



Education today for tomorrow...

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

Newsletter

June/July 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

TERM DATES REMINDER

THE LAST DAY OF TERM IS WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY, finishing at normal time. Children come back to school on Tuesday 29th August 2023 – these and all other term dates are available on the school website.

GOODBYES! ☹️

We are sad to say goodbye to Mr Robertson, who leaves us to move all the way across the world to Australia! Mr Robertson joined us when GH took Year 6 back and has been an important part of the Year 6 team ever since! We wish him the best of luck in this exciting move with his family. We are also sad to say goodbye to Mrs Gandwan from EYFS who moves on to a new school closer to home – and we wish her the best of luck in this new role also. Thank you to you both for your hard work and dedication to Glen Hills.

HELLOS and WELCOMES!

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Connolly who will be joining the Year 6 teaching team next year and Mrs Wilkins will be teaching alongside Mrs Nutbrown in the Four Plus. Mrs Bretherton and Mrs Bahia will also be joining the Year 1 team from the Autumn term. We are also pleased to announce that Mr Sarwar is joining us as a new HLTA at Glen Hills – and we welcome him to the team from August. Finally, Mrs Johnson is joining our Governing Body team. She comes to GH with a wealth of experience and we look forward to her joining us.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Onions on her new position at Glen Hills. From August this year, Mrs Onions will be the new Assistant Headteacher. We are sure all the school community will join with us to congratulate her on this new post as she leads Year 6.

BOTANICAL GARDENS TRIP

As part of our Science and Geography topics, Year 3 visited the Botanical Gardens this term. The children had a great time learning all about how and where food grows. They went on a world food hunt around the gardens to find ingredients, and then enjoyed the 'bake and taste world cake' activity. They created their own trees and explored different scents from around the world.



READING AT GH THIS YEAR

What another successful year it has been at GH!

- Lots of pupils completing their Reading Miles Challenges.
- Pupils taking part in competitions.
- Readers of the week being celebrated with certificates and trophies across the school.

We would like to say a big Thank You to our amazing Reading Ambassadors who have helped pupils with reading, have taken responsibility for looking after our Reading Area and have had many fun filled ideas to help our pupils engage with and develop the love for reading!

Thank you to all parent/volunteer readers in school this year – you have been a super support to our children.

We have also had an Author (Sofia Moti) visit some of our pupils in Year 5 (perhaps she might inspire some of our children to start writing their own books / ideas for books).

Finally a huge thank you to all the parents, siblings, grandparents and carers who have listened to, read to and encouraged their children with their reading this year at school.

Most importantly- Well done to all of our pupils for the enormous effort they have given this year to their reading! You are superstars.

We look forward to inspiring you once again all in the new academic year.

Glen Hills Primary School, Featherby Drive, Glen Parva, Leicester, LE2 9NY
Tel: 0116 2782535 Fax: 0116 2788208
Email: office@glen-hills.leics.sch.uk
www.glen-hills.leics.sch.uk

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VICTORIAN DAY

On the 7th July, we had a special Victorian Day in Year 1 to bring our learning alive! The 'Up and At 'Em' History team visited Year 1 with amazing artefacts and fun activities for the children to take part in. They enjoyed learning in Victorian classrooms and sharing Victorian toys to play with. The children and staff also dressed up as Victorians too so it really felt like they had gone back in time! A super day and learning experience had by all!

SCHOOL DINNERS

Please be aware there will be a slight dinner cost increase and dinners will cost £2.55 from 29th August 2023.

OPEN EVENING

It was great to see so many faces at the Open Evening this year when children said 'goodbye' to their current teacher, and 'hello' to their new year group staff. It was a busy night and thank you to all for coming along – it's lovely to have so many members of the community in and around school.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Operation Encompass is a unique Police and Education early intervention safeguarding partnership which ensures that a child's school is informed if there has been an incident of alleged Domestic Abuse where the child lives within the family home. They contact the school so the school can monitor the child and offer support where appropriate.

