of such an incredible school. I feel like I have been here for years, which is definitely a good thing! It doesn't seem long ago that we had warm September sunshine but there is no hiding from the winter weather now and Christmas is not far away.

Christmas is a special time of the year - especially so at a Primary School. Glemsford Primary Academy is certainly no exception. We have had the brilliant KS1 and Reception Nativity, where our children showed great confidence on the stage. We have had our 'Christmas Cheer' that was extremely well attended and helped raise over £1450 for the school (a huge thank you to the FOGS and anyone else that helped on the day). I was delighted to be invited to go to the Pantomime in Bury with KS1. The children loved it and it was especially pleasing to hear members of the public comment on the excellent behaviour of our children and how they got into the spirit of the show! They certainly did and showed the rest of the audience some tremendous and spontaneous dance moves. On Thursday, we had our Christmas dinner. It was organised with military style precision by Mrs Martin and Miss Sorrell and a huge thank you to Gill and Sue in the kitchen and the MDSAs for all their efforts. The final Christmas event at Glemsford was the church service on Wednesday.

As most of you are probably aware, mainly due to the fact they saw me pacing around and looking a bit flustered, we had an OFSTED inspection two weeks ago. Although we were expecting this and were well prepared, it was a stressful time for staff. I am pleased to tell you my staff were superb and so were the children. It was lovely to hear from the inspectors about the positive feedback they received about the school in the playground. In the New Year, I will be able to share the outcome of the inspection and you will be able to read the report.

I am pleased to say that all of our teachers and teaching staff will be the same next term. One member of our staff who is leaving is Paul Myers. Paul has been our part-time caretaker and I would like to thank him for all his work in helping maintain a very unique building. He has promised that he won't be a stranger and will be a regular visitor to the school, helping out by listening to our children read.

On a slightly less Christmasy note, please can I remind you that if you have any safeguarding concerns it is really important you speak directly with Mrs Martin (Safeguard Lead) or Miss Sorrell or myself (Alternate Safeguard Leads) rather than discussing these sensitive matters in the playground. Similarly, any concerns regarding behaviour and teaching: if you do not feel you can talk to the class teacher please speak to Mr Scott or myself.

Finally, I would just like to thank everyone for all the support you show to the school. To see so many parents helping the school in whatever way they can and just being so friendly makes a big difference. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. The first day of term for children is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Kind regards

Ben Jeffery, Headteacher



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## **Field Mice and Dormice**

This term we have welcomed lots of new children to both classes and all of the little mice have been very busy exploring and learning.

We have marked lots of different events and occasions this term. In October we celebrated Grandparents Day by inviting our Grandparents in to play and to enjoy homemade scones! After half term we carved pumpkins for Halloween and had joint activities related to fireworks, some of which involved getting very messy! We also 'showed our spots' for Children in Need, wearing spotty clothes and the Dormice also made spotty cookies. More recently we have been focusing on Christmas, including a fantastic Christmas dinner and our performance 'We're going on a baby hunt' – we were incredibly proud of all the children.

We have also been exploring the seasons and weather, including splashing in puddles and breaking ice. The children were also very excited to see it snowing. Both classes explored Autumn vegetables, finishing with some delicious soup to eat – yummy!

Best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy new year from everyone in Dormice and Field Mice – we look forward to welcoming more little mice to our classes in 2018!



## EYFS



## Mrs Clutterham

### Robins

The children have embraced the new routines and made lots of new friendships across the school. Each Robin has a Year 5 buddy who has nurtured them along the way 'looking out for them' and showing them how things work at Glemsford. Learning in the classroom has happened from day one and has not stopped! The Robins are enjoying their learning journey of becoming future authors, mathematicians, architects, actor/actresses, chefs, teachers, doctors, athletes – the world is their oyster! Our aim is to support them in being successful independent learners in whatever path they choose to follow.

The class made their debut on the Glemsford stage at the Christmas performance with their 'Rockin Robins' dance. Robins you rocked the show!!! A great first term Robins well done in showing your 'can do' attitude towards your learning. Mrs Clutterham is super proud of you.



