



Glen Hills Primary School

Home of the Symphony Learning Trust

SLT Chief Executive Officer: Mr T Sutcliffe
Head Teacher and Advisory Head Teacher at Fairfield: Mrs R Wesley
Deputy Head: Miss A Smith
Assistant Head: Ms. Variava



Newsletter - Summer

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

As we come to the end of another successful school year, we also say farewell to several valued members of the Glen Hills team who are moving on to new adventures. While we are sad to see them leave, we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication, hard work and the positive impact they have had on our school community.

A very special goodbye goes to **Mrs Lawrence**, a Nursery Nurse in our EYFS, who retires after more than 30 years of service at Glen Hills. She started at Glen Hills in 1995! Mrs Lawrence has been a key part of our school family and has supported generations of children as they begin their educational journey. Her kindness, patience and unwavering commitment to our youngest learners have made a lasting difference to so many children and families. Beyond the classroom, she has always been a wonderful supporter of the wider school community and will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and parents alike.

We also say goodbye to **Miss Kaur**, our Year 2 teacher. During her time at Glen Hills, Miss Kaur has played a significant role in supporting the development of phonics and early reading across the school. She has helped countless children develop the essential reading skills that provide the foundation for future learning and success. Her dedication to helping children become confident readers has been greatly appreciated.

Another farewell goes to **Mrs Hind**, our Finance Manager since 2007. Mrs Hind has been a friendly and familiar face for children, families and staff alike, ensuring the finance and payroll processes run smoothly in school. She is also fondly remembered for her support on some of our most memorable residential trips, where her care, organisation and sense of fun helped create wonderful experiences for our pupils. We thank her for everything she has contributed to school life.

We say farewell too to **Mrs Soma**, who has provided fantastic support during EYFS lunchtimes and within our wraparound care provision. Over the years, she has seen many children pass through Glen Hills since 1999 when she joined the school and has played an important role in helping them feel safe, happy and cared for throughout the school day. Her dedication will certainly be missed.

We also say goodbye to **Mrs Martin**, who recently has been a valued member of our support staff team. Working closely with some of our older pupils, she has provided important support in both Mathematics and English, helping children to build their confidence and make progress. We thank Mrs Martin for her support and wish her all the very best for the future.

Finally, we wish **Miss Orme**, our Year 5 teacher, all the very best as she embarks on an exciting new chapter in Nottingham as she moves from Leicestershire. Miss Orme has a special connection with



Glen Hills, having once been a pupil here herself, and therefore holds many treasured memories of the school. During her time on the staff, she has made a tremendous contribution to school life, particularly through her work with music and the performing arts, helping to create memorable experiences and opportunities for our pupils in the school choir. We know she will be a great success in whatever comes next.

On behalf of everyone at Glen Hills, we would like to thank all of these staff members for their commitment, care and service. They have each played an important part in the story of our school, and we wish them happiness, success and good health for the future.

We are pleased to welcome two new members of staff to our school community for the Autumn Term.

Mrs Leedham joins our Year 5 team, bringing with her a wealth of teaching experience and a passion for helping children achieve their very best. We are excited to have her expertise and enthusiasm as part of our teaching team.

We are also pleased to welcome **Mrs Warren**, who will be joining our HLTA team. Mrs Warren will be working across the school, supporting teaching and learning in a variety of classes. Her experience and skills will be a fantastic addition to our staff, and we look forward to the positive contribution she will make throughout the school.

We are sure you will join us in giving both Mrs Leedham and Mrs Warren a very warm welcome to our school family.

THANKS TO THE PSA FOR ANOTHER INCREDIBLE YEAR

As another busy and successful year comes to a close, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of the PSA for their hard work, dedication and unwavering support of Glen Hills Primary School. Our PSA volunteers give up a huge amount of their own time to organise events that create wonderful experiences and lasting memories for our children. From discos, freeze pop Fridays, Mother's Day and Father's Day rooms, and raffles, to the incredible Fun Run held recently, every event takes hours of planning, preparation and commitment behind the scenes. We would also like to thank every parent, family member and supporter who has attended events, donated prizes or volunteered their time throughout the year.

