



Education today for tomorrow...

Glen Hills Primary School

Home of the Symphony Learning Trust



SLT Chief Executive Officer/ CEO of Elf Land: **Mr T Sutcliffe**

Head Teacher/Head Elf: **Mrs R Wesley**

Deputy Head/Deputy Head Elf: **Miss A Smith**

Deputy Head/Deputy Head Elf: **Mr B Storey**

November/December Newsletter 2022

Twitter @GlenHillsSchool



The Glen Hills app- available on



Dear Parents/Carers,

STAFF NEWS

Mrs Beck retires at the end of this term. She has worked with a number of children at Glen Hills, in a number of year groups, for a number of years! We wish her the best in her retirement.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Matthews, who is also a Midday Supervisor, to our classroom support team. We know she will make a great addition to the classroom support we offer at Glen Hills.

Congratulations to Mrs Patel who welcomed her new baby boy to the world recently. Congratulations to the family.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Once again at Glen Hills, we will be providing Christmas Dinner (complemented by a vegetarian alternative) on **Wednesday 14th December**. **The last day to order Christmas Dinner was Monday 5th December**. Unfortunately, any child that has not had Christmas Dinner ordered for them will need to please bring a packed lunch to school on this day.

SCHOOL POST BOX

The Christmas Post Box is up and running officially from the start of December this year. Children can use this to post cards to their friends around the school. Names and classes need to be clearly written on the



envelopes to help the post box fairies deliver on time!

Please make sure all cards come into school and are posted by **Wednesday 14th December** to allow for them all to be handed out before the end of term.

FESTIVE DRESS UP DAY

On Friday 16th December, Glen Hills invites children to dress in their festive best if they wish to – think Christmas jumpers, tinsel, or reindeer antlers! No donation required thank you.



SICKNESS

Just a polite reminder, children who have been sick (vomited) or had diarrhoea need to be **kept off school for 48 hours** after **last** being sick to ensure they are not passing on their bugs to others, as per our new guidance.

FIRST TIME ADMISSIONS TO OUR 4+

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 (inclusive) and have not already applied online for a place at Glen Hills for them, you **MUST DO SO BY JANUARY 15th 2023**. Last year, some parents were unaware that they had to apply for a place, believing that if you were in the catchment area, you automatically got a place for your child. This is NOT the case and all parents must apply. Similarly, if you know anyone who will have a child starting here next September who won't receive this newsletter, please let them know! It looks like we will be up to our

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intake limit once again; don't leave it too late!

SNOW

Thought we'd get in early again with this one! We will always *try* to stay open but if there is an abnormal snowfall overnight then we will go for a delayed start of 10.00 a.m. unless there is no other option but to close. In all cases, please listen to Radio Leicester for information or, very simply, **check out our Twitter site (@GlenHillsSchool) or our school app. Please do not phone the school as the lines get far too busy!** If school were to close for more than a day due to snow, we would provide online learning from Day 2 of the closure via Google Classroom so please ensure you have your child's Google login details.



PARENTAL SURVEY RESULTS

We wanted to share with you our recent parental survey results – please see the 'Pupil and Parent surveys' section on our website to see the results in full. We invited parents to take part in our school survey and were very pleased with the survey results. We appreciate this is a snapshot; but it's good to see such high parent satisfaction in so many areas across the school and that parents agree between 98 and 100% that their pupils are happy, safe, making good progress, taught well etc (see survey results).

We have also noted and actioned feedback where appropriate from the surveys. For any parents who requested more information about our school curriculum, please refer to the school website which contains lots of detail in relation to the curriculum that is covered in all year groups, along with how to support pupils at home.

We are always happy to discuss any concerns and/or suggestions parents/pupils do have. We work very hard as a team to provide the best education and school experience for our learners, but will always listen to the views of others and embrace the opportunity to make our school an even better place for our pupils, parents and staff.

MATHS NEWS

There have been so many exciting things happening in Maths at Glen Hills over this term. We started with the Pumpkin Competition ready for Halloween in October. Children across the school were invited to estimate the weight of one of the pumpkins grown in our very own school garden. The House Captains did an amazing job visiting each class with the pumpkins and some weights so that the children could make their best estimate of the pumpkin's mass. Well done to Chase in Year 2, and Arun in Year 5 for getting the closest estimates and winning the pumpkins to take home for Halloween. Thanks also to our fantastic House Captain team for running this event.



