



JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

STAFFING NEWS



Miss Gibbons will be commencing her maternity leave after half term and we are recruiting cover for her class this week. We will keep you informed but in the meantime share our good wishes and good luck with Miss Gibbons at this exciting time.

We warmly welcome Miss Nutbrown who has joined our TA team to support our younger pupils. We are also currently recruiting a further TA to join the team as Mr Fletcher is sadly leaving us at the end of this half term. Mr Fletcher has secured a position in A local primary school closer to his home. We wish him the very best of luck and thank him for his unrivalled support given to our KS1 pupils.

STAFFING CAPACITY

Compared to other schools locally and nationally, Glapton has done extremely well in keeping classes open and quality first teaching continuing. At least 15 members of our staff have contracted and recovered from COVID during these unprecedented times and with other staff on long-term sickness, some due to pandemic related circumstances, and two teachers on maternity leave. It is very difficult indeed to find supply staff to cover and also to recruit Teachers and Teaching Assistant positions to increase capacity. There is a shortage of classroom staff nationally which is dramatically affecting a vast majority of schools. Quality First Teaching is our priority and this has been maintained to a high standard. We have a precisely targeted intervention plan to support our most vulnerable pupils using well-validated interventions provided by trained staff. During this time of staff absence we have had to limit interventions to the most vulnerable and some provision has been interrupted. Mrs Hurst and Mrs Oliver (our new SENDco) are working closely together to ensure the pupils with higher levels of need receive the care and provision they are entitled to, and other interventions are re-established as soon as absent staff return. We hope this information answers any questions you may have had and reassures you of our commitment to your children.



BEHAVIOUR WEEK

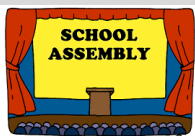
We have been high profiling our school rules and our 'Behaviour Blueprints' this term. As teachers we are committed to:

- Greeting every child with visible consistency, with visible kindness on the playground
- Expecting 'Legendary Line Ups'
- Expecting 'Fantastic Walking' to class, from everybody
- Expecting 'Super Sitting'
- Praising Impeccable behaviour
- Greeting every child with visible consistency, with visible kindness into each classroom
- Referring to and using the correct rules all of the time, without fail
- Never walking by unacceptable behaviour, ever



We are delighted that our Thankyou Club on Friday 21 January had the highest attendance ever! Well done everybody, what a great start to the new year.

ASSEMBLIES



Our Assembly Action Group have been sharing positive affirmations with the school community such as 'When it rains find rainbows'. This week's affirmation 'Mistakes will help me learn' was shared by Logan (Year 3) with his sports coach, who then tweeted the following:

'He told me about a quote he learnt in his classroom "Mistakes Help Us Learn" Great job today Logan. You were amazing, we both made mistakes during our practice, but we got better by working hard. I know we definitely learnt lots. #InspireChallengeEngage.'

We were thrilled to see the group's work impacting on our children inside and outside of school.

Rowan Class held an exciting and rousing assembly where they shared lots of key knowledge about the Vikings. They impressed us all with their understanding and vocabulary. Well done, Rowan!

Alder Class assembly is on Thursday 3 February. Other assemblies this half term have looked at the festival of Tu B'Shevat and Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act of 2010.

RESPECT

We have had a recent incident of abuse to staff in school, so you will see new posters around school reminding everyone of our RESPECT Charter. Everyone attending or working at the Glapton Academy has a right:

- *to be treated with respect and dignity*
- *to learn and work in an environment in which they feel safe*
- *to be protected from harm, violence, assault including acts of verbal abuse*



Verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated in our school. Further action will always be taken. This applies to all adults including parents, carers, staff and visitors.

FARNBOROUGH ACADEMY



WE ARE
Proud

Mr Smith, the Principal of Farnborough Academy, came to visit us this month. He had a look around our school and even visited Larch & Walnut classes! Mr Smith was really impressed with the impeccable behaviour of our children, and the standard of work and presentation in books. He visited Year 5 and Year 6 classes, and talked to the children about the transition activities planned for the summer, when our Y5 and Y6 children will have the opportunity to visit his academy. Watch out for further details.

ATTENDANCE



Statistics show that a child who is absent for one day per fortnight will have missed one year of school (190 days) by the time they leave secondary education.

The office is the first point of contact in school for parents reporting absences. All absences must be reported by 8.45am on the first day of absence by telephoning the school number **0115 9152936** and **pressing 1** to report the absence on our dedicated absence line. When leaving a message on the absence line, please state clearly your child's full name and class, and give brief details of symptoms. Please also confirm if the absence is related to Covid, and leave your mobile phone number in case we need to call you back for more information. You should also telephone the school every morning throughout the absence.