A very special thank you must go to **Diana Tse** who has served as Chair of the PSA for a number of years whilst also dedicating her time as a School Governor. Diana has given countless hours to supporting the school and has played a huge role in creating so many memorable experiences for our children. Her commitment, enthusiasm and selfless volunteering have been truly remarkable, and she leaves behind enormous shoes to fill. On behalf of the entire Glen Hills community, thank you, Diana, for everything you have done for our school.

BIKEABILITY

We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 children, who had the fantastic opportunity to participate in Bikeability training earlier this year. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking to two wheels, but it wasn't just about learning to ride safely; the experience really challenged them to flex their character muscles. Throughout the sessions, the children had to demonstrate excellent listening to follow crucial safety instructions, outstanding focus while navigating different surroundings, and a whole lot of perseverance when tackling new and difficult skills. They represented the school brilliantly, showing true resilience and determination, and we hope they are enjoying putting their newfound cycling confidence to good use!

YEAR 5 VISIT SOUTH WIGSTON HIGH SCHOOL

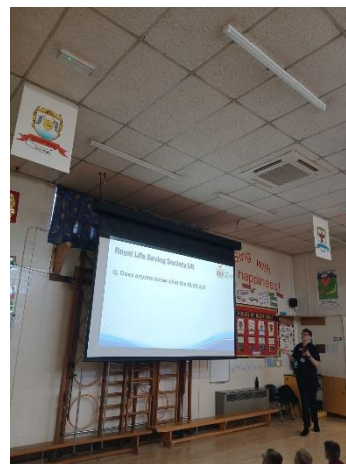
We are thrilled to share that our Year 5 children had a fantastic time participating in the South Wigston High School Sports Festival this term! The children thoroughly enjoyed their action-packed day of sport, throwing themselves into every activity with great



energy and enthusiasm. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to flex their Character Muscles, as the events required exceptional listening to understand new rules, true resilience when facing tough challenges and brilliant cooperation to work effectively as a team. They represented our school with wonderful sportsmanship and determination and we are incredibly proud of how well they supported one another throughout the day!

SCIENCE WEEK 2026

As part of Science Week this year, children were invited to take part in a poster competition based on the theme "**Curiosity: What's Your Question?**" We were delighted by the enthusiasm and creativity shown, and received some truly incredible entries from across the school. After careful judging, the winners for each age group were selected to go forward to the final Trust competition. Congratulations to **Hazel** (EYFS Winner), **Rufus** (Year 1 and KS1 Winner), **Sophie** (Year 4 and Lower KS2 Winner) and **Darcy** (Upper KS2 Winner). We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part and showcased their scientific curiosity so brilliantly.



WATER SAFETY

In June, our Infant children took part in a Water Safety Assembly delivered by Morgan from Everyone Active. The assembly provided lots of important information about how to stay safe around different types of water, including rivers, canals, lakes, ponds and the seaside. Children learned about potential dangers, how to recognise risks and what to do if they ever find themselves in an unsafe situation near water. The session was engaging and informative, helping to develop children's understanding of how to enjoy water safely while keeping themselves and others protected.

A VISIT FROM DENBRITE

We were delighted to welcome Anisha from Denbrite to school for a special assembly focused on dental health. Children in Years 1 to 3 learned all about the importance of looking after their teeth and how good oral hygiene can help keep their smiles healthy and bright. The session covered topics such as brushing teeth correctly, making healthy food and drink choices, and the importance of regular visits to the dentist. The children were engaged throughout and enjoyed learning practical tips to help them take care of their teeth every day.

HOUSE POINTS

The famous Glen Hills House Points competition has been as exciting as ever this year, with pupils working hard to earn points for their houses through excellent effort, behaviour and achievement. A huge thank you goes to our House Captains for their support, enthusiasm and leadership throughout the year. It has been an incredibly close contest between Cork, Glenville, West View and Howard, with each house showing fantastic team spirit. The final results are now in, and we are delighted to announce that **West View** are this year's House Points Champions with an impressive **14,808**. Congratulations to all members of the winning house, and well done to every pupil for contributing to such a competitive and successful year!



