



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 - Spring

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Kaur, Mr Whitworth and Mrs Martin, who are joining our support staff team. They will be working across the school delivering a range of interventions to support our children's learning and progress. We are also delighted to welcome back Miss Owczarek and Miss Robinson, who return after the Easter break following their maternity leave.

At the same time, we say a fond farewell to Miss Neale, who has taught in Year 4 since this time last year. We thank her for her contribution to the school – especially all her hard work with our Student Council and wish her all the very best for the future. We also say goodbye to Mr Iliffe, who has been a valued member of our HLTA team. Both children and staff will miss him, and we thank him for all of his hard work and dedication during his time with us.

STRING CONCERT

The school hall was filled with music and festive spirit in December as our talented string students from years 3-6 took to the stage for a wonderful performance. Our violinists and cellists performed an impressive range of group pieces, duets and solos, showcasing both their dedication and the excellent progress they have made throughout the term. It was a joy to see their confidence and musicality shine through in each performance. A heartfelt thank you goes to Miss Massey for her hard work, guidance, and commitment in preparing the students for such an enjoyable and successful event.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken part in our recent fundraising activities. Whether you supported **Crazy Hair Day**, **Christmas Jumper Day**, or our **"Guess the Sweets in the Jar"** competition, your support and the children's enthusiasm have been greatly appreciated. Everyone involved has had lots of fun taking part.

The money raised from these events is helping us work towards an **upgraded adventure trail on the school field**. By getting involved and supporting these activities, you are helping the children move one step closer to making this exciting improvement a reality.

As we approach Easter, we are excited to be hosting an **Easter Egg Raffle**. Children who purchase raffle tickets will be in with the chance to win lots of delicious Easter goodies. We hope to see lots of people getting involved and helping us spread some Easter cheer!





Education today for tomorrow...

Thank you for your continued support. Student Council

LEGO SETS



Do you have any small Lego sets that are no longer played with at home? They are a much-needed resource for our social skills groups at school. We run multiple Lego groups in various year groups, so we would really appreciate any donations of Lego to help this to continue. Please send anything you can spare to the school office. Thank you.

YEAR 6 SATS

Year 6 will be sitting their Key Stage 2 SATs on Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026. To help our pupils feel calm, confident and ready for the day, we will be offering a free (PSA funded!) breakfast each morning in the school hall before the tests begin. In the lead up to SATs week, it is really important that children get plenty of sleep and enjoy a calm, restful weekend beforehand so they come to school feeling refreshed and ready to do their best.

YEAR 4 TRIP TO THE MANDIR

Earlier this term Year 4 had a very enjoyable morning taking part in our annual visit to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Leicester. One of our RE topics in Year 4 is 'Hinduism' and the children had a great time seeing the Murtis (statues) of Gods and Goddesses they have learned all about at school. It was a fantastic opportunity to also see some of the shrines, learn different creation stories and see lots of artefacts that bring to life our learning! The children also got to learn about, and see, how the temple was built and admire the architecture and beauty of the building itself. As usual all pupils who attended were superstars and did us proud, showing lots of their character muscles whilst on the visit. They were respectful at all times, polite, asked thoughtful, considered questions and were superbly behaved to the point where staff at the Mandir remarked on their outstanding behaviour in representing our school.



HISTORY DAY

The 'Up and At Em' Team visited Glen Hills again just before half term for our exciting History Day all about 'World War I'. The children took part in 4 different activities throughout the day looking at Soldiers at war, Girls at war, First Aid on the Frontline, and Joining up in the Army. The History Day was as always, a truly memorable day for the children and was enjoyed by all. We saw lots of incredible outfits as lots of children dressed up too! Thank you to all the parents and carers for supporting us with making these exciting and valuable days happen.

YEAR 2 VISITED LEICESTER SYNAGOGUE

Before half term, the Year 2 children had the chance to visit Leicester Synagogue as part of our RE work on Judaism. When we arrived at the synagogue, we separated into our classes and took part in two different activities. Firstly, we went into the classroom upstairs and spent some time looking at Jewish artefacts including a menorah and dreidels. We asked our guides lots of great questions and we really showed off all of our knowledge about Judaism. Next, we went into the Synagogue to have a look around. We learnt that during the service men and women don't sit together, we had a look at Hebrew writing, we counted all the stars of David that decorated the synagogue and we had a look at the Ark where the Torah is kept. The children really showed off their character muscles of respect, focus and listening. Well done Year 2, you did Glen Hills proud – the Year 2 team.





