Glenfall News

...a newsletter to inform the school community about the day to day life of our school.

Friday 18th September 2015

A word from the head.....

The first two and half weeks of term have really raced by. The children are back into their routines and the school is once more a hive of activity. Clubs and music lessons are all in action again and the school has already been represented at a rugby tournament to mark the start of the Rugby World Cup. Two Glenfall teams, representing Fiji and Wales, finished 5th an 6th out of 20 teams from schools across Cheltenham.

The 'Meet The Teacher' meeting last week was well attended and we received positive feedback following the event. Teachers had the opportunity to meet their child's class teacher/s and find out a bit more about the routines and expectations for the year ahead. Mrs Newdeck outlined the schools developments in maths and I briefed parents on last years SATs results and reflected on our fantastic participation record at local sporting events and other enrichment activities. There will be several curriculum evenings over the coming term. **There is a curriculum evening for parents of children who have started in Reception this year on 30th September@ 7.30pm. There will also be a Maths Curriculum evening on 14th October at 7pm and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar evening on 18th November at 6.15pm.**

This week I have also received some good news that the school has been allocated some funding to refurbish the children's toilets throughout the building. I will be working closely with the local authority ensure that we get the best facilities that we can.

Have a good weekend - Anthony Mitchell

Cakes. Thank you to everyone who supported out first cake sale of the year on Wednesday. We raised over £80, which was a great effort. As usual, we sold out of cakes! If you feel that you could support us next time by baking or donating cakes , please do! Our next cake sale is in October and has a Hallowe'en them.

100 Club. Letters and application forms for Glenfall's 100 club will be sent home in book bags next week. They will be on FROGS's green paper ,so please watch out for them and support us if you can. Last year we raised over £500 from our 100 club, and had many happy prize winners over the year. Full details will be in next week's letter.

Glenfall Pre-School

Glenfall Pre-School, Cheltenham

Play worker required from October 2015

We are a small committee run pre-school based at Glenfall Community Primary School, with whom we have a strong and supportive link.

We are seeking an enthusiastic and energetic play worker for our friendly and caring pre-school. Applicants will need to have an NVQ Level 3 in Childcare and demonstrate a desire to work in an environment modelling best practice.

To apply please send or e-mail your CV, along with a covering letter explaining why you think you are suited to the role to Mel Boswell (Chair), c/o Glenfall Pre-School, Glenfall Way, Charlton Kings, GL52 6XZ (glenfallpreschool@gmail.com) or for more information please speak to Becky Poulter-Jewson on 01242 234055

Salary £8-9 per hour. Closing date for applications Wednesday 23rd September, interviews will be held on the morning of Friday 25th September.

Diary Dates (Updated)

September

29th September	- Richard Gilpin (Pittville Headteacher) to speak to parents and pupils considering Pitville as their Secondary School choice - 3.30pm
30th September	- EYFS (Reception) Curriculum Evening 7.30pm

October

5th October	- Frogs Committee Meeting, 8pm at the London Inn
8th October	- Harvest Assembly
15th October	- School Photographs
16th October	- Frogs Disco
20th October	- Halloween Cake Sale
21st October	- School Closes for Half Term
31st October	- Deadline for Secondary School Applications for Y6 pupils

November

2nd November	- School opens after half term
3rd November	- Parent/Teacher Meetings 3.40pm - 5pm - Book Fair in school
4th November	- Year 5 Residential to Dean Field Studies Centre
5th November	- Parent/Teacher Meetings 3.40pm - 6.30pm
9th November	- Cycling Proficiency for Y6s starts
9th November	- Frogs Annual General Meeting
11th November	- Open afternoon for Reception Intake 2016
12th November	- Rags2Riches Collection
16th November	- Frogs Committee Meeting, 8pm at the London Inn
27th November	- INSET Day - **SCHOOL CLOSED**
30th November	- INSET Day - **SCHOOL CLOSED**

Advanced notice of a few dates:

5th December	- Christmas Fair
14th December	- Christmas performance pm
15th December	- Christmas performance evening
17th December	- Everyman Pantomime - Cinderella
1st March	- Parent/Teacher meetings 3.40pm - 5pm
3rd March	- Parent/Teacher meetings 3.40pm - 6.30pm
30th June	- Sports Day at 1pm
8th July	- Reports out to parents
21st July	- Leaver's Assembly - School closes for Summer Holidays

Keep us up to date

If you have moved house, changed telephone numbers or set up a new email account please let the office know so that we can accurately maintain our records to ensure that we can contact you in case of an emergency and communicate with you effectively.

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Secondary Transfer
Deadline for secondary school transfer applications is 31st October.

Pantomime Payments
Payment for this years trip to the pantomime is due by 9th October.

Half Term Sports Camp
SuperStars will be running a half term holiday sports camp. Further details and booking information to follow.

Harvest Assembly
There will be a Harvest Assembly on Thursday 8th October at 10.30. Parents will be invited to attend. Further information to follow.

Allergies
If you are aware that your child has a food allergy can you please inform your child's class teacher and the school office if you have not done so already. Information relating to allergens in food produced from by the school is available for the school kitchen. Please ask at reception for further information

A few things from Mr Cripps…..

