



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

## September Newsletter 2022

Twitter @GlenHillsSchool



The Glen Hills app- available on



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another year at Glen Hills and a special welcome to all our new children and staff!

### SO WHAT'S NEW?

We welcome **Miss Orme** as a new teacher into Year 5 and **Mr Ram**, our Sport Apprentice, who will be working with the children throughout the day, both in lessons and at playtime to support our fantastic PE work. We are looking forward to working with them both. We are also pleased to announce that **Mrs Allen** has given birth to her beautiful daughter. Congratulations to the family and we wish her all the best for her maternity leave. We welcomed **Mrs Leiser** at the end of this month as a new Classroom Assistant in our Foundation Stage.

We also welcome two new governors to our Governing Body – **Diana Tse** and **Rebecca Dempsey**. Welcome to the team.

**Mrs Cockerill** and **Mrs Dean** will be leaving our Midday Supervisor team this term after a number of years working with Glen Hills. We wish them all the best for their futures.

### YEAR 6 SLEEPOVER

Year 6 were invited to a school sleepover for the night on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September! We had night time games on the field with torches, songs around the campfire, a treasure hunt around the school for glow in the dark stars, a film and hot chocolate! The children had a super night, but were a bit bleary eyed in the morning. A huge thank you to all the staff who organised the event and volunteered to give up their weekend to support the event....Mrs Onions, Mr Robertson, Mr Bolsover, Mr Ram, Mrs Wesley, Miss Smith, Mrs Blackwell, Miss Hart and Mrs White!

### PING!

School Ping is vital for parent/carer communication. We know sometimes that we are sending lots of information out! However, can we please remind parents/carers to keep up to date with their App so that they are aware of all notices, letters, clubs etc.

### NEW BIKE AND SCOOTER RACKS



After noticing that more and more children were making their way to school on bikes and scooters, we decided to invest in some more fantastic storage racks.

We are, as always, trying to ensure **our children stay as safe as possible** and would like to remind parents/carers about the safety rules we have in place when travelling to and from school on a bike or scooter.

1. It is recommended that any child cycling/scooting to and from school should be **accompanied by an adult** (up to Year 5, when children can travel by themselves if parents/carers wish)
2. Any child on a bike or scooter **MUST have a helmet on. We feel this is vital to keep our children safe**
3. Junior children can use their usual school gate for their entrance. Any younger children need to walk on the **pavement, with their adult**, around the edge of the car park to the Cycle Shelter
4. Children must **walk** their bikes/scooters whilst on **school premises**.

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## R2R AWARD

We are pleased to announce that the 'Chris Kingsley-Mills Award for Resilience and Determination' was awarded to **Logan Pala**, who left Glen Hills at the end of the summer term to head to secondary school. This award is voted for amongst staff and we are ever so proud of him and wish him the best of luck at his new school.



## SYMPHONY LEARNING TRUST RESULTS

At the end of the summer term, the Trust which Glen Hills are part of, received some **fantastic pupil results**. Our averages in the four key areas – end of Foundation Stage, Phonics, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, were **all well above national averages**.

As a Trust, we were 8% above the Foundation Stage national average, 11% above the national average with the Phonics Screening Tests, and 13% above the national average for KS1 and also KS2 results. These results, to which Glen Hills significantly contributed, show that our outcomes for our pupils are exceptionally high. The collaborative work and support that we all provide within the Trust will only lead to continued improvements and support for our pupils and staff. Mr Sutcliffe.

## OUR AMAZING RESULTS LAST YEAR 😊

We wanted to share our **incredible results** with you from last year. Lots of hard work goes into results like this from staff, children and families – so a **huge thank you to all those involved. We smashed it!**

	Glen Hills %	National Average %
Phonics screening	94.4	75.5
KS1 Reading	73	66.9
KS1 Writing	66.2	57.6
KS1 Maths	74.3	67.7
KS1 Combined	64	53.4
KS2 Reading	78	74
KS2 Writing	82	69.5
KS2 Maths	78	71.4
KS2 Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	72	72
KS2 Combined	68	58.7

## PE KIT REMINDER

We still want children to come into school wearing their PE kit on their PE days. Just a quick reminder that for PE kit, we expect pupils to have a **white t-shirt and black shorts** from the start of this school year. For outdoor PE, dark joggers, tracksuits or leggings are fine to wear. Long hair should be tied back so please send hairbands in with children if needed. Jewellery should be taken off or **studs covered with tape by the child** (please provide if needed). Children can NOT take part in PE lessons with earrings in (unless taped) for safety reasons.

## RARE PLACES AT GLEN HILLS!

We have a few spaces in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) due to a number of families moving out of the local area. If you know of anyone looking for a place,

let them know about our spaces as we don't expect them to hang around for long!

## STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2023?

If you have a child or you know someone who would like their child to start in the 4+ next September, please pass this information on.

**All parents must apply even if it is for the catchment area school. The deadline for applications to be returned to the Admissions Section is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

Follow this link if your child lives in the county.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

Follow this link if your child lives in the city.

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-colleges/school-admissions>

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

At the start of each year, we write to thank you for your excellent efforts in sending your children to Glen Hills in our distinctive school uniform. All of our children wear the uniform and we feel this shows immense support for the school from parents and children. The children are proud to wear it and **it underlines our high standards of respect and discipline**.

Can all clothing please be named with name labels or with a permanent pen – it gives us (and you!) a sporting chance of identifying who owns a misplaced school jumper!

## LOST PROPERTY

Naming clothes leads onto the point of lost property within the school. There are HUGE amounts of Lost Property within Glen Hills at the moment. This could be avoided if all items of uniform/coats etc were clearly named. The office will be putting the Lost Property boxes in the school reception every Thursday at the end of the day for parents/carers to check if needed.

## COSBY YARN BOMB



Last term some children worked with Mrs Cole to create umbrellas for the Cosby Yarn Bomb. These were displayed as part of the Yarn Bomb during the holidays. Well done to

all those who helped to create them – we think they were fantastic!

## NUTS and WATER!

We are a nut free school here at Glen Hills, both tree nuts and peanuts. **These must not be brought into school in any form as a playtime snack or in children's packed lunches. This please includes the use of chocolate hazelnut spread, peanut butter in sandwiches etc and biscuit bars/cakes with nuts in.**

Children need NAMED water bottles at Glen Hills. Children should only be bringing **water (not juice)** to school as their drink.

## CONTACTING MRS COLE

If parents wish to speak to Mrs Cole, our SEND leader, please can they contact Mrs Cole via the school office by email or phone.

## ARE YOU ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND EXTRA PUPIL TUITION?

Parents can apply for Pupil Premium funding via the County Council. Details on eligibility and how to apply can be found in the free school meals link below

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals> or telephone **0116 3055417**.

You can also contact the School Office for further details. The extra funding will pay for the free school meals until the end of primary school and additional tuition/support for your child.

## SAFETY AND PARKING

At the start of EVERY year, can we remind everyone about the importance of safety around the area when taking children to and from school and outside the school?

By following these simple suggestions, we can ensure the safety of all children and parents/carers.

- Remember to use the PSA suggested One-Way system if you have to come to school by car (for new parents, this would be driving down Featherby Drive with the school on your left)
- Do not park in the school gateway
- Please do not park on corners/zig zags or blocking residents' driveways. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PARENTS WHO DO THIS. THE CAR PARK IS PRIVATE PROPERTY AND SHOULD NOT BE PARKED IN
- Please do not block Bellamy Close, as this is needed for emergency access to Birch Court
- Please do not cycle or scoot across the car park. Dismount at the gate
- Please keep your child near to you outside of school.

## BE PART OF GLEN HILLS!

Why not join the **Glen Hills Primary School PSA** Facebook page or follow the school twitter page for updates on events? Our next meeting is being held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November in the school hall. Information to follow via SchoolPing.

If you have any time to volunteer or ideas you'd like to share, you can drop an email with your name and contact details to [psa\\_glenhillsprimary@outlook.com](mailto:psa_glenhillsprimary@outlook.com)

## MOBILE PHONES

Any Year 5 or 6 children who walk home without an adult, are permitted to bring their phones into school for safety reasons. These phones must be turned off and handed in to the class teacher each morning. They will be given out at the end of the day. Any child bringing their phone into school must sign the GH Mobile phone policy which they can get from their Year 5 or 6 teacher.

## YEAR GROUP PLANS

To save on paper, each year group's annual overview curriculum provision plans are on our website. So, if you want to look at the topics your little one will be studying this year, head over to the website to take a look.

## HARVEST THIS YEAR

This term, we are pleased to celebrate our Harvest Festival. Our Harvest assembly will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Once again, we would really appreciate boxed non-perishable food items to donate to Age UK. More details of donations have been sent on SchoolPing.

## ASTHMA LETTERS

Don't forget to fill in the asthma letters with up to date information for your child and send back in to school as soon as possible.

## READING AT GLEN HILLS 2022 TO 2023

Firstly, as we begin the new school year, we want to continue the celebration of reading at Glen Hills. We are very excited to relaunch our school **Reading Miles Challenge**. This year (alongside the weekly opportunity to win golden raffle prizes for children who achieve their target amount of reads each week) **all** children who achieve all reads and fill all of their passport stamps at the end of each term will be invited to be part of a bigger prize such as:

- Watch a film based on a book and a popcorn party.
- Lunch with a teacher.
- Free time of choice – like golden time.

