



Glenfield Primary School



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Autumn Term Newsletter 26th January 2018



Learn together, achieve together and be the best that we can be.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week in school, Solvers shared their class assembly with us. Their knowledge about the Rainforest was outstanding. Many thanks to all the parents who came to join us. I hope you enjoyed it as much as the children did.

Emergency Procedures

As you are aware, we regularly carry out evacuation drills at school. Children are used to these and understand the importance of practising how we evacuate the building safely and quickly in the event of a fire or other danger within the school.

We now need to carry out a drill for "Lock Down." This is not as alarming as it sounds. It will just mean that we practise procedures for if there is a danger **outside** the building (e.g. a gas leak, dangerous dog etc.) and we need to account for all children and ensure that they are safely inside the building. At no point will the children be alarmed and we will explain it to them beforehand. The whole procedure should take less than 5 minutes and there will be no distress for the children. Thank you for your support.

Attendance

Research shows that there is a link between academic performance, well-being and attendance at school. As a school, we are required to inform you if your child's attendance falls below target, even if you have given reasons for their absence. The Department for Education analyses attendance at school and any pupil with less than 90% attendance is considered to have "persistent absence" and the school must work with parents to improve this. When this happens, you will receive a letter from school, stating the concern. We know that children are ill from time to time and that this can be difficult to predict but please help us by continuing to keep us informed if your child is ill and making sure we always have your latest contact details in case we need to contact you. Thank you.

Grammar and writing Workshops

Following the success of our Maths workshops last term, we will be holding sessions in a similar format for English on the week beginning 5th February. Please look out for details, which will be sent to you soon via your child's class teacher.

Retirement

After more than 26 years at this school, Mrs Saunt, our administrative assistant, has decided to retire. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best and in thanking her for her dedicated service to the school.

Mosque Visit Year 6

This week, as part of our RE lessons, the year 6 pupils enjoyed a trip to the Leicester Mosque. They really enjoyed learning about all the features of Islam and seeing the different parts of the mosque. The children were engaged throughout and asked lots of considerate questions - the quality of which was commented upon by the host of our visit.

Route to Resilience

You will have heard about this programme which is running across the school. The aim is to help children to build character in ways which will help them, not just at school, but through life. Next week the theme will be "Tolerance". Please help us by talking about tolerance with your children and let us know if you see any examples of tolerance.

Books are brilliant for familiarising children with different ways of life and more than half of parents in Britain believe that reading a book is the best way to help a child develop empathy, according to a poll commissioned by Amnesty International. Some books have an overt message while others are more subtle, but discussing them with your child can lead to some illuminating conversations where you tackle the issue of tolerance; research also suggests that children exposed to more storybooks tend to be better at understanding the thoughts and emotions of other people.

Learn2Think recommends:

- [Journey to the Beginning of the World](#) by Virginia McLean and Irvin Chu (Rapsallion, £7.99): written in response to the old chestnut, 'How was the world made?' this book introduces the idea of religious tolerance and is suitable for KS1 and lower KS2 children.
- [They All Saw a Cat](#) by Brendan Wenzel (Chronicle, £8.99): this book is suitable for all ages, and raises questions of empathy, perception and identity.
- [The Sneetches](#) by Dr Seuss (HarperCollins, £5.99): Dr Seuss wrote this as a satire on intolerance and anti-semitism, and it was planned to be used by NATO to teach tolerance. Suitable for all ages.

We also recommend:



Parking

We have had a number of complaints from residents living on Glebe close, they have been unable to get on or off their driveways as cars have been blocking the entrance. Could you please take this into consideration when dropping or collecting your child from school. Thank you.

Headlice

We have had a few cases of Head lice reported recently. Please check your child's hair regularly. You will find lots of helpful information at www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/pages/introduction.aspx.

Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop got off to a great start on Tuesday, quite a few parents were impressed with the quality of the clothing and the price. We have lots of uniform for older children, if you require any please come along to our sale every Tuesday from 3.00pm in the foyer.

Getting it right

If you have any concerns, your child's class teacher is the first port of call. Please talk to them at the beginning of the day or after school if there are any issues. We really appreciate any feed back and communication with us is vital if we are to work together to provide the best possible opportunities for your children. We would much rather know about issues, rather than them being discussed at the school gates or through social media. Then we can deal with problems as they arise. We all want the same as you- the very best for the children - let's keep working together to achieve this. The school is moving forward and improving daily- please let us know the positives too.

Dates for your diary

30th January - Year 6 SATS Meeting for parents 9.00am/6.00pm

2nd February - Reflectors Assembly

5th February - Warning Zone Trip-Year 6/Solvers

6TH February - Communicators Assembly

9th February- Achievement Assembly

12th-16th February- Half Term

26th February - Height/Weight - Year 6 & EYFS

Kathy Martin

Head Teacher