MUSIC:

- **Tongan Rugby Team Welcome Event:** a big 'thank you' to all those who supported this event in the Imperial Gardens last Saturday - parents, relatives, friends and all the children (who gave such a wonderful performance) Also a special thank you to the Y7 children who returned and joined in the performance. To everyone - thank you. I have a feeling that there will be a lot of support for Tonga during the World Cup!

Instrumental Music Tuition: It is still not too late for your child to take up a musical instrument. Currently, Glenfall can offer tuition in the drum kit, keyboards, brass (cornet, trumpet, trombone), flute, ukelele, guitar. If you are interested, please collect a Music Junction leaflet from the school office, or better still, visit: **www.themusicjunction.co.uk** where you will find information and telephone numbers

Good News: From half term tuition in clarinet, saxophone and recorder will also be available. An information leaflet will be available nearer the time. WATCH THIS SPACE.

SPORT:

- **World Cup Tag Rugby Tournament:** Two teams from Glenfall took part in this tournament on Wednesday 16th September at the Newlands. Each of the 20 teams in the competition represented one of the countries taking part in the World Cup. The Glenfall teams were Wales and Fiji. Both teams finished in the runners-up position in their respective morning group (Played 4, Won 3) and went forward to the quarter finals. Both teams were beaten in their respective quarter finals by teams from large schools. As a result, the Glenfall teams played each other to decide overall placings. Fiji beat Wales by 3 tries to 1, thus securing 5th place, Wales finishing in 6th place. Glenfall were the only school to get two teams through to the quarter final stage.
- **Gymnastics Club:** the first group (3.30pm) is now full, oversubscribed in fact. There are still two places available at the 4.30pm group.
- **Tennis Club: There are still plenty of places available at the new Monday Tennis Club,** being run on our behalf by Tom Jacobsen of **NE14 Tennis.** We are extremely fortunate to have Tom at Glenfall as he is in huge demand in Cheltenham schools. Information about the club is in your Activities Circular, with spares available from the school office. The information leaflet includes details of how to contact Tom about the club.

NETBALL: Important - parents of all children attending the first Netball Club next Tuesday please note. The first session is being switched to WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER, same times. This is due to a special staff meeting in school on Tuesday after school. Apologies for any inconvenience.

A few things……

Lost Property

There is a huge amount of lost property in school at the moment that was left at school at the end of last term. If you are missing any items of your child's uniform please look in the lost property boxes in the hall. Any unclaimed items will shortly be recycled.

Parent Pay — School Lunches

Could all parents whose children will be taking a hot lunch please ensure that their accounts are currently in credit before ordering lunches. It is important that the account is kept in credit throughout the year to ensure that debts do not mount up. **Meals cost £2.20 per day.**

Skip Lorries

Can I please remind parents and visitors to the school not to park in the lane that leads to the Stevens Skips. Cars are parking in the lane or on the corner at the entrance to the lane and it is blocking the skip lorries from getting in. The lane is used throughout the day and needs to be kept clear at all times. Thank you.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is obviously very important to ensure that children get the most out of the learning opportunities available to them. There is a very strong link between attendance and achievement and together we must seek to ensure that all children achieve to the best of their abilities.

Appointments
Please try to make appointments for after the school day. Missing parts of a day is disruptive to the child leaving the classroom and for the children within it. We do appreciate that some appointments for specialists and consultants are very difficult to have any control over, and accept that it may be unavoidable to have to take time during the school day.

Term Time Holidays
Leave of absence for term time holiday can no longer be authorised by schools. Therefore, if a parent takes a child out of school for a holiday in term time it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. This could in turn lead to a warning and ultimately a fine. Please try to take all holidays during the set school holiday periods.

Arriving Late?
Pupils arriving after 8.55am will be marked in the register as being late. Pupils arriving after 9.25am without any prior notification will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Persistent Absenteeism
From September 2015 the Government has reduced the persistent absence threshold from 15% to 10%. This means that a child missing 38 sessions in a school year will be deemed as being persistently absent. 38 sessions equates to only 19 school days per year. Therefore any family taking 10 days unauthorised absence will be close to reaching the threshold for the school to report persistent absenteeism to the Local Authority. Authorised absences for illness, medical appointments, exclusions and other authorised absences are also considered in the context of persistent absenteeism. Therefore it is clear to see that 10 days unauthorised holiday and 9 days illness in a year would mean that your child would be deemed to have reached the persistent absenteeism threshold.

<u>Some facts to think about</u>

One half day's absence a week results in a pupil attaining only **90%** attendance.

If this absence continues, the pupil will have missed the equivalent of **four whole weeks of lessons in the school year.**

Over five years this absence will total **half a school year.**

There is a clear link between attendance and achievement !

Year 5 Residential (Date amended from last newsletter)

Just a reminder that Y5 will be going to the Dean Field Studies Centre from the 4th to 6th November. Further details will follow and there will be a meeting for parents on **Tuesday 20th October at 6pm**

The second payment was due on £50 by July 13th and the remaining £40 by October 16th