



The Glapton Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers

October Newsletter

These unusual times look set to continue for a long while to come. Everyone here at Glapton Academy would like to thank you for your support and understanding.

Harvest Festival

On Friday 2 October, we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival. This is a chance to celebrate the annual harvest, and an opportunity to provide gifts of food. Similar to previous years, we will be collecting non-perishable items such as tins of food, teabags, toothpaste etc. for our harvest celebration in school, which will take place in classes this year.



This year, we will be donating all items to the Clifton Foodbank. The Foodbank is currently in urgent need of: custard, pasta sauce, instant mashed potato and UHT milk. However, any non-perishable food will be gratefully received and used to support their work.

If you have anything you wish to donate, please send items in with your child on Thursday 1 October or the morning of Friday 2 October. To ensure we remain Covid-secure, all classrooms will have a box for children in which to place donated items. These will then be quarantined before being passed on to the foodbank.

Symptoms

The office have been inundated with calls about symptoms and are always keen to help. During the current pandemic they are only able to refer you to Government and NHS guidelines (available on the website). It is a confusing and worrying time and the DFE have acknowledged this by publishing a letter to parents which explains when a child requires a coronavirus (COVID-19) test and what the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are. The intention of the letter is to support parents and carers in identifying when their child needs to self-isolate as a result of displaying coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and answer some of the questions parents may have around testing. Please find attached.

Staff PPE

Since the government announcement last week all staff in school are required to wear a visor when meeting with parents. This includes gate duty as the staff receiving children at the gates are exposed to greater risk due to the volume of different adults they are coming into contact with. We do hope you understand and still understand the need for allowing only brief conversations and maintaining social distance.

Partnership Book

We hope you are enjoying the partnership book and it is allowing you to communicate with your class teacher during this unusual time. Hopefully the published dates will reassure you that many things that you love will still be happening albeit in a virtual format.

Class Dojo

Please make sure you have signed up for class Dojo. If a Bubble is asked to self-isolate or a local lockdown introduced we will be hosting video lessons, asking you to upload work and providing feedback through this platform.

Virtual events are also being posted on class Dojo. Go to the website, click on your child's class page, click on the Dojo monster and follow the instructions to sign up. Class Dojo is only available to those who sign up for each class, but please could you let your class teacher know via the Partnership Book if your child is NOT given permission to appear in videos or photographs such as a class assembly. Virtual events for the remainder of this half term include:

- Elm Class Assembly Thursday 1 October
- Phonics Session for Parents Tuesday 6 October
- Birch Class Assembly Thursday 8 October



Attendance Reward Scheme

We are going to launch our Attendance Tree project from the first week after half term. Pupils will be given a gold leaf to add to the tree each week for 100% attendance, a silver leaf for over 98%, and a bronze leaf for over 96% attendance. At the end of the year, those with over 96% attendance over the whole year will be entered into a prize draw. The prizes will be BIG with a glittering Gold prize, spectacular Silver prize and a bonus Bronze prize all up for grabs. Don't worry, certain absence codes relating to COVID-19 will not affect your child's overall attendance percentage for the year. Let's get lots of leaves on our tree and lots of chances for big prizes!



Office Hours

Office Hours have changed slightly and will now operate from 8.15am until 4.15pm daily, except on Fridays when the office will close at 4pm. This includes phone lines and e-mail.

Parent/Carer Evenings

All main school classes offered face to face consultations with parents or carers throughout the whole of last week and telephone consultations for those who could not attend. We were delighted to welcome so many of you into school. It has been really hard leaving you outside at the gates. The vast majority of consultations were really positive and have allowed us to fine tune our individual catch up plan for all of the children. Thank you for adhering to the protocols and helping to keep everyone safe. We hope you found them really helpful.

E-Scooters

We have been advised by LEAD Academy Trust that E-Scooters should not be ridden to school. The current legal position is that they are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles and are treated in the same way as motor vehicles under the law. If the scooters don't have visible red lights on the rear, number plates and signalling ability they can't be used legally on roads or pavements. You must have a driving licence to use an e-scooter and must also have motor insurance. There are government trials taking place but not involving children. The [rules for private e-scooters](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users) have not changed. It is against the law to use a privately owned E-scooter. More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>. If you use an e-scooter illegally you could face a fine, get penalty points on your driving licence and the e-scooter could be impounded.

Complaints at the Gates

The majority of families are following guidance and using common sense in order to protect themselves, their children and their community. Unfortunately we are still receiving complaints about a minority of families, which have recently included:

- Children climbing, swinging on trees or even breaking branches whilst waiting on Glapton Lane.
- Children clambering in the brook/dyke and collecting frogs and taking them away from their natural habitat.
- Parking in-front of driveways, on grass verges and blocking pavements. Why not park further away where it is less busy and walk a little way into school. The government is advising as many families to walk all the way to school, cycle to school or scoot (not on an E-Scooter). Many of our children are doing this which is fantastic for congestion and great for health and fitness too.
- A local resident has even complained that his driveway and pavement outside his house has been dug up and tarmac picked away at.

Whilst out of school your children are your responsibility but these behaviours are totally unacceptable. If any of the above involves your family, please could you ensure that your child stays by you and waits with you. Unfortunately some waiting is essential, just like at the supermarket, but we all need to exercise responsibility and common sense.

Key safety messages

- Please wear a face covering when collecting or dropping your children.
- Please keep socially distanced from other families and line up in the correct place for your class, one family behind the other rather than in a group near the gate.
- The whole family to wash their hands for 20 seconds on return home from school.

Thank you for your support and we promise you that we want to get back to normal as soon as possible. The children are exceptional in school, conducting themselves sensibly and responsibly from the moment they arrive. We are so proud of them!

Yours sincerely

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