



Summer Term 2017

26th May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have long since lost count of the number of newsletters I have written since I became Head here but I am now writing my last one with sadness at leaving the school but also excitement about the future, both for myself, and also for the school, with the developing links with Rutland Learning Trust that I strongly believe will enable the school to continue to grow and thrive in the changing educational climate.

I could not be happier to be leaving the school in Lou Coulthard's very capable hands as I know she shares my passion for an exciting, creative curriculum with children always at the heart. She has been a fantastic support throughout my 'second headship' here and I know she will do a brilliant job as Head. Our staff team are hard working and dedicated - they have always given me 100% support, whatever I have asked them to do! I would like to say a huge thank you to them for making my time here so positive and a special thanks to Joanna in the office for being my rock, since January 2004 when I had the pleasure of appointing her. Her tolerance, common sense and general wonderfulness is greatly appreciated by all!

Whilst I am moving forward, doing a range of consultancy jobs from training future school leaders, to school improvement work and teacher training, I do not want to miss out on teaching which is my first love and so I will be back at Glapthorn a little over the next few weeks to provide some supply cover when teachers are out on courses etc. so it is not really goodbye!

However, I would like to take the time to celebrate some of things that make Glapthorn School so special. Children are at school to learn to read, write and become mathematicians, amongst other things, but there is no reason that this needs to be boring, worksheet based or aimless. I am very proud of the rich, broad, balanced curriculum that we offer our pupils and the wide range of extra-curricular provision, including residential visits, trips and clubs that I know is not the norm in all primary schools. The quality of reading throughout the school has increased significantly over the last couple of years to be outstanding and it is wonderful to see children in all the classes busy using their skills to write Shakespeare plays (Red Kites), research Earth to help those on the 'Space Station' (Nightingales), grow their own pizzas in our allotment (Barn Owls) and help Ethel the Elephant travel the world (Robins)! Our unique Learning Dinosaurs approach is a big part of what makes our pupils such great learners, showing resilience when things don't work out (e.g. Maypole dancing!) and persistence to continue, alongside outstanding behaviour. I will miss Glapthorn School greatly and most particularly, the children, who are why everyone on this staff team goes above and beyond the expectations of their job on a daily basis.

Very best wishes to all for the future,

Mrs Katherine Towns, Head

Red Kites' Residential to Ilam Hall!

Red Kites Class and our Nassington year five and six friends had a fantastic time at Ilam Hall last week. We worked with professional actors to develop our performance skills, focussing on the works of Shakespeare. Red Kites are now true thespians and can reel off a few famous speeches from 'Macbeth', 'The Tempest', and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'! What a great way to kick start our Summer performance preparation!



May Fete!

We enjoyed a great afternoon at our recent May Fete, largely thanks to our fabulous FOGS team, whose hard work really paid off! A fabulous £1111.64 was raised, alongside a hugely enjoyable afternoon. Thank you to everyone, parents, FOGS, staff and children, who worked unbelievably hard to make it such a success.

The children all danced around the maypole and sang beautifully, before enjoying the many games and activities on offer throughout the afternoon.





Dates for the summer term

Wednesday 5th July at 6pm - Sports evening at Southwick playing field - all welcome

Monday 10th July at 2pm - Dress rehearsal 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' - We ask that babies and pre-schoolers are brought to this performance, rather than bringing them to the main performances, as it is a great experience for the pupils to get used to little ones crying, wriggling, talking etc. during the dress rehearsal but it is a shame if their hard work gets drowned out in the actual performances! (No tickets required for the dress rehearsal.)

Tuesday 11th July at 2pm - Whole school summer performance 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' - Tickets available nearer the time

Wednesday 12th July at 6pm - Whole school summer performance 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' - Tickets available nearer the time

Wednesday 19th July at 6pm - Leavers' service at Southwick Church

Friday 21st July at 2pm - Leavers' assembly at school

As you may have seen on Facebook, Mrs Tina Stone is leaving us on 16th June as she has had a very exciting job offer to run the pub in Southwick. Tina has worked here for many years and we will all miss her but wish her well with her new plans.

This means we have vacancies for a Breakfast Club Supervisor, Midday Meal Supervisor and Cleaner-in-Charge. These jobs could be done by separate people or done by one.

For more information and an application form, please see our school website

www.glaphornschool.org/vacancies.html

A big well done to our Year Two pupils, ably supported by Miss Vickers and Mrs Edwards, for completing the end of KS1 tests during May.

The results of the tests inform teacher assessment, enabling an overall level for each child in reading, writing and maths, which will be shared with parents in the end of year report in July.

Unfortunately Mad Science after school club has been cancelled due to lack of interest. We hope to run it again in the future. Please could the few people who did hand in registration forms and payments please collect them back from the School Office after half term.

Thank you so much to the parents who have returned guided reading permission slips to the school office. If you haven't yet returned it and are happy for your child to participate, please return it as soon as possible. Spare forms are available from the school office.

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Before you know it, it will be time to be relabelling school uniform prior to the new academic year in September! If uniform is named clearly (rather than in washed out biro), it is much more likely that it will make its way back to the owner when mislaid. The link above (that is also on the home page of our school website) takes you to a site that sells very easy to use labels that do not come off. The



There is no knitting club for the remainder of the summer term.

Week beginning 5 th June		
Monday 5 th June	Swimming Y1-4 Red Kites' visit to Cotterstock Church	Tennis Club
Tuesday 6 th June		Gymnastics club
Wednesday 7 th June	Women's Bike Tour through Glapthorn Strings tuition Running Club	
Thursday 8 th June	Gardening club Gifted and Talented Science Day for selected Y5/6 pupils at Oundle School	Change4Life club
Friday 9 th June	Mrs Taggart doing nursery visits for new starters Brass / Woodwind tuition French club Weaving Club 2.45 p.m. New Starters story time in Robins with Mrs Taggart	Striking and Fielding club
Sunday 11 th June	Cricket tournament 12.30pm-4pm for selected pupils at Oundle Cricket Club	
Week beginning 12 th June		
Monday 12 th June	Swimming Y1-4	Tennis Club
Tuesday 13 th June		Gymnastics club
Wednesday 14 th	Football coaching for all classes (Ensure PE kit and trainers are in school) Strings tuition Running Club	
Thursday 15 th June	Gardening club	Mini Tennis competition - more info to follow NO Change4Life club
Friday 16 th June	Brass / Woodwind tuition French club Weaving Club	Striking and Fielding club
Week beginning 19 th June		
Monday 19 th June	Swimming Y1-4	Tennis Club
Tuesday 20 th June		Gymnastics club
Wednesday 21 st June	Strings tuition Running Club	
Thursday 22 nd June	School Games Day (Ensure PE kit and trainers are in school) Gardening club	Change4Life club
Friday 23 rd June	Brass / Woodwind tuition French club Weaving Club	Striking and Fielding club