SPORTS UPDATE

It has been another busy and exciting time for sport in school. Our **Year 5/6 Girls' and Mixed Football Teams** have two matches each coming up over the next three weeks, and we look forward to seeing how they perform.

Recently, we played **Waterleys Primary School** in a closely contested match. Despite a strong effort from our team, we were narrowly defeated **2-1**. A special well done goes to **Jack and Charlie in Year 6**, who were both representing the school for the first time and played extremely well.



We have also recently held **NFL trials** to select the pupils who will represent the school in the upcoming competition. Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the trials.

In addition, several of our pupils had the fantastic opportunity to represent **Oadby and Wigston** at the **Leicestershire and Rutland Cross-Country Championships at Rutland Water**. This was a brilliant achievement, and we are very proud of their effort and determination.

Well done to all pupils who continue to represent the school with enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT – THANK YOU

We have been very fortunate to receive amazing support from members of our local community.

A huge thank you to **Lee Gamble**, a fantastic volunteer who kindly donated his time and expertise to repair the slide steps in our 4+ area. We are also extremely grateful to **Jewson's** in South Wigston, who generously provided all the materials needed for the repair. Thanks to their help, the slide is now fully back in action and the children are absolutely loving it!

We would also like to say a big thank you to **Sam Metcalf** (Tree Surgeon & Landscaping Services) for donating bark chippings to improve our flower beds and help prevent weeds from growing through. This has made a real difference to the appearance of our outdoor areas.

In addition, **M Lambe Construction** has very kindly donated topsoil for our field and planters, helping us continue to improve our outdoor learning spaces.

We are so grateful for the generosity of everyone who has supported us. Thank you for recommending and helping us connect with people who can make such a positive impact on our school community.

SAFER INTERNET DAY



On Tuesday 10th February, children in school were treated to some 'live' lessons from TechWeCan. We were learning about how technology helps keep us safe online; why privacy settings, safer search engines and parental controls matter; how reporting and blocking tools work — and when to use them; and what

to do if something online doesn't feel right. Then the children spent some time considering computing based jobs for the future and safe use of AI.

The children enjoyed the day of activities and learning.



GURDWARA VISIT – YEAR 3

Year 3 have been learning about Sikhism in their R.E lessons and were lucky to go on a trip to visit the Gurdwara, which is the Sikh place of worship. They were able to look around and see many special artefacts and learnt how they worship in the Sikh religion. The children really enjoyed the trip and even received Langar where they got to eat chips and beans!



WELLBEING AMBASSADORS

Our dedicated Well-Being Ambassadors recently attended a network event designed to enhance their skills and understanding in their vital roles. This event provided an excellent opportunity for our ambassadors to engage in collaborative learning, share effective strategies, and refine their action plans. They had the chance to discuss their experiences and gain insights from peers across other schools. Our Well-Being Ambassadors were encouraged to share their own experiences and successes, creating a vibrant exchange of ideas. This sharing of best practices is invaluable, as it allows our ambassadors to learn from one another and adapt successful strategies for our own school community.



This network event coincided with Children's Mental Health Week, they took part in a workshop, where they were able to collaboratively think about our theme of 'This is my place'.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

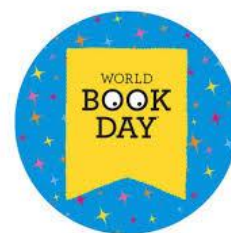


We were thrilled to have so many wonderful homework pieces linked to our Children's Mental Health week, thank you to everyone who completed this and a huge well done for all your hard work. We have been able to display some of these in school so keep your eyes peeled the next time you are visiting!

