



# Glen Hills Primary School

Home of the Symphony Learning Trust

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Head Teacher: Mrs R Wesley  
Deputy Heads: Miss A Smith  
Assistant Heads: Mrs L Onions & Ms. Variava

## OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

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Dear Parents/Carers,

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

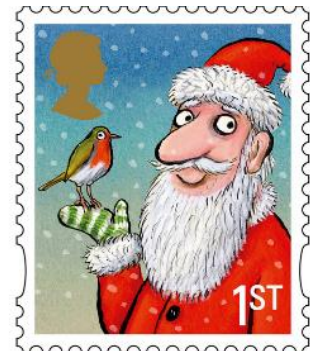
This year, Relish will be providing a fantastic Christmas Dinner (complemented by a vegetarian alternative) on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. **A deadline for ordering will be shared via SchoolPing soon.** Unfortunately, any child that has not had Christmas Dinner ordered for them will need to please bring a packed lunch to school on this day. They will not be able to order them on the day.



### SCHOOL POST BOX

The Christmas Post Box is up and running officially from Monday 2nd 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 18<sup>th</sup> December** to allow for them all to be handed out before the end of term.



### CHANGE AND CHECK CAMPAIGN 2024

This year the Change and Check choir have teamed up with the amazing Marti Pellow to re-release the iconic song 'Love Is All Around' on its 30th anniversary. We are really proud of our teacher Mrs Linford who sings in this choir.

The aim of this campaign is always to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer and to teach people the importance of checking themselves and knowing their norms. All net proceeds from the single will go directly to Future Dreams charity and specifically towards secondary breast cancer research. If you would like more information, please see the link below.

[https://slinky.to/LovelsAllAround?fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAab\\_8g0UVa1Akl5FgdxR9BGidl\\_oQQBI2Dx\\_s-UNCoJyJvzxVW2Ez47a5os\\_aem\\_aUxa2wbCYmyRTFhaSk\\_Dhg](https://slinky.to/LovelsAllAround?fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAab_8g0UVa1Akl5FgdxR9BGidl_oQQBI2Dx_s-UNCoJyJvzxVW2Ez47a5os_aem_aUxa2wbCYmyRTFhaSk_Dhg)

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## YEAR 6 VISIT ABBEY PUMPING STATION



On Tuesday 29th October, Year 6 visited the Abbey Pumping Station in Leicester. They visited as part of their work on Victorians to see one of the remaining Victorian buildings in the city. They spent some time looking at the amazing building, beam engine and museum. They played with some Victorian games, investigated friction for their Science work and took their sketch books and were artists as they sketched patterns they could see in the engines. They were superbly behaved and very engaged in all they saw. A great day!



## TABLE TENNIS FINALISTS – GO GH!

Glen Hills got through to the South Leicestershire finals of table tennis in October. The team of Jude M, Jude S, Tyrese, Toby and Sasilca played brilliantly as they went through a series of matches against other schools who had also reached this round. They got through to the final finishing 3rd overall. A great achievement - well done!



## SHAPE SPRINT – WHOLE SCHOOL HOMEWORK

Well done to all those who took the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the last of the sun and search for shapes around Glen Parva. There were lots of correct entries. Well done to Issac in 6EC and Lennox in 1HW who won the prize of a calculator and to all the others who received house points.

## ESTIMATE THE WEIGHT OF THE PUMPKIN

All the children in Glen Hills had the opportunity to estimate the weight of a pumpkin in the run up to Halloween. In a competition run by some of our House Captains, two pumpkins made their way around the school together with some weights for the children to hold and make their estimate. The closest estimates won the pumpkins to take home for Halloween.

Congratulations to:

Veronika in Year 6 and Antonia in Year 1 who got closest to the actual weights with their estimates. Super Maths girls!



## INTRODUCING OUR HOUSE CAPTAINS

We have 2 House Captains who are chosen in Year 6 to represent each house. This year they are:

Sadie and Harley - Howard  
Finlay and Alice - Westview  
Alexa and Jude H - Glenville  
Hana and Grayson - Cork

They have already done a brilliant job helping with the Macmillan coffee morning, running competitions and loading the bus for Age Concern with the Harvest donations and will continue to support the school throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who organised and supported these events recently. The school raised £308.24 during the coffee morning alone! Our Macmillan coffee morning was a great success. Thank you so much to all those that attended this event. The children really enjoyed hosting the morning and there was a great atmosphere in the hall.





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## SICKNESS

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

## FIRST TIME ADMISSIONS TO OUR 4+

If you have a child who was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 (inclusive) and have not already applied online for a place at Glen Hills for them, you **MUST DO SO BY JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup> 2025**. In previous years, 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 wanting to start here in September who won't receive this newsletter, please let them know.

## 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 may 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 **check our social media pages/SchoolPing**. **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.



