



Autumn Term 2016

Friday 30th September

Fortnightly Newsletter Issue 3
Glaphorn C. E. Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to say that after interviewing three very good candidates, we have appointed Dawn Oram to teach Robins class once Mrs Taggart goes on maternity leave. Dawn will be dropping in to see us before half term and the plan is that Mrs Taggart and Mrs Oram will team teach for the first week after half term, before Mrs Taggart officially starts her maternity leave, to give her lots of opportunity to get to know the children and their routines. Mrs Oram was 'the one with a bow in her hair' that was very popular with the children! She is greatly looking forward to joining our staff team and knows lots about small, village, church schools having been a governor at one for many years and having taught at one in her last job.

As a reminder, in the mornings doors open at 8.45 a.m. ready for the start of school at 9 a.m. This fifteen minutes is a time for you to come in and settle your children into school. It is also a good time to pass any urgent messages on to staff, including your child's class teacher. However, if you have anything you wish to discuss with your child's class teacher, please make an appointment to meet after school. Teachers are available most days after school, unless they have a staff meeting or after school club. This enables you to have a confidential conversation with our staff and also enables our staff to concentrate in the mornings on the vital task of settling children in ready for the day of learning ahead.

Teachers will settle children onto the carpet shortly before 9 a.m. ready for register and this is a signal that it is time for parents to leave. I apologise if in any way this seems unwelcoming because we have always had an open door policy but currently, some classes are finding it difficult to get into assembly on time. Any child arriving after 9 a.m. needs to go to the front door to be signed in by Mrs Sawyer and if they arrive after 9.05 a.m., they are marked into the register as late.

Finally, I am delighted that we have been awarded the Sports Gold Award for the second year running for our sports provision. A big thank you to all the staff who have given up a lot of their time to provide such a range of sports clubs, competitions and sports opportunities for our pupils. A huge well done to our amazing runners who impressed everyone at the Cluster Cross-Country competition on Tuesday afternoon. I am looking forward to giving out the certificates in assembly on Monday.

Katherine Towns, Head

P.S. A big, big thank you to Mr and Mrs Tadman who have worked miracles on our school allotment. When Gardening Club visited, they were amazed and said in awe, 'The fairies have been!'

A message from the new Chair of Governors

The Governing Body met on Monday for its first meeting of the new academic year and at that meeting I was elected to the Chair, a position that I am delighted to accept. I have many years of experience serving as a Governor including the last two as Vice-Chair and will already be a familiar face to many of you.

At the meeting we reviewed and agreed the committee structure for the Governing Body and continue to have Governors with special responsibility for the extremely important areas of Safeguarding, Health and Safety and SEN (Special Educational Needs).

All Governors have been assigned a Link Role, requiring each of us to visit School regularly to look at a designated area of the School Development Plan and to report our findings. Our newly agreed SDP has seven priorities; Effective Governance, Effective Subject Leadership Teams, Improved Standards in Maths, Improved Standards in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, Effective Assessment of and for Learning, Improved Cultural Understanding of Pupils, including re British Values, all feeding into the overall priority of Improved Pupil Outcomes.

New for this year is the creation of a Governor Action Plan. This will provide a framework for our work and ensure that we continue to fulfil all of our responsibilities and visit School regularly, getting to know the children and staff well and seeing the School in action.

As an active and effective Governing Body we are always seeking ways to engage with parents and carers and were delighted with the high level of returns to the recent questionnaire from which we are equally delighted to report overwhelmingly positive responses.

I will be ably supported in my role as Chair of Governors by Emma Stephens-Dunn, who continues as Vice-Chair, and a dedicated team of Governors and Staff and we look forward to working together for the continued success and improvement of the School.

With my best wishes to all for a happy and successful year,

Julia Hart

Travel Plan

Lots of parents completed our Travel Plan questionnaire last year and since then, we have introduced a mini Breakfast Club (from 8.30 a.m. drop off for 75p), the drop-off area in the layby and have our new, expanded car park so staff can park on the school site, freeing up more space outside school. I know several children also walk/scoot/cycle to school daily and it is good to see our bike rack regularly used. However, we know the situation is far from perfect so would appreciate your feedback on our annual Travel Plan which has been sent out via pupil mail (in bookbags) today.

