



# Newsletter

## July 2019

### Notes from the Headteacher

Dear Children / Parents and Carers,

It has been another fantastic year for Glemsford. Not only do we have happy children who enjoy coming here, they also leave with fantastic results. For the third year running, children are leaving year six with results that are well above the national average. In fact, it was our best year ever. Added to this, children are polite and confident. I am extremely proud of them all.

The year has had many highlights including the fantastic productions, the trips that the children have gone on (no matter what the weather!), sports day, sports fixtures and many more small events that make the year so special.

On a different note, Mrs Corke and Mr Watson are leaving us this summer. I would like to thank them both for everything they have contributed to the school. Mrs Corke has done a brilliant job stepping into Mrs Martin's big shoes and has helped so many parents and children. I am sure we will see Mrs Corke back from time to time next year. Mr Watson will be fondly remembered by many KS2 children and has really helped improve the PE and sports provision at GPA. I wish them both all the best in the next ventures.

Next year promises to be even better. I am very excited about our new curriculum. Children will be doing a lot of science when we come back and class teachers should be in touch letting you know the name of their Science study. Any parents, grandparents or friends in the village with a scientific background would be extremely welcome to come into school and share their knowledge.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has supported the school this year. A brilliant example of your support was how we raised over £2000 at the Summer Fete. FoGs helped organise this great event and the turnout from staff, parents and children made for an extremely pleasant and successful day.

The first day of term is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September and there will be a chance to meet your child's new class teacher on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm. I wish you all a great Summer holiday and will see you in September.

Ben Jeffery

Headteacher

Glemsford Primary Academy



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*Mrs Arch*

*Miss Reeve*

## **Fieldmice and Dormice**

This term both classes had a lovely trip to Brightlingsea, even though it was a particularly wet and cold day! We had our nursery sports day, where the children did a fantastic job of doing their four races. We also held a cake sale, which raised £72 for the nursery. We also held a special 'stay and play' session to celebrate Father's Day.

The Fieldmice have been focusing on the letters a to g, learning the letter sounds and actions. The children have also enjoyed watching Geraldine Giraffe learning about the letters. We have also learned about the numbers 1 to 10, and the colours blue, green, red, yellow, orange and grey.

The Dormice have been exploring nature a lot this term – we watched our tadpoles turn into frogs, which we then released in the forest area. We also watched some caterpillars turn into butterflies, which we also released in the forest. This half term the Dormice have been learning the story 'Naughty Bus' – we were very pleased that our buses on the trip were well behaved!

We would like to thank all the families for their help and support over the year, and wish everyone a great summer break.

## **Robins**

It has been a wonderful experience getting to know all of you over the course of the year for Mrs Webb, and the term for me. Thank you for being such a delight to teach. My personal highlights must be the amazing display work you completed for the outside of Mr Jeffery's office. I hope, if I am back at Glemsford, it will still be there impressing people as they walk around the school. My other highlight is your class assembly. You were so confident (and loud!) there was no doubt everyone in the hall heard everything you had to say.

I wish you every success in the future and I am sure you'll be very successful as a squirrel next year.

Mrs Kennard.



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# 50 things to do activity list

**Where to start**

Here are all 50 activities - phew, it's a big list! But the best bit is you can start from the beginning, end or even half way through. Ready to go?

<b>Adventurer</b>	<b>Discoverer</b>	<b>Ranger</b>	<b>Tracker</b>
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1 Climb a tree

