



Glen Hills Primary School

Home of the Symphony Learning Trust

SLT Chief Executive Officer: Mr T Sutcliffe

Head Teacher: Mrs R Wesley

Deputy Head: Miss A Smith

Deputy Head: Mr B Storey



Dear Parents and Carers,

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome back to your first Newsletter of 2023! Although it seems a long time has passed since the holidays, we hope you all had a safe and happy break this year with friends and family.

NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK

Parents/carers can register at www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk to receive the latest updates and events information directly from the police for your local area.

CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY

School will be observing the additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May 2023 for the Coronation of King Charles III with many ideas to follow to recognise the Coronation in school.

SCIENCE WEEK HELP

Miss Smith is looking for any scientist parents/carers who would be able to come into school during science week and speak about their jobs to a class of children during our celebrations! You might be a dentist, technician, pharmacist, astronaut ☺...the list is endless! It would be wonderful to share the different types of opportunities available to our pupils to inspire their future ambitions and possible career choices. Please email the school office if you would be able to come into school during the week beginning 13th March 2023.

THANK YOU!

With your help, Mission:Foodbank packed 80 Christmas hampers which were delivered to families in our local communities in need of a little helping hand over Christmas. We couldn't pull this off without your amazing support and donations before the Christmas holiday. Thank you.



A big thanks also to Mrs Laysley for organising the collection.

PARENTS' EVENING

Parents' Evenings will be taking place this term on **Monday 13th February** and **Wednesday 15th February 2023** (Tuesday 7th February and Wednesday 15th February for 1CR). Bookings can now be made on SchoolPing. Please ensure that you make your booking before Wednesday 8th February.

PLACES AT GLEN HILLS

At the time of this Newsletter going out, we had places recently available in our EYFS, Year 3 and Year 4. These spaces don't last long so if you know someone interested in a place, please encourage them to speak to the School Office and contact school admissions.

PANTO

School had a wonderful morning of Pantomime fun on Friday 6th January when we invited a Pantomime company in to perform Snow White to the school. When children leave the hall exclaiming, 'that was the BEST thing EVER!' and 'that was SO much fun', you know they've had a brilliant time! Thanks to all involved in the running and organising of the event and to parents and carers for supporting.





END OF THE SCHOOL DAY PLEA

Please can ALL parents/carers support the school in ensuring that when they are waiting to collect children at the end of the day, they don't allow their children to run around and play games near the cars in the car park or use equipment that is from the PE store or that has been left out ready for a school club. It's important cars and equipment aren't touched or damaged and that children stay safe at all times.

PARKING

Please can we politely remind those collecting in a vehicle at the end of the day that the school car park and private car park across the road should not be used (unless specific arrangements have been made with Mrs Wesley or local residents). Parking around the local area, if not considerate, can cause real issues for residents and the local community. In particular, parking at the junction of Needham Avenue with Cork Lane. This has been the subject of a recent 'shunt' accident, numerous complaints, and Police involvement. With several small children and elderly neighbours living in Needham and Westdale Avenues, we need to ensure that there is easy and uninterrupted access for ambulances, community transport, refuse lorries and emergency vehicles.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be discussed at the upcoming February Parents' Evening so that parents and carers are aware of their child/ren's attendance level.

Did you know?

90% attendance may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss **19 days of the school year which is nearly 4 weeks!**

What Attendance % actually means in days...

97% and above – Equates to less than 6 days absence in a school year. Pupils with this attendance should achieve the best possible outcomes.

96% – Equates to 8 days absence in a school year. "Good attendance". Pupils with this attendance are more likely to achieve their targets.

92% – Equates to 15 days absence in a school year. Pupils with this attendance are missing 3 weeks of school per year; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best. The school may ask for medical proof to authorise further absences.

90% – Equates to 19 days absence over the school year. Pupils with this attendance are missing approximately a month (19 days) of school per year and may fall behind academically. With this level of attendance, the Department for Education consider children to be a 'Persistent Absentee'.

85% – Equates to 29 days absence in a school year. These pupils are missing approximately 6 weeks of school a year. It will be very difficult for them to keep up and achieve their best. Letters are sent to parents/carers where attendance needs monitoring. Parents and carers are welcome to discuss attendance issues with Mrs Wesley.