In November, we hosted the first Symphony Learning Trust Year 6 Team Maths Quiz. Teams from Glen Hills, Newcroft, Fairfield and Old Mill Primary Schools came together in our school hall for a fun afternoon of challenging problem solving together. It was a close competition throughout the afternoon with a nail-biting final round. The winners were Newcroft Primary. Our two Glen Hills' teams put in an amazing performance. They used their Resilience, Perseverance and Good Thinking Character Muscles throughout the afternoon and were very welcoming to the children from other schools.



Well done to Shay, Leo, Leo, Freya, Marcelina, Olivia, Barnaby and Ted for representing the school so brilliantly. We have many amazing mathematicians here at Glen Hills and we are really proud of you all!

YEAR 5 BIKEABILITY

This month, Year 5 were lucky to take part in Bikeability. Bikeability is the national cycle training programme supported and funded by the Department for Transport. Bikeability supports children to be better cyclists - potentially for the rest of their lives - and can help with general confidence and independent thinking.

All of our children passed Level 1 where they became more skilled and confident in riding their bikes in the playground. Well done for persevering Year 5!

Then, some of our children moved onto Level 2 where they tested their skills and confidence for cycling on smaller roads and simple junctions without too much traffic. The instructors were very pleased by the progress and effort the cyclists made. Keep up the great cycling Year 5, so you can become even more confident.

PHONING IN FOR ABSENCE

Can we remind parents they **MUST phone in and leave a message with the office if their child is poorly and absent from school.** Please ensure we are informed. Some parents forget this important call but it is a vital part of safeguarding our children. We try really hard to safeguard every child so please help us to ensure children are accounted for. **We can spend up to TWO HOURS a day trying to locate children which is a huge drain on resources/time spent in school.**

SCHOOL GARDEN

A special thanks to Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust for their kind donation towards our school vegetable garden. We have been able to use this award to purchase some compost and a new hosepipe to keep our garden growing and flourishing. Mrs Phillips, Mrs Matthews and Miss

Hart have done an amazing job of restoring and maintaining the school garden, with the help of some of our Funtime Group pupils and the Gardening Club. We have seen lots of different types of fruit and vegetables popping up over the last few months, and were able to make a very generous donation of potatoes, pumpkins, wonky cucumbers, beetroot and apples to the harvest festival from the school garden this year!

WORKS IN AND AROUND SCHOOL

You may have noticed our railings and fencing at the entrance of the school have been painted recently. We are sure you will agree this has given the front of school a new lease of life! Please can parents and carers kindly encourage their children not to climb or lean on the railings.

We are very pleased to say the roof work is now complete and let's hope it keeps us dry and warm for the foreseeable future.

NO DOGS

Please remember no dogs are to be brought onto the school premises at any point in the day – whether walking on a lead or being carried by their owners.

TT ROCKSTARS

Well done to 6LO who were the winning Glen Hills class in the TT Rockstars 'England Rocks' competition held in November. Congratulations and well done to our top players - Julius and Connor (Year 6) and Jayden (Year 5). Great work practising your times tables Glen Hills!



Please help your child to login to TTRS at least 3 times week. It can be played on a phone, tablet or computer and really helps them learn those key times tables facts.

MATHS WORLD CUP

On November 22nd, Years 3-6 at Glen Hills took part in the Maths World Cup organised by Numberfit. The children took part in this worldwide challenge alongside other schools which combined times table practice with physical activity and mindfulness. They all had a great morning completing the activities. Thank you to Mrs Onions for all her hard work organising so many different maths activities this term!



ENGLISH UPDATES RECOMMENDED CHRISTMAS STORIES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

It's the most wonderful time of the year (to bury yourself in a good book that is!)

With the winter winds howling and the fires crackling, there's no better season to just curl up and read the day away. And what's nicer to read about during the holidays than Christmas itself?

