



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 and Mr B Storey
Assistant Head: Mrs L Onions



Dear Parents and Carers,

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome back to your first Newsletter of 2024! Although it seems a long time has passed since the holidays, we hope you all had a safe and happy break with friends and family.

STAFFING

We also welcome Miss Sulley and Miss Riley to our staffing team who have joined Glen Hills at the start of this term from Loughborough College to complete their apprenticeships with us! We look forward to working with them.

SMILE SERENITY

We would like to thank Smile Serenity for helping to promote our wonderful school.

At Smile Serenity you can experience affordable routine dental care with cutting-edge technology. Enrol in our dental plan and children under 16 receive a complimentary dental check-up. Visit www.smileserenity.co.uk for further details or call us on 0116 4030109.

If you or your business are able to help our school, please contact the office.

FOODBANK CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Many thanks for your generous food and treat donations. We collected enough to make Christmas a little easier for many struggling families in the area.

With your help, the charity packed 80 hampers to deliver. Your contributions were all greatly appreciated. A big thanks also to Mrs Layshley for organising the collection.



PARENTS' EVENING

Parents' Evenings will be taking place this term on **Tuesday 13th February** and **Thursday 15th February 2024**. School has provided parents and carers with information about the timings of these and how to book them on SchoolPing.

PLACES AT GLEN HILLS

At the time of this Newsletter going out, we currently have spaces that have become available in our **EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4**. If you know someone interested in a place at Glen Hills, please encourage them to speak to the School Office and contact school admissions.

THANKS TO THE PSA

At this time of year, we wanted to take the opportunity to thank all our PSA members for their huge efforts in ensuring that the pupils of Glen Hills had a **fantastic** run up to the holidays from Secret Santa rooms to brilliantly famous discos – an enormous amount of hard work goes into the planning, preparation and running of these events which we wanted to recognise– so THANK YOU to all those involved!

PANTO

The school were delighted to invite **M and M Productions** back to perform Robin Hood for our children on the first Friday back to school. They did a super job of banishing the January blues! We have been fortunate enough to benefit from this treat for a number of years now and we appreciate your support as parents/carers in allowing us to host them. They are excellent value for money and provide such a fun experience for the children. It also linked smoothly to



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 @GlenHillsSchool





Education today for tomorrow...

Year 4's English unit on playscripts - hearing the actors state "audible gasp!" was a particular highlight!! Thanks to all involved in the running and organising of the event and to parents and carers for supporting.

YEAR 5 MOSQUE TRIP



Before Christmas, Year 5 had a brilliant trip to Leicester Central Mosque. The children were shown around the mosque and recognised many features they have learnt about in their RE lessons. Also, they used their knowledge of Islam when asking and answering questions, impressing the Imam! We had a great day and the children were respectful and used their 'Listening' Character Muscles brilliantly. We were very proud of them. Super work Year 5!

MINI MODEL CLUB

The children taking part in the Mini Model Club have already completed their first project! What a fantastic accomplishment. The children have persevered and it has been great watching their models grow as they have carefully followed their instructions. We can't wait to see what they achieve in the upcoming weeks. Look out for our tweets, Facebook and Instagram posts for updates!



ONLINE SAFETY

Social Media Influencers

The things social media influencers do and say online can be quite impactful. Around a third of children and young people think that, because the influencer is a 'celebrity', what they share is always good. But we know that isn't the case, sometimes it can be advice based on pseudo-science, selling something because they've been paid to.

Internet Matters have a great article where various specialists offer advice and guidance to parents/carers to help them and their children think critically about social media influencers.

You can find the article [HERE](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/how-can-i-help-my-child-think-critically-about-the-social-media-influencers-they-follow/).
(<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/how-can-i-help-my-child-think-critically-about-the-social-media-influencers-they-follow/>)

SEVERN TRENT – SUPER SEWERS!

On Friday 19th January, Phil from Severn Trent came in to talk to the children about clean water and how important it is for our daily lives. He then went on to discuss what we should and shouldn't put down our drains and toilets and how they can become easily blocked, causing larger problems. The children had great fun fishing items out of the 'sewer' and discussing whether or not they were okay to put down the toilet or not. The end message was that only 3 things should go down a toilet: (toilet) paper, pee and poo!



