



Glenfall News

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

Friday 13th January 2017



A word from the head.....

Happy New Year !!!!

I hope that you all had a great Christmas Break and that 2017 has started positively for you all.

The children all appear to be well rested and have settled quickly back into the routines for school.

You should have now received a topic overview and letter from your child's teacher sharing with you the topic for the term and asking for your support with homework, reading, spelling and tables. Your support in helping your child with these tasks is greatly appreciated and does make a difference to the amount of progress that the children make. After February half term we will be holding Parent/Teacher meetings where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress. As always, if you have particular concerns relating to your child's learning that need addressing before the parents evening please arrange to meet your child's class teacher at your earliest convenience.

I have spent some time this week showing prospective parents around the school for the reception intake in September 2017. I felt very proud of our school as I showed the parents around. The good manners and impeccable behaviour really shone out and the children were obviously enjoying their learning and the school had an amazing 'buzz' of excitement about it. I saw astronauts in a space station, children writing about a talking mouse called Stuart, children learning about evolution and fossils and a group of children heading out of school to take part in an indoor athletics competition. I know that there are lots of exciting things to come this term and hope the children continue to remain as engaged as they currently are.

In addition to this, the schools reputation with regards to Maths Mastery continues to grow with further schools from Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Worcestershire coming to observe the good practice taking place in the school. We currently have two teachers engaged in national initiatives in regard to teaching for mastery in maths and I was also video interviewed by National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics to provide a resource for other schools who may be considering establishing this initiative in their schools.

I am looking forward to another great year at Glenfall and in seeing the school continue to go from strength to strength.

**Have a great weekend !
Anthony Mitchell**



DfE Performance Tables

Glenfall pupils performed extremely well again this year, comparing very favourably both Nationally and with our nearest neighbours.

Pupils reaching the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths

Glenfall	- 71%
Holy Apostles	- 71%
Naunton Park	- 66%
Charlton Kings	- 65%
National	- 53%

Full comparisons can be made at

www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk

Ron Bennett

Sadly, Ron Bennett, the retired caretaker from the school, died over the Christmas holiday. Ron had been really quite ill in the months leading up to Christmas and passed away on 30th December, aged 89. Ron was an amazing man and started his job at Glenfall at the age of 67! He was caretaker at the school for nearly 20 years and was well known and loved by staff, pupils and parents at the school. His funeral will take place on 20th January at 3.15pm at Cheltenham Crematorium. Family flowers only with donations going to the Fire Brigade Benevolent Fund.



Diary Dates



January

- 11th January - Swimming starts for Year 3
- 16th January - Football match at Glenfall 3.30pm
- 17th January - Netball match at Gloucetser Road

February

- 3rd February - FrOGS Quiz and Chips
- 9th February - Dental checks for Reception and Y1
- Valentines Cake Sale
- 10th February - School closes for Half Term
- 20th February - Term starts
- 21st February - Netball match at Glenfall 3.30pm
- 22nd February - Y5 visit to SkillZone

March

- 2nd March - World Book Day
- 7th March - Parent/Teacher meetings 3.40pm - 5pm
- 8th March - Y5 Parent/Teacher meetings 3.40pm - 5pm
- 9th March - Parent/Teacher meetings 3.40pm - 6.30pm
- 13th March - Y4 Residential to Forest of Dean
- 16th March - Charlton Kings Live - Music Event (Evening)
- 17th March - St Patricks Day Cake Sale
- 22nd March - Final swimming session for Y3

Advanced notice of a few dates:

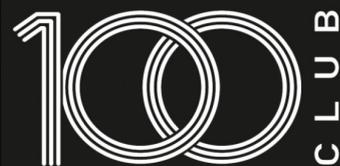
- 7th April - School closes for Easter@2pm
- 29th June - Sports Day at 1pm
- 7th July - Reports out to parents
- 21st July - Leaver's Assembly
- School closes for Summer Holidays



French Club

French with Lena every
Monday
3.20pm - 4pm.

The club caters for
beginners and improvers.
Please contact Lena
directly if you would like
your child to join the club.
01242 242246



December Winners

1st prize
£20 Sarah Fawcett 079

2nd prize
£10 Richard Wilson 026

3rd prize
£5 Hannah Hart 087

January Winners

1st prize
£20 Becca Kennaugh 021

2nd prize
£10 Hannah Hart 087

3rd prize
£5 Tom Cadogan 034

We have 94 members and
would love to make it a
round 100. New members
always welcome.

Winter Weather Closures

As we head into the winter months it seems a timely opportunity to remind parents of the procedure for school closures should we need to shut the school.

If the school is to be closed due to adverse weather conditions or heating failure, parents will be contacted using our text messaging system. Please make sure that we have your most up to date mobile number. We will also post a message on the Gloucestershire County Council school closure pages which can be accessed at: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/learning

We will also place a message on our own school website
www.glenfall.gloucs.sch.uk

Announcements will also be made on local radio stations.





UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

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.



Apply online for **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available on our website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

You can secure a tasty free meal for your child and save yourself up to £437 per year.

Plus your child's school receives extra funding for each eligible child registered.



If you receive a qualifying benefit, your child's school is entitled to extra funding.

So even if you don't want your child to take a free meal, you should still apply to make sure that their school receives all the government funding to which it is entitled - helping them provide your child with the best education and support.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 already receiving an Universal Infant Free School Meal arranged by their school will still have to apply to enable their school to get any extra funding.

If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, speak to your child's school.

For further information, including a list of qualifying benefits, visit our website or speak to your child's school today.