SCHOOL NURSE

If you need School Nurse support during the summer holidays, the South Leicester School Nursing Team (that covers Glen Hills) can be contacted on 0116 215 3239. You can also text a public health nurse (school nurse) for confidential advice and support: Leicester City 07520 615381
Leicestershire & Rutland 07520 615382

SOUTH WIGSTON BRIDGE ARTWORK

We were really proud of all of the children involved in this art project – their designs have been combined with other childrens' artwork to create



this wonderful decoration of the bridge in South Wigston. They were even interviewed by ITV news!

EYFS NEWS

On Wednesday 14th June, the 4+ went to visit Stonehurst Farm in Mountsorrel. They got to see, stroke, hold and feed many different animals. They enjoyed visiting the farm museum and also had a tractor ride on the trailer through the fields. They encountered some cheeky chickens, who were very interested in the food in their lunch boxes! The 4+ staff were kept busy keeping guard whilst the children ate their lunch! The rope swings in the barn were good fun too!

On Monday 19th June, the 4+ children also visited Glen Hills Library in our local area. They were read a story and also a poem using character toys. They were given

a bookmark, which they decorated. They enjoyed finding out about how a library works.

On both our recent visits, members of the public commented on how well behaved and polite the 4+ children were. Well done 4+ children, we are very proud of you representing our school.

SUPER STAR NEWS!

Andrew and Elijah joined Mr Bailey in town recently to take part in a Djembe performance! Mr Bailey teaches the children at Glen Hills every Thursday and they have joined his Djembe drumming troupe. This recent outdoor performance was part of the Highcross Music Takeover in Leicester! They were both excellent and we were really pleased to see them doing such a fantastic job. Well done both – excellent effort!



YEAR 6 LEAVERS PERFORMANCE AND DISCO

Year 6 have been working this half-term on their end of year assembly - a performance of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. This is a musical adventure about young twins, Jack and Liza Periwinkle, who yearn for adventure and so are delighted when they discover a real-life treasure map! However, the infamous Redbeard and his pirate crew steal the map and kidnap the twins' mother so the race is on to rescue her. They, along with their faithful cat Fiddlesticks, join a mad Admiral and his crazy crew on a voyage of adventure taking them from the Old London Docks to the Island of Lumbago.

The Year 6 children gave 2 performances of the show - to their families and then to the whole school on the last day of term. They have had a fantastic time rehearsing and gave amazing performances which were enjoyed by all. A superb end to their time at Glen Hills - Well done everyone! Good luck as you move on to High School. Glen Hills will miss you all!

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

We wanted to share some photos of the recent work we've had done to improve the junior playground. School were granted some funding from Blaby District Council to improve and extend the playground area, which was left looking tired and bare after losing the old pirate ship. What a difference it has made!



You may recall this space was previously unusable, but now the old shrubs and slope have gone, making way to an extended area with artificial grass for the children to play on and enjoy. The children absolutely love it!

Thank you to Blaby District Council for enabling this to happen.

YEAR 4 TRIP

Year 4 enjoyed their local area trip on Thursday 6th July 2023. The children went into Blaby to walk around

our local area. They explored our local environment, what the weather and climate are like locally at this time of year and what it has to offer.

This trip links really well with their Geography topic in which we studied the climate of the UK, local physical and human features and adaptation (how humans, animals and plants change to suit their climate and also links to our science topic on habitats!)

Year 4 also popped into Jennos for a drink and an end of year treat!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Student Council this year. We raised £270 from the sale of the raffle tickets for the Art prizes, which is amazing. The Student Council has had a meeting to discuss how to spend the money - we are hoping to buy something for outside for all students to benefit from.

