



Newsletter

December 2018

Notes from the Headteacher

It has been another hectic term at Glemsford Primary Academy but I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. I have been really impressed with the effort the children have been putting into to their lessons in what has been a long eight-week term. We have been encouraging children to become more independent and show resilience when they find a something challenging. Like the penguin we saw in assembly climbing up the steep ice, (don't worry we didn't show any of the sad bits) the children are showing great character and really pushing themselves. They have earned themselves a well-deserved break.

Glemsford is far, far more than lesson times however. The term started with a visit from world BMX champion who successfully jumped over five members of staff. We have had brilliant assemblies; trips to Cambridge and Colchester; fantastic sporting success – most noticeably coming third in athletics and basketball and a wonderful nativity play by the Robins, Squirrels and Otters. Mrs Martin left us (temporarily) in October to have baby Matilda - both mum and baby are doing really well.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Christmas Cheer. The event really epitomises what is so special about our school: the way that children, staff, parents and members of the local community came together was very special. All the staff are so grateful for everyone that gave up their time to make it such a success. We ended up making just over £1700!

I am pleased to let you know that staffing in the main part of the school remains the same but we have a couple of changes in Nursery and at lunchtime. Claire and Jasmine Lock are relocating to Essex and will be leaving us. I would like to thank them for their positive attitude and impact they have made particularly with our younger children. Due to an increase in numbers in Nursery as well as replacing Claire, we are also looking for two additional members of staff. Once everything has been finalised I will let you know who we have appointed.

On a less joyous note, parking outside the school continues to be a problem. Please can I encourage you to walk if you can and not to block Shepherds Lane. There have also been some complaints about people parking on the white lines on the road by the pub. This is creating dangerous situation and we have contacted the police about what we can do to stop this.

Hope you had a wonderful and very happy Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Jeffery

Headteacher



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Fieldmice 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.

During this term the Dormice have learned the stories 'the magic porridge pot' and 'Stick Man', doing activities linked to them including making and tasting porridge in our 'magic microwave'! The Fieldmice have been learning lots of rhymes, including '5 currant buns', including setting up and running their own shop.

Both classes have ventured down to the shared outdoor area; we are looking forward to using this more as it is developed further.

We have marked lots of different events and occasions this term. We celebrated Grandparents Day by inviting our Grandparents in to play and to enjoy some tasty treats, including fruity flapjack that the Dormice made. After half term Dormice explored Halloween and both classes had joint activities related to fireworks, some of which involved getting very messy! For the school poppy project each class made their own collaged poppy, with the Dormice using materials donated by their parents. Fieldmice also had a morning learning about Diwali, including tasting food made by Mr and Mrs Hillman.

We also got into the Christmas spirit, making various Christmas items and enjoying Christmas dinner. We ended the term with our Christmas performances.

Thank you to all the families for their support during the Autumn term – we hope everyone had a happy Christmas, and looking forward to more adventures with even more mice next term!



EYFS



Mrs Clutterham

Robins

This term the Robins have settled into school life and have been 'Super Sonic' learners. It has been an adventure learning about school routines and following the children's interests to build on their learning experiences. It is fantastic to have all our happy Robins in the class who are motivated and curious to learn.

We have been learning our letters and numbers in fun ways which are helping us learn the important skills for reading, writing and problem solving. We are learning to be independent learners so that we can try new things and build our resilience. The Robins are adopting social skills which help us learn how to work together and make positive choices in our learning.

Well done to the 'Rockin Robins' for their fantastic performance in the Christmas play. We were very proud of how confident you all were on stage. We hope all our families had a Happy Christmas and looking forward to our continued adventures together in the new year.



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Squirrels

The Squirrels have made a fantastic start to the year. With a massive jump from the Robins to Squirrels, they have adapted to the different routines and expectations. We have had a huge focus on improving the quality of both their phonics knowledge and their handwriting which has proven to be a massive success. The majority of children are now taking huge pride in their presentation. Becoming independent is a huge thing in the Squirrels class and sometimes it is hard to get to grips with; however, the Squirrels have been resilient with this and are being fantastic at asking for help and trying things first by themselves. When it comes to maths the children are racing through the different topics and have become superb at counting in 5's. This term we were extremely lucky to have Miss Curtis in to teach the Squirrels dance. They learnt a brilliant superhero's dance and were extremely good at superhero poses, noises and facial expressions. Lastly, the Christmas production 'The Inn-spectors': what a fantastic job all the children did and it was lovely to see all the children enjoying themselves. We were extremely lucky to end the term by going to see the production of 'Sleeping Beauty, we were all super excited! Thank you Squirrels for settling in so brilliantly. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year!



Miss Stephens

Mrs Myers

Otters

What a fantastic half term the Otters have had. We have learnt how to solve worded problems in maths; written our own journey stories and setting descriptions in English and learnt about the seasons in Science.