Travel Assistance and Free School Meals Team
Access to Learning
Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall,
Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TP



Primary Admissions

If you or anyone that you know is applying for school places for September 2017 please ensure that applications are made by 15th January. Late applications are processed after applications received by the advertised deadline.

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.

Asthma Sufferers

If your child uses an inhaler at school can you please check that it is in date. If your child has recently been diagnosed with asthma please inform the school so we can update our asthma register.

Defibrillator



The school now has an AED. The teaching staff have received training should the device need to be used.

We have also registered the defibrillator with the ambulance service which means the device can be used by the community during term time whilst the school is open.

FrOGS have kindly provided the funding for the defibrillator

Term Dates 2017 - 2018

Along with this newsletter you should have received the term dates for the academic year 2017 - 2018. Paper copies are available from the school office.

GLENFALL PRIMARY SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2017-2018 Gloucestershire County Council

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				NOVEMBER								
Mon	4	11	18	25	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	
Tues	5	12	19	26	Tues	3	10	17	24	31	Tues	7	14	21	28	
Wed	6	13	20	27	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thur	7	14	21	28	Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	8	15	22	29	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	3	10	17	24	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26	
DECEMBER				JANUARY				FEBRUARY								
Mon	4	11	18	25	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	5	12	19	26	
Tues	5	12	19	26	Tues	3	10	17	24	31	Tues	6	13	20	27	
Wed	6	13	20	27	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	7	14	21	28		
Thur	7	14	21	28	Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	8	15	22	29	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	3	10	17	24	
Sun	3	10	17	24	31	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	4	11	18	25
MARCH				APRIL				MAY								
Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tues	6	13	20	27	Tues	3	10	17	24	31	Tues	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	3	10	17	24	31	
Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	6	13	20	27	
JUNE				JULY				AUGUST								
Mon	4	11	18	25	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	
Tues	5	12	19	26	Tues	3	10	17	24	31	Tues	7	14	21	28	
Wed	6	13	20	27	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thur	7	14	21	28	Thur	5	12	19	26	Thur	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	8	15	22	29	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	3	10	17	24	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26	

Term Time	Bank Holiday	Holidays	Inset Days
Term 1: Mon 4 th Sept - Fri 20 th Oct 2017	35 days		
Term 2: Mon 30 th Oct - Fri 15 th Dec 2017	34 days		
Term 3: Tue 2 nd Jan - Fri 19 th Feb 2018	28 days		
Term 4: Mon 10 th Feb - Thu 26 th Mar 2018	29 days		
Term 5: Mon 10 th Apr - Fri 25 th May 2018	29 days		
Term 6: Mon 4 th Jun - Fri 20 th Jul 2018	32 days		
Total	195 days		

Christmas Bank Holiday	25 th December 2017
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2018
Good Friday	30 th March 2018
Easter Monday	2 nd April 2018
Early May Bank Holiday	7 th May 2018
Spring Bank Holiday	28 th May 2018
Summer Bank Holiday	27 th August 2018

INSET Days 24th November, 2nd January, 23rd - 25th July

Please try to avoid taking holidays during term time.



Healthy Eating



At the start of a new year it is often commonplace for people to be looking at eating more healthily, especially after the excesses of the Christmas festivities. School is no different and we have received lots of resources from The Change4Life Campaign about eating more healthily and being aware of the amount of sugar, salt and fat that we are consuming. I led an assembly this week and talked to the children about these issues and shared a video with them highlighting the fact that some foods contain hidden sugars. Your children should have brought home a little card envelope containing some information, stickers and quizzes relating to the Change4Life campaign. You can download an app that will allow you to scan barcodes to see how much sugar, salt and fat you are eating; all things you could do as a family. The school is also in the process of reviewing its Healthy Living and Learning award and we need to evaluate the work the school does to promote healthy eating.

As a result of The Change4Life Campaign and our work towards the GHLL award we have been looking at healthy eating across the school and as a result we would like to draw to your attention some new ideas and to remind you of a few existing policies regarding healthy eating.

Snack Time

As a school we like children to bring in mid-morning snacks and as we are trying to promote a healthy approach to eating we would appreciate it if snacks could be kept to FRUIT, CEREAL BARS or RAW VEGETABLES. We would like to restrict crisps and chocolate biscuits to packed lunches - **Please do not send your child with chocolate bars or bags of sweets.**

Packed Lunch

For those children bringing a packed lunch we ask parents to provide a balanced lunch that supports the values of eating healthily.

Birthday Cakes or Birthday Sweets

There have been a growing number of requests for children to bring in cakes and sweets to give to their friends on their birthday. We understand that this is a nice thing to do as a child but it obviously doesn't 'fit' with our push on healthy eating. Please do not send cakes or sweets in on your child's birthday. If your child would like to give something to the class an idea that has worked well in the past is a birthday book. This is when the family provides a book for the class that has a dedication written in by the family and is presented to the class on the child's birthday. There is no expectation for families to do this, it is merely a suggestion.

Homework Cakes

Those of you with children in KS2 will be aware of the 'Homework Cake' that has featured on the homework sheets for quite a while. Whilst it has been a pleasure to sample the delicious cakes that have been made the staff felt that this item has reached it's sell by date and in order for the school to be promoting healthy eating we couldn't continue to endorse lots of cake making and eating! Therefore cake making for homework is off the menu.

Summary

These issues are often very emotive topics in schools. Therefore, rather than publish a list of forbidden and acceptable snacks I feel that parents should use their discretion and judgement in providing a snack for their child whilst supporting the overall aims of promoting healthy eating. Please be aware that teachers may talk to your child or yourself should their morning snacks or packed lunches be considered to be not supporting this healthy eating initiative and you may be asked to provide a healthier option.