



Newsletter

February 2017

Notes from the Headteacher

It has been a busy and buzzing few weeks. Who can believe we are in February already? Time flies when you're having fun, as the saying goes.

There is another saying we often hear, 'life is short', but I don't agree. God willing, life is long, but childhood is short and we must not hurry our children through it. One of the things I like most about Glemsford is the fact that we all place great importance on happiness in childhood here. We work hard to make space for the children to grow at the right pace, learning things at the right time, and enjoying the ride. I always think the very best adulthood is built on a childhood free from the pressures of growing up and taking responsibility too soon. If you spend your childhood preparing for adulthood, in time you will be sorely disappointed to have missed it. Premature adultification is rife today, but here at Glemsford we try to enjoy every moment and celebrate how our children grow, develop and flourish as individual people.

One of the best ways of enjoying childhood is by embracing as many opportunities as you can to 'find your thing'. This is why we offer so many after-school and lunch-time clubs, so that children can try as many different hobbies as possible and find at least one that inspires them. Skills and interests developed at school can often ignite a life-long passion - and this is our job as teachers, to inspire a life-long love of learning in our pupils!

So I was especially pleased to see the exciting Clubs Exhibition which Mrs Martin and the staff organised recently. It was wonderful to see so many photographs and captions of the different activities we offer here - some of which are displayed on the last page of this action-packed newsletter!

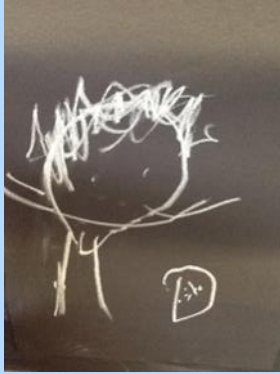
I hope the children enjoy a well-earned rest this week. Can I say a BIG thank you on their behalf to all the staff and volunteers who have worked so very hard since January to make Glemsford such a special place in which to enjoy a childhood.

Best wishes all,
Andrew Hammond

Headteacher



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Field Mice

We have welcomed five new children into the Field Mice class this term and are looking forward to welcoming many more over the coming months.

Our focus this half term has been caring for the environment and caring for others. We have been learning how to play together, share and take turns. We have extended our sensory area with plants and flowers watching them grow. We have been talking about what they need - I wonder if they need water? I wonder if they need light? So the children have been helping water them everyday.

We have been exploring colours and textures, especially paints and how we can use different tools to mark-make. We have discovered our handprints on glass work very well!

Mrs Arch

Mrs Clutterham

Dormice

This term our nest has grown and we welcomed 10 new children to Dormice class. The children have supported the new children's settling showing their ability to think and care for others. We have enjoyed National Storytelling Week where we had a story session with our parents. Year 4 came and read us their Pied Piper story and Miss Reeve from Reception came to read to us. We explored the 'Stick Man' story further by collecting sticks on our walk and making our own stick man. We then worked as a team to build our own class stick man on a large scale using the resources in the environment showing that you can be creative and recreate things from anything! The children have started their own herb garden in the classroom so there has been lots of sensory language and exploring.

We are encouraging the children in adopting the classroom pledges of listening ears, kind hands, walking feet, speaking voice and looking eyes, which shows their learning of respect for others and the environment. The children have been learning about and taking part in voting so we have used this as an opportunity to name our class fish 'Fishcake' and 'Twinkle'.

We had a fun session in the hall making boxes and then using them in different ways. The children loved hiding in them then surprising the school teachers where the nursery were hidden. Mr Scott and Mr Hammond joined in which gave the children extensions in their discussions plus lots of giggles too.

Every day and every moment is a learning opportunity in Dormice so our exploring journey continues!



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Miss Reeve

Robins

This half term has seen a variety of weather – the Robins have enjoyed learning in all conditions!

We have been preparing to do the RSPB's schools birdwatch, which we will be doing on Wednesday 8th February. To try to encourage as many birds as possible to visit our outdoor area we have been making tasty treats for the birds. We have a robin who likes to come and visit, so hopefully it will bring some friends along too!