BOOK BAG DESIGN COMPETITION

There was an overwhelming response to our Book Bag Design Competition, with children across the school submitting an impressive range of creative and imaginative designs. The quality of the entries was exceptional and our Reading Ambassadors found it incredibly difficult to select their favourites from each class and year group.

The winners were announced during an assembly and we were delighted to see their winning designs professionally printed onto our new book bags.

At the start of the new academic year, each bag will be filled with a selection of carefully chosen, year-group-appropriate books. These book bags will then be circulated throughout the year groups, ensuring that children have regular access to a wide range of new, engaging and exciting texts. We hope this initiative will encourage reading for pleasure, inspire children to discover new authors and genres, and foster a lifelong love of reading.



SITE WORKS

This summer, we'll be carrying out some improvements around the school. In 4+ Yellow Class, this includes new toilet facilities and a refresh of the classroom to make it a brighter, more welcoming space for learning. Across the site, we'll also be replacing all wooden picket fencing with new green metal fencing to improve both the look and security of the school.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

We are committed to ensuring that every child achieves their very best. Regular attendance is essential in helping pupils reach their full potential, and it is something we monitor closely. Government guidance states that attendance should be above 96%, and as a school, we set a higher target of 97% to reflect our high expectations.

The importance of attendance cannot be overstated. Research shows that pupils who attend nearly every day in Year 6 are 30% more likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths than those who miss between 5–10% of school. Even small amounts of absence and lateness can have a significant impact on a child's progress and attainment.

Even a seemingly high attendance percentage can result in a considerable loss of learning over time:

Attendance %	Impact over 1 school year	Impact over 5 school years
100%	0 days missed	0 days missed
96%	8 days missed	¼ year learning lost
90%	19 days missed	½ year learning lost
85%	28 days missed	¾ year learning lost
80%	38 days missed	1 year learning lost
75%	47 days missed	1 ¼ years learning lost

Attending school every day, on time, is an expectation for all pupils, and we will closely monitor attendance to ensure every child is given the best opportunity to succeed.

SCHOOL DINNERS

From August, Relish have increased the cost of school dinners. The new price will be £3 per day, which totals £15 per week. We understand this increase is higher than in previous years.

Relish say the change reflects rising costs, including a significant increase in National Insurance contributions and the rising prices of ingredients. Despite this, we remain committed to providing high-quality, nutritious meals through our catering provider, Relish and we believe our school meals continue to offer excellent value for money.

We are pleased to see more pupils enjoying school dinners and making the most of the tasty and



healthy options available each day.

More children than ever are now entitled to receive Free School Meals (FSM).

From September 2026, the Government has expanded eligibility so that all children in households receiving Universal Credit can qualify for free school meals, regardless of household earnings. This change is expected to benefit hundreds of thousands of additional children across England.

Applying for FSM can provide much more than a free lunch. Eligibility can also help schools access additional funding to support children's learning and wellbeing through the Pupil Premium.

If your family receives Universal Credit, we strongly encourage you to apply as soon as possible. Even if you think you may not have qualified previously, the eligibility rules have changed and your child may now be entitled to support.

Don't miss out – apply today and ensure your child receives the support they are entitled to.

Complete the form on Weduc and the School Office will check your eligibility.

NAME CHANGES

We would like to share some happy personal news from our staff team. Following their recent marriages during this academic year, several members of staff will be changing their surnames within school moving forward. **Miss Walker**, who married in February, is now known as **Mrs Camp**. **Miss Smith**, who married in October, is now **Mrs Bolton**, and **Miss Kirkland**, who also married in October, is now **Mrs Kirkland-Brown**. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to them all.