## 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.**

## 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.

## PHONICS WORKSHOPS

Thank you to so many for attending the recent Parents' Phonics Workshops. We were thrilled by the turnout and for the positive comments from those who attended.

For more information on how Phonics is taught at Glen Hills, and how you can support your child at home, please use this link

<https://www.glenhillsprimary.co.uk/our-curriculum/curriculum-by-subject/phonics/>

where you will find the following information:

- Phonics Knowledge Organisers
- Little Wandle for parents link (very useful videos of children pronouncing pure sounds)
- YouTube links for full Little Wandle Phonics lessons
- Budget friendly activities/games for home.



## 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. We have numerous complaints around Cork Lane in particular with pushchairs having to move onto the road due to how some cars are parked. In addition to this, cars are double





parking which makes it dangerous for other vehicles, including emergency vehicles to pass. **Please support school by considering the neighbours around our local community.**

### **CHRISTMAS CARD ART COMPETITION**

Children in Phase 2 have been busy designing Christmas cards for a competition. Thank you to everyone who entered and to Miss Bretherton for her organisation of this event. We had some wonderful designs!

Congratulations go to:

Tia and Kitai in Year 5 who were our runners up.  
Mia in Year 4 who created the winning entry.

Our winning design has been entered into a competition to design our local MP Alberto Costa's 2024 Christmas card. Good luck!

### **UNIFORM**

Can we remind parents/carers of our uniform requirements (the following information has been taken from our school website). A number of children and homes are being spoken to currently about school uniform. At Glen Hills, we are proud of our distinctive school uniform. We fully expect all pupils to wear the Glen Hills uniform which is available to buy from : [www.uniform-direct.com](http://www.uniform-direct.com) or from the Uniform Direct store (54-56 Humberstone Gate, Leicester, LE1 3PJ), alternatively please feel free to look through out pre-loved uniform. All items are washed and available to purchase for £1 an item.

#### **Winter - Boys**

School sweatshirt or jumper (school coloured sweatshirts or jumpers without the Glen Hills logo are acceptable)

School white / maroon polo shirt or white shirt.

Grey trousers

Year 5 and 6 boys may wear the school tie (optional)

#### **Winter - Girls:**

School sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan (school coloured sweatshirts or jumpers without the Glen Hills logo are acceptable)

School white / maroon polo shirt or white shirt.

Grey skirt or trousers

Year 5 and 6 girls may wear the school tie (optional)

#### **Uniform – Whole school**

Shoes should be comfortable and safe. It is dangerous for children to wear shoes with high heels or platforms.

Children in years 1-5 should bring a change of footwear for outdoor play in order to maintain the interior of the school. Slippers or plimsolls are acceptable but large 'fluffy' slippers should not be worn as these may pose a health and safety issue if the school needs to be evacuated quickly.

Children should bring coats in inclement weather.

All uniform should be clearly labelled with the child's name. The school cannot accept responsibility for any lost items.





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## PE Kit

Pupils should wear black shorts, black leggings or black tracksuit bottoms.

A white t-shirt should be worn with with a plain jumper or hoodie, without a slogan, if needed.

Trainers should be comfortable and supportive for outdoor PE sessions, whilst plimsolls or bare feet should be worn for sessions indoors.

## Jewellery:

Pupils are allowed to wear stud earrings but we ask that they are removed for swimming and PE sessions.

Bangles can be worn for medical or religious reasons only. Teachers will not take responsibility for jewellery.

Watches are permitted to be worn, but SMART watches with the ability to take photographs, play games or send and receive messages are not allowed in school.

## General Appearance:

Children must not wear nail varnish, make up or any stick on tattoos.

Hair styles must be of a traditional/cultural style.

**We thank you in advance for your support in upholding our GH uniform standards.**

## SCHOOL GROUNDS

We have recently taken on team of volunteers from Leicestershire Community Payback who will be coming in on a regular basis during school holidays to help tidy the grounds of the school. They got off to a great start over October half term and already the school is looking less overgrown! Here are some photos for you to enjoy.





### DHOL DRUMS!

As a continuation of our Global Language Day, many thanks to Gurj Singh, a parent, who came into play his dhol drums. The children were very excited and asked lots of interesting questions. It was a real treat!



### YEAR 5 WALK

Year 5 enjoyed an exciting local area walk before half term, where they applied their classroom learning to identify key features of the local river. The children explored the surrounding landscape, observing various wildlife, including a frog that was expertly rescued by Ms. Variava! The adventure continued with a visit to the local coffee shop, Jennos, where the children put their maths skills to the test, calculating how much they could spend and the change they would receive. It was a fantastic day filled with learning and fun!

### WORLD WAR II DAY

On Friday 4th October, Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed our World War Two Day experience with Neil Hunt. The children all looked amazing in their costumes and outfits. They asked Neil superb questions about the many different artefacts and original memorabilia from the 1930's and 1940's that they were able to see, handle and learn about! Activities included looking at, and going inside the Anderson Shelter in the school garden, exploring a real life sized Morrison Shelter, using a stirrup pump to put out pretend fires and completing drills just like the soldiers would have!