There will also be an extra termly class competition in KS1 & KS2 in the reading miles. The class with the highest percentage across all of the classes in each key stage will receive a Reading Cup/Trophy that they keep for the half term. At the end of the term, the winning classes will also receive a special 'golden book' for the classroom- which has been pre-ordered by from a book wish list that each class writes themselves

We will be continuing to promote '**Authors of the Month**' for KS1 & KS2 and setting competitions based on some of our famous authors.

To embrace the importance of reading, each class will celebrate their '**Reader of the week**' who will receive a certificate and a trophy to keep for a week. We will be asking some children to become **Reading Ambassadors** for the school who will read with other pupils, share stories with classes and help to produce a monthly column about Reading in our school newsletters!

Keep your eyes peeled for our competition news and further new initiatives to encourage our reading across the school!

HAPPY READING GLEN HILLS!

Miss Walker & Mr Storey.

## OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

On **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October**, from **4.30pm to 6.00pm**, we would like to invite **prospective** parents and children of all primary ages to:

- Visit our fantastic school
- Tour the school and grounds
- Speak to staff
- Have the opportunity to meet the management team
- Find out more about how we provide quality education for all of our children.
- Welcome talk from Headteacher at 4:30pm in the hall.
- Refreshments available.
- Visit our amazing Book Fair on site.

**If you know of anyone considering attending our school, please share this event with them. [Click here to register attendance via the school website](#), or call/email the school office with your name, number of attendees and year group of interest.**

**SCHOOL GARDEN UPDATE**

As the growing season draws to a close, we're getting ready to start cleaning and tidying so we can think about what to grow next year.



We've had a lot of fun growing so many different foods from pumpkins to potatoes, and we even had a go at watermelon in the greenhouse (which reached large grapefruit size before it stopped growing, but we'll try again next year!). Sadly, the resident badgers ate the entire crop of sweetcorn before we had chance to taste it, but we had lots of potatoes, tomatoes and peppers to eat along with cucumbers, onions and beetroot.

A HUGE thanks to our Gardening Club junior pupils for all of their hard work at the end of last term.



We hope to harvest the pumpkins and apples ready for the harvest festival, so we can share our wonderful produce.

Mrs Phillips, Miss Hart & Mrs Matthews

**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

Congratulations to all the children from Glen Hills who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge over the holidays. We had 32 children across the school who managed to complete the challenge by reading 6 books and we celebrated their achievement by throwing a small party in our own school library. Miriam and Hilary, volunteers from the local library, were also in attendance and were kind enough to donate a bookmark, some stickers and a small bag of sweets for each child. They and Miss Owczarek were grateful for the children's feedback on the scheme and it was super to see everybody enjoying reading and finding school library books. Well done children!



**NEW STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS THIS YEAR**

Congratulations to the following children who are our Student Council members for 2022 to 2023. They have been voted into position by their peers – we know that they will do a superb job of working with Mrs Connolly and being the 'Pupil Voice' for their year groups.

YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Sasilca Ruby Alexa Toby	Poppy Jenson Ella Arun	Romani Ted Louis Olivia Ethan Ariana



**STUDENT COUNCIL SCHOOL RULES**

Last year, our Student Council worked on creating School Rules to use across the whole school. Please go through these with your child(ren) and emphasise their importance.

- We respect school property
- We respect everyone, including adults
- We are kind
- We keep our hands and feet to ourselves
- We listen to each other
- We are honest
- We walk sensibly through school.

**SPORT UPDATE**

A superb start to the season for our Boys football teams. We have played two, won two, scored 17 and conceded 0.

We beat All Saints 12-0 in the first league game of the season and are safely through to the 2nd round of the Rice Bowl after defeating Little Bowden Primary School 5-0.

Many clubs have started this term with the Leicester Riders running our Basketball sessions for Years 5 and 6, the Leicestershire Hockey team running our Year 4 and 5 hockey club, Football and Fitness running football and multi-sports as well as our sports apprentice running football training sessions for Year 5 and 6.

**A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR GOVERNORS**

To the parents of Glen Hills,

Thank you for voting me into this position in the election last year and I've been working hard in the role which is very different to my professional life as a Design Engineer. What I didn't fully grasp before was how much the role of the governors is intertwined with the management and the big decisions of our wonderful school. What is now apparent to me is the sheer amount of work which goes into running the place, this is actually humbling for somebody who's used to a normal 40 hour week.

I've been a governor for nearly a year now and while I'm still learning the ropes it's clear there's a healthy, happy, professional working relationship between governors and staff at GH. I feel privileged to be part of this and am intent on maintaining this while holding the management to account and prioritising the needs of the students which is, after all, the primary role of the governors.

Rory James, September 2022.

**As always, thanks for your continued support!**



**Mrs Wesley**  
Head Teacher



**Miss Smith**  
Deputy Head