YEAR 6 – TRANSITION WORKSHOP

We were pleased to welcome the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) into school to deliver a Year 6 Transition Wellbeing Workshop, supporting pupils as they prepare for the move to secondary school. The session provided valuable guidance on managing change and recognising emotions, helping children to understand what to do if they are feeling worried or unsure. Pupils explored the use of positive affirmations, discussed strategies for making new friends, and developed practical ways to build confidence in unfamiliar situations. It was a thoughtful and supportive workshop, equipping our Year 6 children with important skills to help them feel more prepared and positive about moving to secondary school.

ATHLETE VISIT

We were delighted to welcome Judoka Wesley Greenidge to our school for an exciting ActivKids Athlete Visit. The day was truly fantastic, with pupils enthusiastically taking part in a fun and energetic fitness circuit, followed by an inspiring assembly where Wesley shared his journey, challenges and achievements. His visit encouraged our children to think positively about health, resilience and staying active. We are incredibly proud to share that the children raised over £1,000. It was a memorable and motivating experience for everyone involved!

CONKERS

Year 6 pupils had a fantastic day during their Year 6 trip to Conkers. The pupils enjoyed a range of exciting outdoor activities. One highlight was the 'Bushcraft for Beginners' workshop, where children built shelters and even enjoyed toasting marshmallows together and developing practical skills while having lots of fun. They also took on the thrilling water assault course, which challenged them to use teamwork, reasoning and resilience to overcome obstacles. The trip was a brilliant opportunity for pupils to build confidence, support one another and enjoy learning beyond the classroom. A big thank you to our parent volunteers for their support in making the day such a success.

EYFS MET SOME ANIMALS!

The 4+ children had an exciting visit from John on 30th June from Animals for Parties. The children had great fun with this educational experience where they were given the opportunity to meet and learn about a wonderful variety of animals, including owls, guinea pigs, rabbits, snakes, tortoises, giant African snails, cockroaches, frogs, bearded dragons and many more!



The children thoroughly enjoyed the unique hands-on learning experience. It was a fantastic way to help develop the children's curiosity, confidence and understanding of the natural world. Many of them used their Route 2 Resilience Character Muscles with lots of Good Listening and Bravery!

YEAR 4 HAVE A VISITOR

On Wednesday 17th June, Year 4 were excited to spend the afternoon interviewing the Reverend Lacey from Blaby Church. Having thought of lots of questions beforehand we were able to find out lots of information about her life, work and role as the Vicar. We would like to say a huge thank you to The Reverend Lacey for generously giving us her time and for answering about 75 questions brilliantly for the children. Year 4 did us proud too by using lots of their Character Muscles being excellent listeners (focus), patient whilst waiting to ask a question (self-management) and super polite to our visitor as they always are!



EARTH DAY

On 22nd April, to celebrate Earth Day, we were pleased to welcome Vicky Brown from Leicester City Council to Glen Hills. Vicky delivered an informative and engaging whole-school assembly, explaining what Earth Day is, why it is important, and how we can all help to look after our planet. Following the assembly, she visited our 4+ Unit, where the children took part in a creative activity, making their own Earths using paper plates, blue and green paint, and cotton wool for the clouds. The activity helped to reinforce the children's understanding of caring for the environment, and they thoroughly enjoyed getting creative while celebrating Earth Day.

ROCKINGHAM CASTLE

Year 2 had a lovely day visiting Rockingham Castle in the beautiful warm weather. The children enjoyed exploring the castle and were able to recognise many of its features from their History lessons. They had great fun trying on the very heavy helmets and listened attentively to the guides, confidently answering lots of questions. One of the highlights of the day was climbing the spiral staircase to the top of the turret and taking in the fantastic views. The children showed off their focus and curiosity character muscles brilliantly! We all had a fantastic day.

CAREERS FAIR

We ran a new, exciting event last month, which was a Careers Fair for our oldest pupils. From builders, to nurses, to scientists, to a detective...there were many people for the children to speak to in order to find out about their jobs. The children asked thoughtful questions, showed interest when interacting with our visitors and were hopefully inspired for their own future careers! They were also praised for their good manners, demonstrating their RESPECT character muscle. Many thanks to all the wonderful parents and local businesses that gave up their time to make this possible. Your support was very much appreciated.