We have taken imaginary trips to Japan, Jamaica and Egypt, writing postcards home from each place and learnt how Christmas is celebrated in different countries.

The children put on a fabulous production of 'The Inn-spectors', speaking clearly and acting brilliantly.

Amazing work Otters.



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Kingfishers

This half term has been busy with so many different and exciting things, it is hard to know where to start. The half term was kick-started with an amazing school trip to Colchester Castle. We found out about the Celtic way of life and how the Romans had an impact on this; how life changed by exploring artefacts and using interactive resources at the Museum. We also got to go down in to the crypt to see where the Romans were likely murdered by Queen Boudicca. The chariot racing was great fun and Mrs Dobedoe definitely would not pass her Chariot driving licence!

We then moved on to our other topic of Light and Shadows. We have become Curious Scientists, investigating shadow puppetry and how shadows are created and how we can change their size and colour. After all this investigating we have then written instructions on how to put on a Shadow Puppet Show. These are a great read and will be on display in the KS2 corridor. Please if you get a chance, come and have a look.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

See you all in 2019.

Mrs Dobedoe

Mrs New

Badgers

Wow! I can't believe how quickly the term has gone by. Just goes to show that time flies when you're having fun as, when I look back, we have done a huge amount of exciting things.

Our Romans topic has been the highlight of the term: helping Emperor Claudius to learn about the Celts and to plan an invasion of Britain, discovering how the Romans changed Britain and the Revolting Boudicca! All topped off by a visit to Colchester where we could go down into the foundations of the original Roman temple that once stood on the site (before Boudicca burned it to the ground).

All of the children have worked fantastically hard at everything: mastering the four operations in maths; producing excellent pieces of writing; understanding our class texts: 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' and 'The Firework-Maker's daughter'; being curious scientists to help us make a puppet theatre... the list goes on!

Hope you had a very well-deserved Christmas break.

I wonder what the New Year has in store? Hmmm...



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Foxes

We've had a fantastic half-term in Foxes in which the children have really thrived with their maths and writing. As a class they have demonstrated a fantastic understanding of perimeter and area by creating nets for their very own bungalow designs – there are some future architects coming out of this class in the not too distant future!

In English they have created legends inspired by Beowulf that have featured a whole range of gruesome monsters and fearless heroes. They have also produced some fantastic explanation texts, some of which have some spectacularly unique functions.

Our topic has been the history of computing and the children have gained a valuable knowledge of the history of computing and a new respect for today's technology.

I look forward to seeing you all after the holidays.

Mr Watson

Mr Scott

Red Deer

What a long term!

Year 6 have really matured academically and socially across these fifteen weeks. We have been learning all the concepts for success in the arithmetic paper later this year and it has been a pleasure seeing our weekly average score rise from 24/40 to 32/40. A third of the class are now regularly achieving a score of 35+ on the Friday paper. The rest of the class are not far behind...

English has been a mixture of reading and writing. We are still learning how to really analyse a text and squeeze all the meaning from the words in front of us. Our ability to tackle the harder questions has improved significantly but there is still room for further improvement.

Writing has been a mixture of fiction and non-fiction. We have created excellent 'alternative Goldilocks' stories and also produced good Lego biographies and personal autobiographies. We are still working on all the aspects needed for the 'expected standard' in writing and will continue to do so into next term.

Our trip was to the computing museum in Cambridge. It was superb and I got to 'school' a few children on how to play Streetfighter and Lemmings which may count as a career highlight at some point in the future!

Thank you for your continuing support and well done year 6 on an excellent first term.



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Remembrance

In November the whole school took part in an Art week with a focus on Poppies supporting Remembrance. We had a Red, White & Blue dress up day and raised £132.00 for various veteran charities. The poppy art was displayed at St Mary's Church for the Remembrance service.



Children in Need

We supported Children in Need by getting all spotty raising £133.50.



Tree Festival

Fieldmice, Dormice and Robins made decorations for the tree which were displayed in St Mary's church for the village Christmas Tree Festival.



New arrival

We welcomed Matilda, Mrs Martin's new baby daughter to the Glemsford family.



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.

Remember to keep a check on your child's balance via Parentmail as we are now a cashless school.

Senior Citizens Luncheon

Eleven children from years 2-6 helped serve at the Seniors lunch hosted by Glemsford Angels in the village and had a visit from Father Christmas to say thank you.

Visit to the Briars

The choir went to visit the residents at the Briars and sang a selection of Christmas carols, which the residents thoroughly enjoyed.



Dear All,

We 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.

We raised an amazing amount of money on the day, £1709.43 and we still have the tote bag sales to add onto that. There are still a few tote bags 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.

F.O.G.S



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 on our School Information page 'School Calendar'.
This will keep you well informed of events at Glemsford.