



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 and Mr B Storey
Assistant Head: Mrs L Onions

September Newsletter 2023

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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 **Mrs Wilkins** (who many of you will know from Year 3 last year) as a teacher into our Early Years department and **Mr Sarwar**, our new HLTA, who will be supporting and covering classes across the school. Many of you will have met Mrs Wilkins and Mr Sarwar already – and we know you join us in welcoming them to their new positions at Glen Hills.

We are also pleased to announce that **Mrs Onions** this year is our new Assistant Headteacher and Head of Year 6! Mrs Onions, along with the other Year 6 staff, supported the KS2 SATs incredibly, and we achieved our very best results ever with an outstanding performance! Our results were **19% above National Average** for combined results! Joining Mrs Onions in Year 6 is **Mrs Connolly** who worked with Year 5 last year, and has her own class, 6EC, this year – she is excited for the year ahead!

We also welcome a new governor to our Governing Body – **Alison Johnson**, at the start of this term. Alison supports a number of different organisations and communities, including being a Governor at another local school. She joins our team as Finance Governor. Welcome to the team.

We said goodbye to **Miss Taylor** and **Miss Brathwaite** from our kitchen team recently. Thank you both for all the help cooking and preparing our kitchen's fantastic dinners.

PING!

SchoolPing is vital for parent/carers 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.

R2R AWARD

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

PE KIT REMINDER

We still want children (in years 1-6) 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 jogging bottoms, 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 will NOT be able to take part in PE lessons with earrings in (unless taped) for safety reasons.

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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	80	79
KS1 Reading	78	68
KS1 Writing	69	60
KS1 Maths	81	70
KS1 Combined	67	56
KS2 Reading	84	73
KS2 Writing	86	71
KS2 Maths	90	73
KS2 Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	89	72
KS2 Combined	78	59

CLUBS CLUBS CLUBS!

We are offering over 50 clubs this year!

The Glen Hills enrichment clubs are up and running. This term we have on offer a variety of different clubs for children from Year 1 up to Year 6. They are all full now and pupils have already made a start at improving their singing, acting, dodge balling, footballing, dancing and running. Clubs like cooking, painting and more will be starting after the half term. Thank you all for your interest in our new clubs.

If your children have not been able to attend a club this term, do not worry. There will be a brand new list of clubs starting after Christmas that you can sign up to. Watch out for a Ping during November.

YEAR 6 TRIP TO PARKLANDS and BROCKS HILL

Year 6 visited Parklands Leisure Centre and Brocks Hill Country Park on 25th September for a team-building day. They showed great bravery on the climbing wall with many climbing higher than they imagined they could at the beginning. The children demonstrated super cooperation, working together to build dens and collect all the items in a scavenger hunt. They also showed great friendship by helping and encouraging each other throughout the day.



STUDENT VOTES AND NEWS!

Over the past couple of weeks Years 4, 5 and 6 have been holding student council elections to choose their class and year group representatives. Each candidate was asked to write and present a speech to their class, on why they would be the best candidate. The class then voted. Congratulations to Caleb, Summer, Layla, Callum, Rocco, Alessandro, Jude, Mia, Ben, Alice, Preston, Maya, Merit and Jack, who have all been voted in by their peers. The next stage is for us to vote on a Head of Student Council and two Deputies. We look forward to organising events and raising money that will benefit Glen Hills' pupils.

Last week, Year 6 pupils and staff also met to vote on this year's House Captains. Each representative was asked to write a speech and present to their class on why they would be best to represent their house. Our House Captains this year are: Josh, Ella, Ivy, Sienna, Bella, Alisdair, Reece and Annabella.

Mrs Connolly held a meeting for children to attend if they wished to volunteer to do a job around school. She was amazed by the amount of children who wanted to help out doing various jobs and tasks. Throughout this term and next, more jobs will become available for the children to volunteer for.

RARE PLACES AT GLEN HILLS!

We have a few spaces in year groups due to a number of families moving out of the local area. We currently have spaces in EYFS and Years 1, 2 and 4. 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 2024?

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 15th January 2024.

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>

OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

On **Wednesday 1st November** from **4.30pm to 6.00pm**, we would like to invite **prospective** parents/carers 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 our school, please share this event with them. To book a place, visit our school website to register attendance, or call/email the school office with your name, number of attendees and year group of interest.

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 a permanent pen/name labels – 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.

TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS SCHOOL COMPETITION

This term, we have launched our own competition for TTRS for Years 2 – 6. All the children have a Times Table Rock Star (TTRS) login and the games can be played on a phone, tablet or computer.



Each year group has a weekly competition to find their first, second and third top players on TTRS. The winners will be announced each Tuesday in our achievement assemblies and the top players will receive a certificate and their name displayed on our champion's board in the hall!