POLICY ASSEMBLY

Our annual Police Assembly took place recently, with a talk about how the police can help us from Youth Engagement PCSO Delia Farren. This linked nicely into our British Values work (rule of law). The children listened well and hopefully learnt some important information.

COLOURING COMPETITION

Thank you to all the children who participated in the Student Council's recent colouring competition. All entries were gratefully received and our SC representatives enjoyed looking through them all: it was



tough to judge! The money raised adds nicely to our pot for repairing the trim trail on the school field. **The winners are Aria in Year 3 (Phase 1 winner) and Nirmalya in Year 4 (Phase 2 winner) - congratulations both!** Your prizes will be making their way shortly to you if you have not already received them.

STUDENT JOBS THANKS

We would like to say a big thank you and well done to ALL our students who have led responsibilities this year.

Our Student Councillors have worked hard to attend regular meetings, raise awareness of the needs and requests of the children they represent and to organise an array of events across the year. They have raised money and held competitions for various causes, including school resources and equipment and the staff have been impressed with their hard work and dedication. The time, effort, and enthusiasm these children have shown have helped to create a positive school community and made a real difference. **So Tia, Khloe, Henry, Jorja, Iris, George, Mia, Dawid, Madeleine, Logan, Betsy, Philip, Faye and Sophie: thank you for your leadership, teamwork, and willingness to serve others.** We hope you've enjoyed the experience and responsibilities and that it will spur you on to even more exciting things in your futures! A special thanks should also be said to **Faye and her dad** for designing a lot of our Student Council event posters this year - thank you!

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all of our pupils who have taken on special responsibilities throughout the year. Our Eco Team has worked hard to promote sustainability and look after our environment, our Reading Ambassadors have inspired a love of reading across the school, and our Reading Buddies have shown kindness, patience, and encouragement while supporting younger readers. Your commitment, leadership, and positive attitudes have made a real difference to our school community. We are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved—thank you for all your hard work!

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY MASCOTS!

Our whole-school Design and Technology homework challenge was to design a mascot for the Football World Cup, and we were amazed by the creativity on display! Children used a wide range of materials and techniques, including sewing, cardboard and paper, to bring their ideas to life.

The finished mascots were colourful, imaginative and full of character. Many even included fantastic moving parts, showing great problem-solving and design skills. We were so impressed with the amazing designs and original creations. Well done, everyone!

GH SPORTS

It has been another fantastic few weeks for sport at Glen Hills! Our pupils produced an outstanding set of results at the Saffron Lane Athletics Competition, with our Year 6 team being crowned champions. Our Year 5 and Year 4 teams both achieved excellent second-place finishes, while our Year 3 team secured a brilliant third place. These are fantastic results, and we are incredibly proud of every pupil who represented the school with determination, teamwork and outstanding sportsmanship.

We also enjoyed a wonderful selection of GH Sports Days, with every house scoring over 1,000 points in a closely contested competition. It was fantastic to see so many pupils giving their all, encouraging one another and demonstrating our school values throughout the day.

Our Year 5/6 girls' football team also enjoyed a tremendous success by being crowned Wigston Champions. They then faced the Oadby champions, Woodland Grange, on Friday 3rd July, winning 3 – 0 and retaining the Oadby and Wigston title! Well done to the team! Incredible work!





To round off an exciting sporting period, a team of eight pupils travelled to Welford Road to compete in a Tag Rugby Festival. The children had an unforgettable experience playing on the famous Leicester Tigers pitch, showing great skill, resilience and teamwork while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

VICTORIAN DAY

Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic Victorian Day! The children experienced life in a Victorian schoolroom, lining up in boys' and girls' lines, having their nails inspected, standing behind their chairs, and even trying on a dunce's hat and backboard. They also played with Victorian toys and learned how clothes were washed using grated soap, a scrubbing board, and a dolly tub. The children were fascinated to learn about the harsh jobs Victorian children often did, including rat catching and collecting animal waste from the streets. It was a fun and memorable day of hands-on learning for everyone.