PERFECT LLANDUDNO – BY THE CHILDREN

'Llandudno was an amazing trip for year 6. We all loved the beaches and the arcades were so amazing. As we got there on the coach, we got to go to the slate cavern where we got to go underground and see loads of cool stuff like where the guide's father had worked. It was really fun. As we left to get to the amazing hotel, we were greeted with yummy food. We got to our rooms (don't tell anyone but me and my friends had a really beautiful beach view). Then, we got to go to the beach and later we got a midnight snack - chocolate bars! The next day, we went on a tram up the Great Orme. On the way back we went to the Trentham monkey forest which was exciting!'

Eva-Mae 6GR

'Llandudno was an extremely fun and enjoyable experience for me and many of my peers. On the way to the hotel, we stopped off at a giant retired slate mine, where we went over 500ft deep. It was dingy and damp but it was a crazy experience. When we arrived at the hotel, we tucked into some delicious fish and chips with yoghurt or fruit for afters. After sorting out our rooms and unpacking our clothes, we made our way down to the beach. At the beach we played football; Frisbee and explored the rocks. The following day, we got changed and went downstairs for breakfast where we could have brioches, cereal and toast. When everyone was ready to leave, we took the coach to the national Welsh slate museum and learned about the history of it. We then took the coach back and walked up to the Great Orme Tramway and visited the copper mines, it was so tight, my claustrophobia kicked in! We took the tram down to the tram station and went back to the hotel. Lastly, in the evening we went to the longest pier in the UK and played in the arcade - we all won lots of tickets! We went back to the hotel and settled into bed. On the final day, we had the same choices for breakfast and boarded the coach. We stopped off at Trentham Monkey Forest for the last part of excitement. We watched the monkeys be fed and we watched them swing in the trees. Then, when we finished our tour, we boarded the coach and headed home back to Glen Hills.'

Shay 6GR

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Children had an assembly before the end of this term to learn about this year's Summer Reading Challenge held by The Reading Agency. Volunteers from Glen Hills local library introduced the children to 'Ready, Set, Read!'. Every year, this scheme encourages children to keep reading during the school summer holidays – and to enjoy anything they like to read! Children aged 4-11 are invited to set a reading goal, and collect rewards for their reading. It's FREE to take part, and last year 75% of children taking part across the UK improved their reading skills over the holidays.

Last year, we had many children participate and not only did they have fun with their reading but they received 50 House Points upon their arrival to their new class at the start of the academic year! What a fab start to the year that was and the same will be available for all children this year at Glen Hills Primary School.

This year, The Reading Agency is partnering with the Youth Sport Trust for a sports and games themed Challenge that encourages play and participation. With free packs from public libraries or on the children's website, children will be able to join six fictional characters and their marvellous mascots, making up a superstar team to navigate a fictional summer obstacle course. This particular challenge aims to help keep children's minds and bodies active over the summer break, empowering young people to forge new connections with others and unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading. We at Glen Hills want to encourage our children's enthusiasm to read even when they're not in school, so this is a perfect challenge for the summer holidays!

Keep your eyes out for further information and ask you children what they know about the challenge.

CAYTHORPE RESIDENTIAL

Year 5 children had a fantastic visit to Caythorpe Court, PGL. They had a busy three



days harnessing up, climbing, raft building and problem solving. We are so proud of their teamwork, bravery and resilience. Thank you to all staff who supported this trip from the organisation of such a busy three days, to joining the children at Caythorpe and even joining in the activities!

STRINGS CONCERT



On the 28th June, Mr Roper led all of the Year 3 children and other string players in their fantastic performance with their violins. The children were really enthusiastic throughout the performance and have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to play this year. Thank you to all of the supporters who came to watch

the performance, you all made your children feel really proud of their progress this year!

A FINAL SPORTING UPDATE

Plenty of games and competitions this month for our teams. First of all, we competed in the Area Athletics competition at Saffron Lane.