80% - 75% – Pupils with this attendance are missing a day for every week of school! It will be almost impossible for them to keep up with their work.

Children feeling unwell

Children can't help being sick and sometimes they have an illness that will require time off school and a visit to the doctors. However, taking regular one or two days off soon adds up! Sometimes our children have coughs and colds and may not feel their normal self but they are maybe well enough for school.

If a child has a minor illness (e.g. cold or a sore throat), school can administer medications (such as Calpol) if needed. We just need a Parent/Carer to complete a medication form from the School Office. School will always contact Parents/Carers if a child's condition worsens or if they become poorly during the school day.

Appointments

When possible, appointments should be booked before or after school hours. Please ensure that if children have appointments during the school day (e.g. dentist appointment), they are collected from school prior and returned after their appointment so that they do not miss a whole school day or this will be unauthorised absence. Evidence is also needed for all appointments.

For further information, please see the Attendance Policy on our school website, the policy is also being sent out with this newsletter.

HAPPY LUNCHTIMES

We are excited to announce we officially launched our Happy Lunchtimes this month. The children have been showing lots of excellent behaviour outside that is rewarded with a pom pom. The class with the most pom poms at the end of the week in Phase 1 and Phase 2 wins the Golden Lunchbox award! Children will also be awarded certificates in achievement assemblies on Mondays for any particular positive behaviour that has been noticed by our outside staff. Recently, as part of our Zones of Awesomeness we have had chalks, target games, a HUGE conga line, balancing games and ball games on offer - a new activity is available every day.

Our first ever weekly winning classes were 3AW from Phase 1 and 4IO from Phase 2! Congratulations to them for each winning the Golden Lunchbox Award and an extra treat as a well done!





DECARBONISATION PROJECT

As part of the government grant we were awarded last year, work is continuing onsite to move the heating to a decarbonised heat source. The aim of this project is to improve the energy efficiency of our school building and reduce the School's carbon footprint. Whilst most of the major works are now complete, we have been notified by National Grid that excavation works are planned to take place from 9th February to 22nd February on Featherby Drive, Cork Lane and Westview Avenue. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause, and are hoping that any disruption will be kept to a minimum.

READING AT GH

What a fantastic start to the year we have had!

Firstly a HUGE congratulations to all the children (and families) who took part in our Twelve Days of Reading Challenge. There have been amazing photos, pictures, posters, poems, reviews and a terrific number of Christmas films enjoyed!

We are immensely proud of all of the children's beautiful work and effort! All children who took part will be invited by Miss Walker to attend a post-Christmas party at school very soon!

Also, a fantastic well done and congratulations to our new Reading Ambassadors who will be making sure that reading continues to be fun throughout the year, helping to create a children's newsletter and promoting the joy of reading to all of our children (amongst other responsibilities!) We are very proud of them all.

Our Authors of the month to kick-start the New Year are: Trish Cooke (infants) and Benjamin Zephaniah (juniors) so check out their stories and poems to brighten up January! Some classes have already enjoyed watching the poets perform at school in their learning!

Happy reading!
Miss Walker

INVASION OF THE FLINGATRONS!

In March, we are very excited to be having a visit from the Educational Theatre production company. They will be presenting us with the 'Invasion of the Flingatrons'. This is an exciting interactive performance based workshop which aims to raise awareness of the key messages around Reducing, Recycling and Re-using our waste. The fantastic workshops will be a mixture of performances, group discussions and they will be interactive - enabling the children to get the full impact and to be able to spread the importance of recycling to the rest of the school and at home. This special day also ends our Science Week celebrations taking place in March! More fun information to follow.

YEAR 5 BOSWORTH TRIP

Year 5 visited Bosworth Heritage Park on Friday 20th January. What a fantastic day of becoming soldiers and understanding the day-to-day life of a Yorkist or Lancastrian. Year 5 learned what the impact of the Battle of Bosworth had on different people including young children. They found out the steps to building an army and how to become 'battle ready'. Well done Year 5 for being a credit to the school and showing great respect to the exhibition and park area.



Thanks for your continued support,

**Mrs Wesley
Head Teacher**

**Miss Smith
Deputy Head**