Our focus story this half term has been Duck in the Truck and we have enjoyed innovating the story, including having the truck get stuck in slime instead of muck.

In PE we have been focussing on gymnastics, and we were very excited when we had a session using the large apparatus in the hall. The children thought of lots of different ways to travel on the different pieces.



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Squirrels

What an extremely busy term, having had such an exciting Christmas the squirrels came back raring to go again and have taken in so much in such little time.

Maths this term was mainly all about addition and subtraction within 20, which appeared tricky at points due to all the different methods, however no one let this hold them back, everyone has worked so hard to get to grips with all the different methods and hopefully all now have one that they feel confident in using. We have also been covering time in short bursts of learning which the children are now becoming more confident with. Next term we will look at how to write time.

Talk for Writing this term has been excellent with the children learning "The Three Little Pigs" using actions. The children have all produced some lovely pieces of work from sorry letters to wanted posters and the stories they have created are fabulous, well worth a read!

When it comes to topic we have been studying 'The Secret Diary of a Superhero' which the children have loved, where we have looked at the body and some of the technical names for the bones, healthy eating and the importance of exercise. With Mrs Stead the children were looking at cooking without an oven so they made chocolate fridge cake, and if you were lucky enough to have the final product shared with you, I think you would agree that they were a success.

I have been so impressed with the Squirrels this half-term, they have really knuckled down and worked so hard and it shows through the work they have produced. Thank you for all you do at home, it is massively appreciated.

Miss Stephens

Mrs Myers



Otters

In Otters this half-term we have been focusing on ourselves and our bodies. In Science we conducted a Curious Scientist experiment, investigating which drink helps us to do the most star jumps. We really enjoyed carrying this out!

In Maths we have been telling the time; we have learnt how to read an analogue clock and how to calculate the amount of time that has passed.

We have also enjoyed writing stories about a boy who goes off to the moon. We thought carefully about how to include adjectives and adverbs in our writing to make it more interesting. Mr Hammond came to listen to us read our stories aloud.



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Kingfishers

I would like to thank everyone for all your support this half term. I know it has been appreciated by Mrs Britton and myself and how settled the children have been shows it was appreciated by the children.

I have come back to read some beautiful poems, using some amazing vocabulary. The children have all been talking about the different rocks, fossils and various landmarks around Great Britain. The homework that is beginning to come in again has been of the highest quality and will be put up on display outside the classroom for us all to celebrate.

Number day was a huge success across the whole school, thank you all for supporting such a worthy cause. The time that was put in for some of the costumes was obvious. I do hope the children enjoyed the fun maths games and exploring of number fun.

We have been working hard on fractions since I have come back and identifying tenths and beginning to explore equivalent fractions and decimals. We will be continuing with Fractions after half term.

In Literacy we are learning the text of 'Adventure at Sandy Cove' and the role play that I asked of the children has been phenomenal. They have really embraced the story and characters and have really showed their understanding of them. When we come back after half term we will be looking at planning and writing our own adventure story.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and get plenty of rest, ready for more fun in the classroom, with our topic of 'May the Forces Be With You.'



Mrs Dobedoe

Mrs New

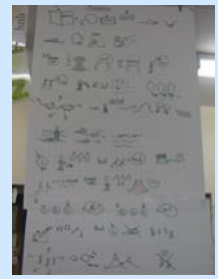
Badgers

We have been on a whirlwind tour of the UK this half term. We now know the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and their capital cities. We investigated the atlases to help us find out about the UK's rivers and seas and highest peaks. We enjoyed competing with the Kingfishers in a bridge building contest. We based our designs on bridges around the UK.

As scientists, we investigated what factors affected the hardness of rock. Our ideas included the size of the rock, how the rock was formed (igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic) and the density of the rock. We have created a display of our investigations in the corridor. Please do come and have a look. We had great fun making 'rock' cakes to investigate how the different types of rock were formed.

We really enjoyed telling the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin and we were able to perform it to other classes around the school. Some of us performed our own versions of the story.

We have been really lucky to have Miss Burchell with us this term. She brought with her some very exciting ideas and we will miss her. We wish her all the best as she goes on to complete her teacher training.