CHRISTMAS DINNER!

Christmas Dinner Day on 20th December was a huge success. This was our first Christmas since joining Relish and what fun was had by all the children! Thank you as always to the kitchen and lunchtime staff for all their hard work, we couldn't do it without them.



YEAR 4 SWIMMING THANK YOU

Thank you to Tina Williams for supporting our Year 4 swimming for much of this year – the extra pair of hands on a Monday morning was really useful and the children enjoyed having you join them each week. Thanks also to Miss Wade who came along for the final few weeks – you were a huge help to our children. Finally, a thanks to the staff who have successfully run the weekly visits to the pool and for keeping our children safe and well looked after each week! The final week of swimming is on Monday 12th February 2024.



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TEA TOWELS

Thank you to everybody who bought our Glen Hills tea towels before Christmas! We raised over £250 which is being spent on art resources for the children. We have a few tea towels left so, if you missed out before Christmas, pop along to the School Office where they are for sale at £5 each.

WE RAISED £398.50 ON PINK DAY!

Way back in October, it was our annual Wear it Pink Day, in aid of breast cancer awareness. Many children and staff participated with pink clothes and hair and we are pleased to say that Glen Hills Primary School raised £398.50 in aid of this fantastic cause. Well done everyone!

PARK PLANS AND OUR STUDENT COUNCIL

Recently, the Student Council met with parish councillor Mike Prideaux. The meeting involved looking at plans for the park in Glen Parva (which will start redevelopment in the next few weeks). Our Student Council were part of the initial discussions and selection process for new equipment.



TRUST MATHS QUIZ

This month, Mrs Onions hosted a Maths quiz for some of our pupils who competed against teams from other schools in our Trust. All the children involved did really well and had a super time using their maths knowledge to try and answer the maths quiz questions.

Congratulations to the team from Fairfield who took home the trophy and thanks to Mrs Onions for organising such a fun event!



BRILLIANT BASKETBALL NEWS!

Mr Ram and Mrs Walters took our team to the local basketball tournament this month. All the team did an incredible job and we are very proud of their hard work. Well done to them all, including those children not in the photo. They won the tournament and move on to the area finals in a few weeks! Good luck to the whole team.



4+ BOOMREADER WORKSHOP

Thank you all for attending the 4+ BoomReader Workshop that school ran. It was lovely to see so many enthusiastic parents/carers excited about how we are approaching reading at Glen Hills.

BoomReader is a new and exciting way Glen Hills are beginning to record and log reading miles at school and home! This has been trialled in Year 2 recently and introduced to our 4+ children also. School will be looking to roll this out to other year groups in the future.

Reading can be approached in a variety of ways such as:

- School Reading books
- Reading for Pleasure
- Ebooks
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Comics
- Recipes

And so much more!

For any more information about how to use BoomReader app or reading materials, please speak to a member of staff.

GH CHRISTMAS EVENTS!

We had a brilliant time during the run up to Christmas – with Christmas discos, PSA community nights, year group parties, Father Christmas visits, craft mornings, gifts for every child from our PSA, Junior Carol Services at Blaby Church and truly delightful performances from our EYFS and KS1 children. Thank you to everyone who supported all these





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wonderful events – it made the end of a LONG term magically festive for all!

MUSIC NEWS

Before Christmas, we were treated to two concerts.

Miss Massey's group and individual students entertained us by putting on a brilliant show of all that they have been learning. They were all fabulous and made us proud of their achievements.

The local Music Hub lead (Leicestershire Music) sent groups of musicians to schools to put on concerts/workshops. We asked for the orchestral group and we learned all about the different sections of an orchestra by exploring instrument families. We listened to a wide range of music from the classics, pop to musicals. There was lots of audience participation and a great time was had by all.

REMINDERS ABOUT ATTENDANCE!

We want all children at GH this year to aim for Good levels of attendance!

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 in order for them to be authorised. Please send this through to the School Office via email. For further information, please see the Attendance Policy on our school website.

Thank you for your continued support,

**Mrs Wesley
Head Teacher**

**Miss Smith
Deputy Head**