The playing will be monitored over each week so every week will be a fresh start and a chance to be a champion (all your child's coins/awards earned will remain on their account).

At the end of each half-term, we will award the top 3 players in the school a certificate in whole school assembly.

The children have got off to a flying start. Congratulations to the winners in each year group for our very first competition week:

Year	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
2	Matilda	Evelyn	Martha
3	Madeleine	Adam	Darcy

4	Kavish	Zavier	Frankie
5	Amelia	Chloe	Mia
6	Hollie	Hayden	Alisdair

Next week, it could be you! Get logged on and enjoy practising your times tables on TTRS!

SUMMER SPEED READING CHALLENGE

We want to say a big congratulations to the numerous children across the school who completed The Summer Reading Challenge 'Ready, Set, Read!' It was particularly popular amongst our 4+ and infant classes. These children read at least six books each from their local library, reaching their own personal reading goals and achieving a special certificate and reading medal. Well done to you all - 50 House Points each!

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023

We really enjoyed our annual Harvest Festival on Thursday 28th

September. All year groups contributed to the assembly and helped us to think about all the wonderful food that we have. Thank you so much for all your generous donations. These were much appreciated by representatives from Age UK who visited to tell us more about how our food can help others.



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.

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 5th October at school. Information to follow via SchoolPing. A meeting invite has been sent 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.

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 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.

SUPER STAR NEWS!

With all the success that women's football has had over recent years it's fantastic to see so many girls getting involved in the sport.

During the summer holidays, hundreds of girls went through the football trials process at LCFC and Alice, who is in Year 5, has been selected to play for Leicester City Women's Football Club Under 10s Academy Team. A team of players have been selected from across the East and West Midlands and Buckinghamshire. So it's hugely exciting to have one of our own Glen Hills girls on the team. Well done Alice, a fantastic achievement!



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.

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.

For further information, please see the Attendance Policy on our school website.

FIRST AID TRAINING

The Red Cross came to visit the Year 6 children recently to complete First Aid training.

The children were split into groups and each given a scenario (where first aid would be required). Our children discussed what they thought would happen and then acted it out - including the first aid they might give. The children used their Bravery character muscles to then perform to the rest of the group.

Discussions and advice was given on the best course of action for each scenario. The children were then given the opportunity to practise first aid on a dummy - being shown the correct position of your hands and where to place them on the chest. The session produced lots of discussion in class afterwards and contained many important life-saving skills.

ELECTRIC GATES

We are pleased to inform you that we have had some new electric gates installed over the summer, which are locked during the school day to keep the children safe. These gates remain locked throughout the day, and all visitors now have to enter/exit the school via an intercom system which is manned by our office staff. Please be patient if you are not admitted immediately as staff maybe dealing with other matters. Please also do not push or pull on the gate manually.

SCHOOL GARDEN

Lots of work took place over the summer to restore the school garden to it's former glory after it had become very overgrown! As we are very much reliant upon people's goodwill to maintain this area, this could not have been possible without the help and hard work from some of our staff and parent volunteers. Mrs Phillips, Mrs Matthews and Miss Hart have worked tirelessly over the last year. We would also like to say a huge "Thank You" to Alison Clayton, Kym Paling and Natalie Smith who formed part of our summer gardening team. If anyone is interested in helping with the school garden then please contact the school office. Any help is greatly received!



EUROPEAN LANGUAGES DAY

On Tuesday 26th September, the whole school had a brilliant time celebrating European Languages day.

Each year group had a different European country to focus on during the day and came into school dressed in that country's colours.



Lots of fabulous learning went on throughout the day and we were so impressed by the creative homework that came into school. We had everything from flags to

flamenco dancers! Thank you to everyone who brought something in. One of the highlights of the day was a flamenco dance teacher who came in to lead dance workshops for children in year 2 and above. The children really got into the spirit of the dance and there were some great dance moves! It was lovely to hear so many different languages spoken around the school!

Thank you to all who supported this super day and to Mrs Lambden for organising the event!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNORS

On behalf of all the governors welcome to the new school year. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Alison Johnson as a new governor. Mrs Johnson's financial expertise will be an asset to the governing body.

Last year we worked with the school to monitor the new phonics scheme and the new handwriting policy. We also had focus curriculum visits for science, writing, art, the Early Years and the provision for children who have learning difficulties. This year a similar series of curriculum visits is planned including mathematics, music and history.

We support the school with Open Evenings, Book Fairs, and seasonal events. A further focus is to help the school design its website to be even more attractive and informative.

We are so pleased to be supporting such a good school with high standards and an exciting rich curriculum.

Jonathan Sutcliffe (SEND, Looked After Children and Maths Governor)

As always, thanks for your continued support!

Mrs Wesley
Head Teacher

Miss Smith
Deputy Head