WORLD BOOK DAY

This year's World Book Day was a great success. Children and staff looked great in their costumes and very comfy in their pyjamas. There were lots of great activities. 4+ went on a scavenger hunt around school, following story related clues to find the treasure. Year 3 did some beautiful design work for a poem that they studied. Other year groups designed front covers, wrote book reviews, designed their own comic book strip and took part in live lessons. The children also had the opportunity to read with younger/older children which is always a lovely thing for the children to get to do.





FIRST AID TRAINING FOR YEAR 6



Year 6 pupils were lucky enough to receive first aid training from Mini Medics In January. The children got hands-on experience practising CPR, recovery position and what to do when someone is choking. The children also practised how to apply bandages. Having the opportunity to learn these skills is invaluable and the children really enjoyed the session.

SEA ADVENTURERS AND LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE SERVICE

We always enjoy welcoming people into school from the wider community. Recently, our Phase 2 children had an assembly from the Sea Adventurers, a new initiative for children aged 9 upwards. Similar to sea-cadets, they meet weekly, Fridays 16.30-18.00 at Eyres Monsell Community Centre, incorporating team building and confidence building activities into a fun session. They also go boating a few times a year. The children listened well and asked interested questions.

Also, Our Year 1 and 5 children enjoyed their annual visit from Leicestershire Fire Service. They learnt about both fire prevention and what to do if there was a fire, with Year 1s practising their Stop, Drop and Roll techniques. It is an important part of our curriculum and we are very grateful for their expertise.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB

The KS2 Arts and Crafts club held an Easter Treats Sale on Monday 23rd March to raise money for extra art resources at Glen Hills. They have been working hard creating beautiful decorations for the chocolate and sweets. Thank you to all those who supported this.

ECO-WARRIORS BATTERY COLLECTION

Glen Hills Primary School now recycles the batteries that are used in school to help make our school more eco-friendly. Instead of throwing old batteries away, they are collected and sent to be recycled safely. This helps to reduce waste and protects the environment from harmful chemicals that batteries can contain. By recycling batteries, our school is helping to care for the planet and encouraging everyone to make greener choices. ♻️ 🔋





OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Our school is part of **Operation Encompass**, a national initiative that supports children who may have been affected by domestic abuse. Through this partnership, the police should inform the school, before the start of the next school day, if a child has been present at, or affected by, a domestic incident. This allows our trained staff to provide immediate support, care and understanding for the child while they are in school. Operation Encompass helps us ensure that children feel safe, supported and ready to learn.

VIOLIN EXAMS

A massive congratulations to the following children on their violin results – Miss Massey and the school are very proud of your achievements!

Pass - Minori and Jagoda

Merit – Madeleine, Matthew, Howard and Mia.

Distinction - Darcy and Faye



GIRLGUIDING IN GLEN PARVA

The local Rainbows, Brownies and Guides groups in Glen Parva currently have spaces available and are welcoming new members.

Girlguiding offers girls the opportunity to take part in a wide range of fun and engaging activities, both indoors and outdoors. These experiences are designed to help build confidence, develop important life skills and encourage teamwork and independence.

Meetings take place on Monday evenings in Glen Parva:

- **Rainbows** (ages 4–7)
- **Brownies** (ages 7–10)
- **Guides** (ages 10–14)

If you would like your child to get involved, you can find more information and register your interest via the Girlguiding website: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

PARKING OPTIONS

We kindly remind all parents and carers to park considerately when dropping off and collecting children. Polite and safe parking helps keep our school community safe and ensures good relationships with our neighbours. The yellow zigzags outside of school should be kept clear at all times and not used for dropping off. Please remember that the Library Car Park/Memorial Car Park are available for families to use if needed—these are convenient options that help reduce congestion around the school gates. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