2 Roll down a really big hill

3 Camp out in the wild

4 Build a den

5 Skim a stone

6 Run around in the rain

7 Fly a kite

8 Catch a fish with a net

9 Eat an apple straight from a tree

10 Play conkers

11 Go on a really long bike ride

12 Make a trail with sticks

13 Make a mud pie

14 Dam a stream

15 Play in the snow

16 Make a daisy chain

17 Set up a snail race

18 Create some wild art

19 Play pooh sticks

20 Jump over waves

21 Pick blackberries growing in the wild

22 Explore inside a tree

23 Visit a farm

24 Go on a walk barefoot

25 Make a grass trumpet

26 Hunt for fossils and bones

27 Go stargazing

28 Climb a huge hill

29 Explore a cave

30 Hold a scary beast

31 Hunt for bugs

32 Find some frog spawn

33 Catch a falling leaf

34 Track wild animals

35 Discover what's in a pond

36 Make a home for a wild animal

37 Check out the crazy creatures in a rock pool

38 Bring up a butterfly

39 Catch a crab

40 Go on a nature walk at night

41 Plant it, grow it, eat it

42 Go swimming in the sea

43 Build a raft

44 Go bird watching

45 Find your way with a map and compass

46 Try rock climbing

47 Cook on a campfire

48 Learn to ride a horse

49 Find a geocache

50 Canoe down a river



## Squirrels

What a fantastic year the Squirrels have had, finished off by an excellent term. Throughout this term, we have really noticed how much all the children have grown up, as well as how much progression they have all made. Their mathematical knowledge has developed significantly, and this was particularly evident when working out addition and subtraction using larger numbers where they were all able to draw the number pictorially and regroup to find the answer. In English, the development of their sentence structures has come on tremendously, with them being able to use a variety of conjunctions to connect the different sentences trying not to repeat the same one over and over. We were extremely impressed with this particularly in their recount based on our trip to Walton-on-the-Naze, which all the children completed independently.

Walton-on-the-Naze, what a brilliant trip! The children's behaviour was exceptional and the knowledge shown when talking about physical and human features was fantastic. It was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves on the beach and even more so when eating their ice-creams, unfortunately most of the children ended up with it all around their mouths.

This term, we also studied and celebrated the Jamaican culture. Whilst celebrating this, we were extremely lucky to try some traditional Caribbean food which went down a treat with the majority of the class. The children also danced to reggae music and learnt about the country itself. We have also carried out a lot of cooking which was mainly for our summer fete. The children made truffles, peppermint creams and chocolate fridge cake. They all tasted delicious.

We have thoroughly enjoyed this year with this Squirrels class and there have been some excellent memories made for both the adults and the children. They all have such fantastic personalities, and we hope that these personalities continue to grow as the children move up through the school!

*Miss Stephens*

*Mrs Myers*

## Otters

Wow, what a year!

It has been fantastic to teach the Otters this year. We have learnt a lot and had fun doing it! This half term we have learnt how to use column addition and subtraction methods in Maths, written poems in English, as well as walked around our village following a map. In Science, we have looked at the parts of a plant and what they need to grow. We have written pages for a brochure about our wonderful village, talking about the shops and places that you could visit.

Well done to all the Otters on an amazing year.



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## Kingfishers

It has been an amazing year in Kingfishers. We have spied on the Celts, debated the future of the Elgin Marbles and put on an outstanding performance of Hercules and Phoebe. This term we have found out about how to grow plants in outer space to going underground exploring the rocks and soils and investigating how fossils are created.

The children's writing this term has blown me away. They have worked incredibly hard with their handwriting and presentation. They are using everything they have learnt over the year and applying it to their Dragon stories. The children have enjoyed the class text of 'How to Train your Dragon' using this to inspire their dragon eye sculptures and art work.

In maths, we have been focused on shape, space and measure. We started this half term with maths week, finding out about the properties of shape. The children have been working incredibly hard in reading clocks to the nearest minute and working out the 24 hour clock.

I will miss all of the children in this class. It has been an absolute pleasure to have been their teacher and I wish them all the best in Year 4.

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*Mrs Dobedoe*

*Mrs New*

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## Badgers

I can't believe we are at the end of another academic year! The children have worked superbly hard this term. We thoroughly enjoyed reading Kensuke's Kingdom and then Varjak Paw and have used lots of suspense writing tools to produce some excellent stories. Lots of problem solving has been done in maths, looking at shapes and their properties, co-ordinates and translations. We have practised answering worded problems using measures and money.

We helped Xarg and his siblings from the planet Xog by explaining to them what plants need in order to germinate, grow and reproduce, then we designed a stir-fry recipe for Xarg to use in his Earth Food Cafe. We've learned all about rocks and soils and been blown away by the millions of years that it takes for rocks to go through the cycle of being made and broken down again. The children were fascinated by fossils and were able to predict which of the three types of rocks that they would be found in.

The Badgers have been amazing this year. (But I bet they'll be even better as Foxes.)



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# Mr Watson

## Foxes

"Sometimes the hardest part isn't letting go but rather learning to start over." – Nicole Sobon

It's that time of year where school finishes and we wish everybody farewell for the summer holidays and wish them well for September.

I thought I would reflect on some good memories from this year – my apologies if you heard them in the end of year assembly.

Firstly, our trip to History of Computing Museum was amazing and I highly recommend it to anybody who has not yet visited. It was fantastic to watch children completely engaged with coding and deciphering Morse code and having to the opportunity to beat them at Street Fighter made it an even more memorable trip.