We learned lots of information about Life on the HomeFront in Leicestershire and Coventry and what it was like to be an Air Raid Precautions Warden during the Blitz. We also got to look at many of the different artefacts and weapons used by both English and German Soldiers during the war.

The day is always such an invaluable part of our History topic and enables the children to gain such a wealth of experience and knowledge which enriches their learning and empathy. We are very proud of them all and so grateful to Neil for always making the day so exciting, fun and interesting for us all.



### BOOK FAIR SUCCESS

Many thanks to everyone for coming to our Book Fair at the end of last half term. We have been bowled over by your support, the children's excitement to get their hands on a new book (or more!) and the funds we have raised.

To help build up more anticipation, each year group ran a competition in order to win a £5 voucher to spend at the fair. Our lucky winners were Iroh (EYFS), Villay (Year 1), James (Year 2), Seb (Year 3), Aanya (Year 4), Kitai (Year 5) and Justina (Year 6). Well done to all!

As a result of your generous spending, the school has now received over **£1,800** to spend on books! Teachers will be using this money to help keep our classroom, corridor and library stocks up-to-date over the coming year. A big thanks goes to all the governors and staff who volunteered to run the stall and we hope the children have been enjoying their purchases.





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A special mention also goes to Nia in Year 5 for donating a copy of A.F Steadman's 'Skandar and the Unicorn Thief' to the Year 5 classrooms. She was able to do this through our 'Direct Donations'. What a kind thing to do!

A massive thank you, once again ... and keep enjoying reading everyone! Miss Owczarek

**CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (further information will follow)**

<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	PSA Christmas Shopping Night – 5.30pm – 8.30pm
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	KS1 Performance to parents/carers 6pm
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS1 Performance to playgroups and grandparents (am)
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS1 Performance to parents/carers 6pm
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Dinner
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	4+ Performance to parents/carers 9.30am
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	4+ Performance to pre school (9.30am)
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	PSA Christmas Discos (4+ to year 6)
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	No swimming for Year 4
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Year 1 party (am)
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Year 3 party (pm)
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS2 Carol Concert 6.30pm
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Individual violin lesson performance to parents (am)
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Year 2 and Year 4 parties (pm)
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	4+ party (am)
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Year 6 and Year 5 parties (pm)

**HARVEST ASSEMBLY**

On October 17th we enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Assembly. Each year group performed to the school with songs, poems, prayers and facts about food and water. This helped us to reflect about how lucky we are to have food and water readily available. Nikky from Age UK joined us and thanked us for our generous donations. She told where the food goes and how grateful the recipients are. Thank you so much for all your food donations and beautifully decorated boxes.



**CLUBS RUNNING AT THE MOMENT:**

Year 5/6 Boys football and Year 5/6 Girls football  
Year 3/4 basketball with the Leicester Riders  
Year 5/6 Hockey with Leicestershire hockey team  
Year 3/4/5/6 Cross Country with Miss Orme  
Year 1-6 multi sports with Football and Fitness  
Year 1-6 Cootball with Football and Fitness  
Year 4-6 Tag Rugby with Football and Fitness  
Year 2 Mini Master Chef Club  
Year 2 Sewing  
Year 1/2 Sing Song club  
Juniors Library Crew  
Junior Sewing Club  
Year 5 Cooking Club  
Year 6 Card Games Club



## SPORTS UPDATES FROM MR BOLSOVER

### Year 5/6 table tennis boys and girls teams

The boys came second on the area competition and got to represent Oadby and Wigston in the Leicestershire and Rutland finals at Leicester Grammar School. They came 5th overall in the competition. Well done for all their super efforts.

Our boys Football team have also played two league matches so far this term .....and won both! Wow – what a great start! We won 7-1 against Parklands and 5-1 against Water Leys.

Glen Hills play Fleckney Primary in the famous Rice Bowl first round on Friday 15th November – please wish our team luck. The girls should be playing their first game next week too if Thythorn confirm with us. We will let you know how our teams get on in the next Newsletter.

Our pupils have been busy upskilling and training this term also! Two Year 6 girls and boys have completed Sports Ambassador training and fifteen Year 5/6 pupils have completed sports leaders training – and will be supporting Mr Bolsover in all things sports related this year.

Year 6 have been trialling a fitness morning every Friday from 8:45am - 9:05am when all children (and staff!) complete a circuit of skipping, walking and circuit training. We do this before the day to see if it impacts our concentration in lessons. It's going well and we think it's helping a lot.

Finally, the staff have been competing in Steptober! This is a challenge to walk as many steps as they can in October. We are competing against other schools in the area. We will let you know how the staff get on!

## HOLIDAY DATES

May we remind you that we close for Christmas on the **evening of Friday 20th December 2024**. Children will return on **Monday 6th January 2025**.

**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





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