SNACKS

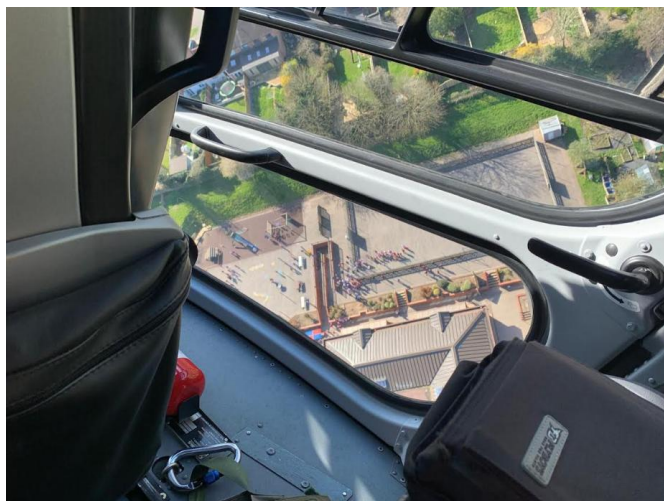
A reminder to parents that breaktime snacks should be healthy. Please do not send sharing-sized bags of crisps or bags of sweets into school. Healthier options such as fresh fruit, vegetable sticks, cheese, yoghurt, or a small cereal bar are great choices for breaktime and help children stay energised and ready to learn for the rest of the day. Thank you for your support in promoting healthy habits in school.





HELICOPTER EXCITEMENT!

The children and staff were treated to a very special surprise on 18th March, when a helicopter flew over the school for an exciting fly-by! This fantastic moment was kindly arranged by Mrs Wesley, whose nephew-in-law was flying over the area and agreed to make a special loop just for us to watch. As the helicopter circled above, it created a real buzz of excitement across the playground. It was a memorable experience for all and certainly brought plenty of smiles and waving hands. A big thank you to Mrs Wesley for organising such a fun and unique event!



ATTENDANCE AT GH

Regular school attendance plays a vital role in a child’s learning, development, and overall success. In primary school, every day counts as children build essential skills in reading, writing, maths, and social interaction. Consistent attendance helps pupils stay on track with lessons, develop positive routines, and build strong relationships with their teachers and classmates. Missing school can lead to gaps in learning, making it harder for children to keep up and feel confident in their abilities. By ensuring children attend school regularly and arrive on time, parents and carers give them the best possible foundation for both academic achievement and lifelong learning habits.

Even when attendance appears high, small amounts of absence can add up to a significant amount of lost learning over time. We would also like to remind families that term time holidays have a significant impact on children’s learning. Missing several consecutive days means essential curriculum content is lost and cannot be fully revisited later. In addition, fixed penalty fines issued for unauthorised term time holidays can add extra cost on top of holiday expenses.

The following figures show the impact of absence:

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

THANKS TO THE PSA

We would like to say thank you to our wonderful PSA for organising such fabulous events this term. Highlights like the Mother’s Day Room, where children could choose special gifts for their loved ones, brought so much joy and excitement to the school.





SPRING TERM CLUBS

We are incredibly proud of the wide range of enrichment opportunities available to our pupils this term, providing something for every interest and age group. From energetic activities such as Gymnastics, Basketball with the Leicester Riders, our exciting Year 6 NFL programme, to creative and expressive experiences like Sing Song Club, Arts and Crafts, Cooking and Art in Maths, pupils have been able to develop new skills and discover hidden talents. Our younger children have also benefited from engaging clubs such as Games Club with Mrs Swirls and Gymnastics, while older pupils have explored their curiosity through Coding Club and our inspiring David Attenborough-themed sessions. These opportunities not only promote physical health and creativity but also build confidence, teamwork and a love of learning beyond the classroom.

We are excited to introduce more new opportunities next term like our Forest Schools Club.

TERM DATES

Term dates can be found on the school website.



Summer Term
Children will start back on Monday 13th April 2026
May Day Bank Holiday will be on Monday 4th May 2026
Half term will be Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026
School will break up for the Summer break on Tuesday 7th July 2026
2026 - 2027
Autumn Term
Children will start back on Monday 24th August 2026
October half term will be Monday 19th - Friday 23rd October 2026
Schools break up for Christmas on Friday 18th December 2026

We hope that you all have a lovely Easter break from Friday 27th March and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 13th April 2026.

Thanks for your continued support,

[Signature of Mrs Wesley]

Mrs Wesley
Head Teacher

[Signature of Mrs Bolton]

Mrs Bolton
Deputy Head

[Signature of Ms. Variava]

Ms. Variava
Assistant Head