Secondly, bringing Hector the Pets at Therapy dog into school was a real eye-opening experience. As a person who has grown up around animals, I am guilty of taking for granted the interactions that I have had with animals through my life. To see the children's faces light up when they were stoking and talking to the dog was heart-warming and some of their portraits of Hector were incredible. Just spending an hour with Hector seemed to brighten up the rest of their week.

Lastly, this class have been absolute stars this year with their maths. We have had to take weekly arithmetic tests for the Trust and at the start it was a real bone of contention for the children, but flash-forward to July and their progress has been outstanding. All the class have improved a great deal over the year and their depth of understanding has really improved. I am sure they will sail through their SATS papers next July - especially the arithmetic paper.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the year whether it is encouraging your child to read, taking them to various events at TGS or just by carrying over the positivity from the classroom to the home. You have been a great set of parents to work with and the class have been marvellous to teach and certainly one of the most inquisitive classes that I have taught. Making my decision to leave the school was anything but easy but it is for all the right reasons. I know for some, including me, the last day will be bittersweet please remember to keep pushing those boundaries and stay true to you.

I will leave you with the immortal words of the Spice Girls,

"When you're feelin' sad and low  
We will take you where you gotta go  
Smilin', dancin', everything is free  
All you need is positivity."

Admit it you sang those words.

Love, peace and empathy,

Mr Watson



# Mr Scott

## Red Deer

It is the end. The end of a fantastic year! Well done to all year 6 for being positive, hard-working and motivated young people. I will miss you all. Glemsford Primary will miss you.

My personal highlights:

Firstly, the trip to the computing museum in Cambridge. It was great to see the look on your faces when shown a mobile phone from the 90s, or when you played a game from the 80s! To beat you on Streetfighter made the day even more sweet for me. Hours spent as a child, mastering Ryu were not in vain!

Secondly, how amazing you were in sats week. You would never have known you were sitting exams with the attitude you demonstrated throughout that week. You were an absolute delight and I am so proud of all of you.

Thirdly, the amazing play. You wowed an audience each and every time you performed that play. You exuded confidence and enjoyment. You were all stars.

Finally, annoying Miss Sorrell. Need I say more?!

Goodbye and good luck!

## Friends of Glemsford School (FOGS)

What an amazing year we have had!!

Fund raising is so important, it allows us to give the children and school lots of special treats.

### Events for 2018-2019

#### Monies raised:

Christmas Cheer raised £1709.43  
Bags to School raised £120.00  
Easter Egg Hunt raised £60.67  
Summer Fete raised £2167.20  
Family BBQ raised £510.53  
School discos raised £472.90  
Money donated from Black Lion recycling and much more

#### Items purchased:

Christmas presents for all the children  
Tote bags  
Face paints  
Tree Festival entry  
30 Ipads and cases  
Gazebos  
Discos - sweets and drinks  
Easter Eggs  
Costumes for KS1 production  
Metal sheds for wellies  
Wellie rack for nursery  
Treat day for Year 6 (after SATS)  
Year 6 leavers books  
Outdoor play equipment  
and much more.....

We are always looking for more parents to get involved. If you would like to be part of an amazing team then please come along to our next meeting on Wednesday 18th September at 7pm (AGM).

Thank you for your continued support, without your support all the above would not have been possible.

FOGS Committee

## 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.

### Stay Safe Online

Keeping your children safe online is becoming more of a challenge as children become more tech-savvy and often know more than we do.

Below are some links to some ideas and fantastic websites that can help you to ensure your children stay safe online and to increase your confidence in the area:

Social network guide:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

This website, run by the NSPCC, allows you to find out about different apps that children use online. It also has useful information such as what they are used for and the minimum ages.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

This website has been created by CEOP - the National Crime Agency. There are links to online safety games for children to play and lots of information for parents too, including how to report any incidents.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

This NSPCC website shows you how to easily set up parental controls on your broadband, tablets, games consoles etc.

0800 800 5002

This free and friendly NSPCC/O2 helpline is set up to offer you advice on all areas of being safe online.

To have greater control over monitoring your child's phone/tablet, there are many apps available. These give you control over things, such as the amount of screen time and approved apps that they can access. Some that you may like to look at are: <https://screentimeiabs.com/>, <https://www.qustodio.com/en/> and <https://ourpact.com/>.

Finally, if you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to pop into school and speak to me. I may not know all the answers, but if I do not, I will endeavour to find out for you. Kind Regards, Mrs Martin



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.