Here are **some Christmas stories** to try out over the holidays that will make your heart grow three sizes! **(There are far many more super books to look out for too!)**

- **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens
- **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** by Dr. Seuss
- **The Nutcracker and the Mouse King** by E.T.A. Hoffmann
- **The Polar Express** by Chris Van Allsburg
- **The Snowman** by Raymond Briggs
- **Hogfather** by Terry Pratchett
- **Letters from Father Christmas** by J.R.R. Tolkien
- **"The Steadfast Tin Soldier"** by Hans Christian Andersen
- **Stick Man** by Julia Donaldson
- **The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe** by C.S. Lewis
- **"The Snow Queen"** by Hans Christian Andersen
- **Father Christmas** by Raymond Briggs
- **The Jolly Christmas Postman** by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- **Alfie's Christmas** by Shirley Hughes
- **The Real Santa** by Nancy Redd
- **Danny's Christmas List** by Tiesha Jumbo

READING COMPETITION TIME!

There is going to be a reading competition over the holidays so watch out for the details which will come on the last week of term...

Have festive fun loving your reading Glen Hills!

Miss Walker

BAPS SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR

Year 4 recently visited a Hindu temple on Gipsy Lane as part of their current R.E. topic. It was a fantastic trip that enriched everything the children had previously learned at school. They were allowed to explore the different rooms inside and asked respectful and thoughtful questions to deepen their knowledge. Their behaviour throughout was exemplary and Year 4 really did Glen Hills proud! They even took the 4+ bears with them on their special visit.



DIWALI ASSEMBLY

Also as part of their current R.E. topic, a group of Year 4 children led a whole school assembly on Diwali. They talked about the meaning of Diwali, the celebrations and retold the story of Rama and Sita. They had very little time to put this together or practise, so really demonstrated their bravery skills in front of the whole school. A huge well done to all those who took part.

SPORT UPDATE

The Year 5/6 Rice Bowl team won convincingly in the second round of the competition, beating Bishop Ellis Primary School 10-1! A fantastic result and performance. We move on to the quarter-finals which will be played in the new year. Only two more wins to reach the finals!

A different selection of pupils also represented the boys' football team in our first away match of the season. It was against our local rivals Fairfield Primary and it was a tough game. After some superb play and neat finishes, the team won 4-2.

A HUGE well done all involved.

NEIGHBOURS

Can we politely remind parents/carers to be considerate when parking and waiting in vehicles around the local area? We have had recent complaints about cars blocking drives, being poorly parked and radios blaring for long periods around drop off and pick up times. Please support school by considering the neighbours around our local community.

HAPPY LUNCHTIMES

As mentioned in our October newsletter, we have been busy organising new resources to launch our 'Happy Lunchtimes' programme after the Christmas holiday. This exciting scheme will be rolled out to promote an active lunchtime for those wishing to participate in a variety of activities. We look forward to sharing our progress with this scheme as we develop it at Glen Hills.

HOLIDAY DATES

May we remind you that we close for Christmas on the **evening of Friday 16th December 2022**. Children will return on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**.

Thanks for your continued support during a rather busy and hectic term and a happy Christmas and New Year to you all!

Mrs Wesley
Head Teacher

Miss Smith
Deputy Head



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Just a reminder of important dates for the end of term:

Mon 5th to Friday 9th December

PSA Secret Santa Room at school

Tues 6th December

Years 3 to 6 Choir Carol Service at All Saints Blaby Church 6:30pm

Thurs 8th December

Choir singing at Birch Court

PSA Christmas Discos

5.45pm – 6.45pm 4+, Year 1 and Year 2

7pm – 8pm Years 3 to 6

Fri 9th December

4+ Christmas Performance to parents 9:30am

Year 5 Christmas Party (afternoon)

Monday 12th December

Year 1 Christmas Party (morning)

Tuesday 13th December

Year 3 Christmas Party (morning)

Wednesday 14th December

No Swimming Year 4

Christmas Dinner Day – those who have not booked a meal, please bring a packed lunch on this day

Year 2 Christmas Party (afternoon)

Year 4 Christmas Party (afternoon)

Thurs 15th December

4+ Christmas Party (morning)

Year 6 Christmas Party (afternoon)

Friday 16th December

Dress up for Christmas if you wish in your festive best. No donations required.

Last day of term