Saffron lane results

Year 3 -2nd

Year 4 -1st

Year 5 -2nd

Year 6 - 3rd

With some fine individual performances by:

Jacob Yr3 (2nd), Sophie Yr3 (2nd)

Harry Yr4 (2nd), Veronika Yr4 (2nd)

Hollie Yr5 (1st), Alex Yr5 (3rd), Layla (3rd)

Lissie Yr6 (1st), Grayson Yr6 (2nd), Georgia Yr6 (2nd)

These are our 14 medallists from Saffron Lane – well done to our children who then spent the day in Loughborough in the finals! They did a super job.



Next, the Year 6 football team competed in a local competition at Aylestone Park where 9 teams took part in a round robin competition. Our team was undefeated, only drawing one game. A fantastic achievement!

We also entered a Year 4 team into the same competition. There were 3 teams and we left the competition as overall worthy winners. The boys and girls in both competitions were fantastic.

Sports day was a lovely day and it was so great to see everyone enjoying themselves and competing with a smile on their faces. Thank you to all those parents and carers who also supported this event.

Huge congratulations to our children that represented Oadby and Wigston in the Leicestershire and Rutland school sports games. We had a Year 3/4 Quad Kids team and a sportsability team. The day was extremely fun and all of the children represented our school very well.

Finally, congratulations to both of our boys and girls football teams that have reached the final of their Oadby and Wigston Leagues.

ATTENDANCE

School recently sent out the latest Attendance Policy to parents and carers. 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.

ROCKINGHAM CASTLE

This term, the Year 2 children were lucky enough to go to Rockingham Castle. The children (and staff) were so excited to visit as they had been learning all about Castles in their History and Art lessons. In the morning, they split into classes and had an amazing tour inside and outside Rockingham with the children explaining their knowledge of what they have learnt so far. We then had lunch outside in the sunshine and played in the castle gardens! The children displayed Curiosity and Good Thinking Character Muscles. The children had a fantastic experience, which developed their understanding of castles and how people lived back

then. Thank you again to the parents who supported the trip and came along with our Year 2s.

GURDWARA VISIT

On the 6th July, Year 3 visited the Guru Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara. The children were fascinated by all of the interesting religious icons and paintings. They were also able to try some traditional Prasad in the main hall and were treated to some Sikh hospitality and Langar before leaving. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this visit.



THANKS TO OUR PSA

A huge thanks to the PSA who have continued to work tirelessly to support the children this year. They have organised some super events from discos to the fete – all to bring in funds to support resources and the children at our school. We really appreciate their time and hard work. Keep your eyes peeled for the first PSA meeting of next year – everyone is welcome! It would be great to get more families involved for next year!

A MESSAGE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Enjoy your summer holidays, keep smiling and as always, stay safe. You are all precious to us and we look forward to seeing you all next academic year. We wish our Year 6 children and those moving to other schools the very best of luck as they move on to their next school. Keep in touch! 😊

Thanks for your continued support,



Mrs Wesley
Head Teacher



Miss Smith
Deputy Head

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNORS

Time to take a breath and reflect on what has been another busy academic year. A year packed at Glen Hills with fantastic academic and sporting achievements, wonderful trips, assemblies, PSA events and enriching experiences for our pupils. As Governors we would like to share with you some of our highlights from a very busy 11 months. Our overall aim continues to be to ensure every child is receiving the best possible education and all pupils achieve the highest standard they are capable of. We have achieved this by:-

- carrying out our Monitoring Visits and analysing assessment data – are all our pupils being challenged? Are the ones needing extra support receiving this? This year we have monitored Science, Art, Handwriting, Greater Depth Writing and our SEND provision
- monitoring finances to ensure money is being well spent and ultimately seeing a direct benefit to our children's education.
- working with the senior leaders to set clear aims and strategies for the school.

Through our work, we have seen, first-hand, the wonderful progress our children have made over this academic year. The standards of behaviour and engagement we observe continue to be excellent.

We would like to thank our teachers, staff, parents, guardians and our children for all their dedication and hard work this year.

We hope you all have a lovely summer. Good luck to our Year 6 children in their new adventure and we look forward to seeing the rest of you in late August.

Caroline Smith, Chair of Governors.