We have a very successful whole-school strategy of improving attendance through working in partnership with parents and children. We aim for attendance at Glapton to be consistently above 96%, and we need you and your child's contribution to ensure that we attain this. We are aware there may be occasional exceptional circumstances that will require individual support or alternative arrangements. As a staff team, we are available and we encourage parents to discuss any difficulties they may be experiencing. Good attendance and punctuality ensures children develop good social skills, have full access to education and achieve their full potential. Please also note that parents are not entitled to take a child out of school for holidays, and such absences will be subject to a fine from the Local Authority, referred to as a Fixed Penalty Notice. More information can be found on our website here: <https://www.glaptonacademy.co.uk/parents/attendance/>.

TIME CAPSULE

The children of Glapton created a 2021 Time Capsule to bury under the foundations of our new building joining the two sides of the school and therefore making history and creating memories for the children to tell their future grandchildren! This is what is in there:



- A laminated photo of each class, with name of class, teacher, support staff and year group written on the back.
- A laminated note to the 'finder' from the class detailing
- Name of class
- Age range
- Teacher/Support Staff
- Copy of weekly timetable
- Favourite lessons and why
- Current interests
- Wishes for future generations

KS1 children included some of the children's favourite things to do in school and at home/around Clifton, and every KS2 class included some current news:

- Year 6 talked about the royalty and government,
- Year 5 talked about COVID-19, positives and negatives eg. Sir Captain Tom, having more family time, clapping for the NHS as well as closures and restrictions,
- Year 4 talked about Euro 2020,
- Year 3 talked about online learning.

There was also a message from Mrs Hurst, a current map of Clifton, the school prospectus, photos from around the school, face coverings and a newspaper. Our School Council buried the capsule this month with help from Mr Hind the Foreman of our building site. I wonder if it will ever be found? What do you think? A plaque will be placed in our new corridor to show where the time capsule was buried.



GOVERNMENT ADVICE – COVID 19



Tracing close contacts and isolation

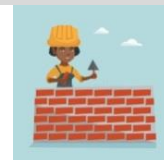
Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace, and education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting or area of life, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID 19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases. Since 14 December 2021, fully-vaccinated adults and all children/young people aged 5 to 18 years 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a Lateral Flow test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Children under 5 years who are identified as close contacts are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts. They are advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their household.

OUR NEW BUILD

After a long delay due to electrical issues under the control of Western Power, our building work is now progressing well. The build will join both sides of the school and allow safe access to KS1 and KS2 by all children. Our teachers currently do not have a big enough space to meet and relax during their busy day so will have a new, fit for purpose staffroom. The current Headteacher office is too tucked away and the new space will allow Mrs Hurst to have an office in the 'heart of the school' with access to the outside. Most exciting of all, there will finally be a beautiful library for our pupils which can be safely accessed by all classes. Parents will have a new entrance to reception and Glapton will finally be one big school family. Plans are being updated to include new pathways and as soon as I receive them I will share them with you all.



PARENT/CARER EVENINGS



Our recent Parent/Carer evenings were very successful, and we are so pleased to have been able to offer meetings in-person. The turn-out was excellent and we thank you for your support and anticipated support for your child's learning. If you did not attend, your class teacher/s will be in touch to offer a phone call or further appointment.

PARENT HELPERS



We have had some invaluable support from parents this year, especially on trips. If you are available to help on trips or in other ways, please let your class teacher or the office know. If you are happy to help on trips with classes other than your own, we would be especially keen to hear from you.

PARENT FORUM

As Covid restrictions lift, we will be relaunching our Parent Forum. Please could you e-mail school if you would like to join this group, where we will discuss issues that affect you as parents, to share views and influence policy. Our initial items of discussion will be:

- The new build
- Attendance
- Anti-Bullying Policy

Membership is capped at eight, and parent/carers will be selected on a first come first served basis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 31 January	16 Day Book (goes home Monday 7 February)
Tuesday 1 February	Chinese New Year CW
Thursday 3 February	Alder Class Assembly
Thursday 10 February	Thank You Club
Friday 11 February	Last day of term
Monday 14-Friday 18 February	Half term
Monday 21 February	INSET day
Tuesday 22 February	Children return to school



Yours sincerely

Mrs. C Hurst BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH NLE
Headteacher