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## Squirrels

The Squirrels have had a fantastic half of term learning the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They learnt the story through actions and pictures and were able to recall the story from memory. They also learnt about adjectives, verbs and adverbs and how these can be used to expand their own stories, specifically focusing in on different characters in the story.

For maths this term we have had a focus on numbers within 20 and adding and subtracting within 20. The children have learnt a variety of different methods that can be used to work out different equation including the inverse operation. In our maths meetings this term we have been looking at time; specifically at o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to – the children's confidence when telling the time is really developing.

In topic this term we looked at 'Around the world in 50 days'. For this we looked at the seven different continents and compared two very different countries. We also looked at how different countries celebrate Christmas, and how Merry Christmas is said in different languages. Lastly the highlight of this term, not just for me but for the children, was going to see 'Dick Whittington' at The Theatre Royal in Bury St. Edmunds. What a fantastic show! It was lovely seeing all the children dancing and really enjoying themselves as well as joining in with the actors. This trip would not have been possible if it wasn't for the parent's cake baking skills and also their kind donations towards the trip. It really was an experience to remember and the children did the school proud with their outstanding behaviour.

*Miss Stephens*

*Mrs Myers*



## Otters

In Otters this half term we have been around the world with Barnaby Bear. We have visited lots of countries and learnt about what they are like. We have also learnt about their food and their capital cities.

We have enjoyed writing recounts about our trip to Tesco, where we made bread, doughnuts and decorated gingerbread men. We have also taken a trip to the theatre royal to see Dick Whittington. It was fantastic fun and we all got wet!

We have all worked really hard this half term, learning new techniques in maths and improving our writing in English.

The festive season has been marked with a fantastic Christmas Nativity by Robins, Squirrels and Otters. We really embraced the challenge that this provided and thoroughly enjoyed performing it with everyone.

Thank you for your support this term.



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## Kingfishers

We have had so much fun this term. We started off exploring the local area of Glemsford, initially using OS maps and aerial photographs, man-made and physical features. Having a go at reading 4 and 6 digit grid references (with some degree of accuracy) and planning a route for the fieldtrip of the local village. Then, when evaluating the environment, the children decided there needed to be more for the local children to do - rather than just the playground... this was the start of **Glemsford Hidden Rocks**. We then continued to explore the history of Glemsford, comparing what the village looked like 100 or more years ago to now. We looked at some of the key buildings and roads; from the church, Monk's Hall, Tye Green, Broadway and The Three Turns Inn to name a few. To complete our topic the children have written a non-chronological report on "**Glemsford Hidden Rocks**", which will be published and sent to the parents of the school

In science we have found out all about electricity, with making circuits, investigating how to make different circuits with different components and what materials made good insulators and conductors. Continuing on from this topic this half term we have started Santa's Workshop. Kick starting this the children had to sit an '**Elf'n Safety**' test and create their own Elf name. In the workshop the children have designed and created their own toy with an electrical circuit. Some of the designs were amazing and quite complex... We definitely have some budding designers.



*Mrs Dobedoe*

*Mrs New*

## Badgers

We have some Badgers who are going to change the world one day, but for now we have been trying to change Glemsford. We explored a range of issues that concerned the children from rubbish and untidy dog owners, to providing habitats for local wildlife. We have written to the council to ask for their help in improving the village.

We have had a shocking amount of fun with our science unit on electricity. The children did themselves proud by putting together all the information they had learned and presenting it to the rest of the school in assembly. This unit has culminated in a DT project based in Santa's Workshop. Having passed their 'Elf 'n' Safety' certificate, the children have been designing and making toys incorporating electric circuits for Santa to deliver this Christmas!



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## **Foxes**

Another new year marked my first new group of children since I started at Glemsford and I must say they've passed the test and I'll be keeping them to July.

This term we've covered quite a lot, all the way from 900BC with the Vikings to exploring space in the modern day. The children have impressed with their knowledge of Place Value and their reading of Roman numerals. We've explored area and perimeter and have had some brilliant demonstrations of how to calculate them both.

In English we've created instructions, adventure and warning texts. We ended the term with the children writing about things as diverse as chimps in space to fighting on the frontlines of World War One.