PARKING REMINDER

We have recently received concerns from local residents regarding parking on Featherby Drive and Southfield Close during school drop-off and pick-up times.

On several occasions, inconsiderate parking has made it difficult for residents, larger vehicles and delivery drivers to access the roads. Most importantly, blocked access could delay emergency services if they were ever needed, creating a serious safety risk.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to park considerately, avoid blocking driveways or narrowing the road, and, where possible, park a little further away and walk the remaining distance to school. Your cooperation helps to keep our local community safe and ensures everyone can access their homes without difficulty. Thank you for your continued support and consideration.

A VISIT FROM 'READING DOG YOGI'!

Glen Hills were very lucky to have Sarah & Mandy come into school with their Reading Dog Yogi at the end of term. Yogi is a Bernese Mountain dog and likes to listen to children read and talk to him. The children who met him this time really enjoyed stroking him and talking to Sarah about Yogi.



YARN BOMB

The Yarn Bomb club have created their banner to be part of the Cosby Yarn Bomb this summer. It will be displayed alongside the brook on the white railings. The children worked very hard to create their own designs and stitch them on. Well done everyone!





We look forward to seeing the children back at Glen Hills on Monday 24th August 2026. Have a lovely break.

Thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Wesley
Head Teacher

Mrs Bolton
Deputy Head

Ms. Variava
Assistant Head

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS FROM OUR GOVERNING BODY

As we come to the end of another academic year, we as a governing body, take the time to reflect on how we have made a difference this past year and have provided a short summary for you to understand the role we perform at Glen Hills.

What were our goals?

Our goal as always remains threefold:

- firstly, to **challenge** the senior leadership team, where appropriate, and hold them to account for the educational performance of our pupils;
- secondly, to **analyse the finances** in detail to ensure all decisions are made within budget and for the benefit of our pupils; and
- lastly, to contribute and work with the senior leaders to **set clear aims** and a strategy for the school.

How have we achieved our goals this year?

- Firstly, we have carried out **governor monitoring visits** in Maths, Reading, History, Phonics, Special Educational Needs, Wellbeing, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Pupil Premium. These visits involve observing lessons, looking at pupils' books, speaking with members of staff and, most importantly, speaking with our wonderful pupils.
- Secondly, it is no secret that schools are struggling more than ever with a lack of funding so all **financial decisions have been scrutinised**. Our Finance Governor has met regularly with our new School Business Manager, who works with the Headteacher, to ensure money is being well spent.
- We have had a specific focus this year on the **wellbeing and mental health** of our pupils and staff. Our wellbeing governor has worked with staff to ensure the school's commitment to promoting a mentally healthy environment is being backed up through action.
- The governors have had a **presence at many school events** throughout the academic year including parents' evenings, school fete, open evenings to name but a few and the highlight of the year is always the Governor Awards assembly. In this assembly awards are presented to the pupils who have achieved the greatest progress in Maths, Reading and Writing in each class. We also then present some special Year 6 awards to pupils who have thrived in particular subject areas and overall academic excellence in their time at Glen Hills. Well done to all our winners this year!

I would like to thank my fellow governors who all give up their valuable free time in this voluntary role and work hard and passionately to ensure the pupils receive the best education possible. You are all so committed and superb to work alongside – Jon Sutcliffe, Alison Johnson, Rory James, Rebecca Dempsey, Diana Tse, Kris Mac Mahon, Mrs Wesley, Mrs Bolton, Ms. Variava and our new addition this



year, Jenni Voss, who has been warmly welcomed.

As a governing body, we would like to thank our senior leaders, teachers, staff, parents, guardians and our children for all their hard work and using their Character Muscles continually throughout the year.

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

Best wishes
Caroline Smith
Chair of Governors