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Foxes

It's been a great start to the New Year and we've truly hit the ground running. We've packed a lot in to such a short half-term. Our topic has been mountains and we learned about how they are formed, where they are located and the difference between a mountain and a hill. We've pretended we were real mountaineers and inspired by Edmund Hillary have created recounts of climbing Everest. In science we have looked at the life cycle of humans and carried out an experiment exploring the difference between memory, speed and recall at the various stages of the life cycle. Thank you to all the family members who came in to help and also to the three little Mice who came in.

In maths we've been looking at the basic functions; adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying but using fractions. If you ever wanted to see 'learning from the pit' this was the time. My young Foxes have been resilient with their learning and positive with their attitude.

They've not only made it out of the pit, they've helped each other out of the pit. They truly have made me proud this half-term and this is down largely to their attitude and the fact they never give up. I truly look forward to next half-term and where our learning will go!



Mr Watson

Mr Scott

Red Deer

The term draws to a half-termly close on a big huzzah: mock SATs are underway! The children are enjoying the sumptuous breakfast provided before the tests and are in an excellent, buoyant mood when the papers arrive. I could not be more proud with the attitude year 6 are demonstrating this week. They are positive, mature and serious about tackling the tests to the best of their ability. These are only the mocks, so I cannot wait to see what they are capable of when the 'real things' roll around in May.

SATs aside, we have also been in excellent form across the whole term. Reading skills are developing well and their writing is maturing in content and language. Maths has been a relentless assault on geometry and all things shape, space and measure. Area of a triangle or parallelogram? Angles in an isosceles triangle? Missing angle sums? Year 6 have it covered.

Continuing on the maths theme, our number day was a big success and now the children know all about Pi! They created superb information posters and are well versed in 3.14259... A year before they are required to know it! Great stuff.

A great half-term and, as ever, an absolute pleasure to teach.



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G.O.A.L

This term, the children in KS2 have been busy exploring the woods and seeing the new buds which are beginning to show on the trees and bushes, meaning Spring is on its way!

As the trees have been empty of their leaves we have been able to notice the birds' nests that were perched high up in the trees. We therefore spent time creating our very own birds' nests and found out that it was actually quite a tricky job.

We have also spent time using our initiative and ingenuity to create traps, as well as to make sculptures from twigs and sticks.

One thing we've really noticed so far this year is how muddy it has been. Luckily we love the mud (especially Red Deer!)



Football Club

It's been great meeting so many different children this term and seeing just what tekkers they have in their locker. Again, we have seen lots of new faces and old faces, first timers and little pros in the making. If there's one thing I can say it is that every child who has come along has developed as a footballer in one way or another.



Cooking Club

This half-term in cooking club has been short but we've tried to pack in some great recipes. We had a go at making the ever popular homemade pizzas. I have to say it's the first time I've seen pesto used instead of tomato puree but the pizza looked delicious all the same. But that is what cooking club is all about, innovating and trying new things.



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Notes from the Office

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

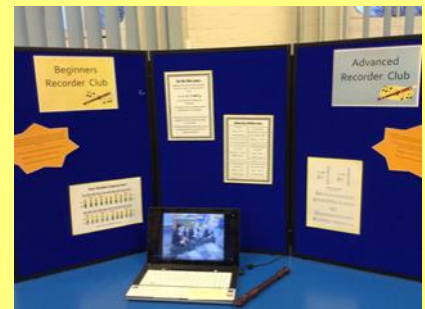
Look out for text messages and emails from us regarding notifications or important information.

Clubs Exhibition

Wednesday 8th February saw Glemsford's very first Clubs Exhibition take place.

All of the clubs which are currently offered at Glemsford, as well as a few past clubs, were showcased on boards throughout the school hall. Children were able to view the displays during the afternoon with their class teachers and parents were also invited to look around between 3pm and 4.30pm.

Many parents also took the time to complete a clubs questionnaire. If you didn't get a chance to do this and have a spare minute to do so, please pop into the office for a copy.



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