Harvest Festival – St. Leonard's Church, Glaphorn – Parents invited

Our Harvest Festival will take place on Monday 17th October at 2.15 p.m. and we will be celebrating 'Harvest around the World'. A big thank you to Rev. Jema Ball for agreeing to lead the service. We will be holding our Harvest Day on that day where the children cook up a feast from our allotment produce and we hope to share some of our goodies with parents who come along to the Harvest Festival.

For the first time, our Harvest Festival is taking place in **St. Leonard's Church, Glaphorn** as there is more space for parents. We hope to hold our end of year Leavers' Service in St. Mary's Church, Southwick so we do not lose the links with Southwick but felt we had grown too big to comfortably fit into the church for whole school events any more.

If your child would like to bring tinned or packet goods to give as part of the service, they need to be able to carry them walking from school to the church. All goods will be donated to Corby foodbank.

Photos

Please do not take photos at school events as photos of children have appeared on social media sites without the permission of their parents.

As I have said previously, we have children in this school that do not have permission for their photos to be used for their own protection and in view of this, we need to say that no photos can be taken.

We will build in time at the end of big events, e.g. nativity, for parents to come and take photos of their child(ren) and we are also looking into taking official photos that can be made available after the event. If anyone would like to help with this, do speak to either myself or a member of FOGS.

Reminder:

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they need to remain off school for 24 hours after their last bout of illness. This is to prevent illnesses spreading.

Comments Box

A comments box is in the entrance area if you have any comments or ideas.

Dates for the Term

Harvest Day and Harvest Festival: Monday 17th October

Parent Evenings: Tues 18th October, 3.30-5.15 p.m. and Wed 19th October 5 - 7.15 p.m. **The booking slips have been sent home via pupil mail today.**

Rights of the Child Assembly - Friday 18th November, led by KS2 children. Parents invited.

Christmas Nativity Performance: Tues 13th December, 2 p.m. and Wed 14th December, 6 p.m. (Dress Rehearsal 12th December)

Nasal Flu Vaccination Permission Forms – Years 1, 2 and 3

If you have not yet returned your flu vaccination permission form, sent out in paper form at the start of term, for your years 1, 2 and 3 child(ren) and you would like the School Nurse to give them a nasal flu vaccination, please make sure your completed form is returned to the School Office as soon as possible so the School Nurse team can provide for the appropriate number of children. The School Nurse team are coming in on Thursday 3rd November to administer the vaccinations.

School Diary

School Diary		
Day	During School	After School
Monday 3 rd October	Red Kites Orienteering Event	Art Club
Tuesday 4 th October	Gardening Club	EYFS/KS1 Football Club Coding Club
Wednesday 5 th October	Signing Club Strings lessons	Boxercise Club
Thursday 6 th October		KS2 Football Club No Knitting Club
Friday 7 th October	French Club Woodwind and Brass lessons	Rugby Club FOGS Film Club
Monday 10 th October	Nightingales class to Hamerton Zoo	Art Club
Tuesday 11 th October	Gardening Club	EYFS/KS1 Football Club Coding Club
Wednesday 12 th October	Signing Club Strings lessons	Boxercise Club
Thursday 13 th October		KS2 Football Club Knitting Club
Friday 14 th October	Phonics Open Morning for Robins Parents French Club Woodwind and Brass lessons	Rugby Club
Monday 17 th October	Harvest Day Harvest Festival at St. Leonard's Church, Glapthorn 2.15 p.m. - Parents welcome	Art Club
Tuesday 18 th October	Gardening Club	EYFS/KS1 Football Club Coding Club Parent Evening
Wednesday 19 th October	Signing Club Strings lessons	Boxercise Club Parent Evening
Thursday 20 th October		KS2 Football Club Knitting Club
Friday 21 st October	French Club Woodwind and Brass lessons	Rugby Club

School Admissions

Year 6 Parents

On-line admissions are now open for parents with children currently in Year Six, moving on to secondary school in September 2017. Applications must be completed by **31st October 2016**. If you have any questions, do ask either Mrs Coulthard or Mrs Towns.

Reception Starters

If your child turns 4 between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, you need to apply for a school place for starting school in September 2017. On-line admissions are now open and applications must be made by **15th January 2017**.

We have already started showing prospective parents around the school so if you know anyone who is interested, do tell them to contact us to make an appointment.

To apply for either a primary or secondary place, follow this link:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-admissions/Pages/default.aspx>