The class impressed Mr Jeffery and I with their gymnastic sequences and it has been great seeing how their balances and moves have developed; from not knowing what a round-off is to being able to explain and demonstrate how to do one in the space of 5 weeks was particularly impressive.

The class well and truly deserve a rest over the holidays and if they haven't seen it yet, go and watch Wonder – just remember your hankies.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

Mr Fox

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*Mr Watson*

*Mr Scott*

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## **Red Deer**

The end of the year is upon us and with it an end of the first term in year 6. The children have done immensely well in all areas of life in the top year. Attitudes to learning have improved dramatically, as has self-belief and confidence! The key ingredients to success at anything.

Maths and English have been of specific focus and key skills in reading such as inference and authorial intent have been explored and are developing very well indeed. The writing has been of an excellent standard and I was amazed at how enthusiastic the children were about writing their own horror stories!

Maths has been focused on the 'four operations' or, as I see them: the foundations of maths. Fractions have featured heavily too as has decimals and percentages. The Autumn has been all about arithmetic and fine-tuning / developing existing knowledge.

What is nice about Glemsford year 6 is that we maintain a balanced curriculum and know how important it is for the children to experience life outside maths, reading and even the classroom. The children have loved the P.E., Forest Schools, science, R.E. and PSHE.

A very successful term. Well done to my team of Deer. Enjoy the break - keep reading - and I look forward to seeing you back, rested, in January.



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## Forest Schools in the Autumn

This term during Forest School we have been out in all weather's, battling through the rain, snow and wind! Some children have been learning how to create shelters whilst practising their elephant and figure of eight knots. Others have been creating bug hotels, focusing on making small spaces for their little visitors whilst Year 3 got to grips with maps and compass directions.

During the last few weeks we have also been getting into the festive spirit and creating Christmas decorations using natural materials to make our woods as ready for the holidays as we are!



## Sport at Glemsford

We kicked our sports calendar off with a football team at OSA, we took 2 teams and both teams performed really well. We then took part in a tag rugby morning where children got to take part in a non-competitive but fun morning. However, there was a match at the end against Acton which we won but in a totally non-competitive way! We then finished the autumn sports fixtures off with an athletics competition which was great fun and for a small school we truly have some talented athletes. We finished the morning in 4<sup>th</sup> spot and celebrated with a Mo Farrah-esq dab.



## Football Team

What a difference a year makes. The team have really started to gel this year and the players are showing fantastic development from last September. We've faced some tough fixtures but have finished the first half of the season in 7<sup>th</sup> place which is testament to the hard work the children are putting in each week.

### PRESTIGE SPORTS PRIMARY LEAGUE

#### TABLE:

1. Kedington Played 5 Points: 15
2. Burton End Played 6 Points: 13
3. St Felix Played 6 Points: 12
4. Clare Played 5 Points: 12
5. Westfield Played 6 Points: 12
6. New Cangle Played 5 Points: 10
7. Glemsford Played 5 Points: 10
8. Clements Played 1 Points: 3
9. St Andrews Played 6 Points: 3
10. Cavendish Played 5 Points: 3
11. Thurlow Played 5 Points: 1
12. Ashdon Played 5 Points: 0



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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,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their lovely donations to the class raffle hampers, they all looked fantastic. Also thank you for the tombola donations, as usual the tombola stall was very popular at the Christmas Cheer.

The Christmas Cheer was a fantastic day, so thank you all so much for coming and supporting the event and again thank you to anyone who helped run or set up the Cheer. We had an amazing turn out, everyone seemed to really enjoy the day and it certainly got me in the festive spirit.

We raised an amazing amount of money on the day, just under £1,500.00 and we still have the tea towel sales to add onto that. There are still have a few tea towels left for sale, so if you haven't got yours yet please buy them from the school office.

Thanks again for all your support and your kind donations for the Christmas cheer and throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you at future events and hopefully at the next FOGS meeting. We desperately need new committee members, so if you are interested in helping with future fund raising events please come along to our meetings. If you are not a member of our Facebook page FOGS (friends of Glemsford School), please like our page for updates on meetings and events.

I wish you all a lovely Christmas.

Best regards,

Abby Hammond  
Chairperson of FOGS

### 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](http://www.glemsfordprimaryacademy.co.uk)