

Glyne Gap School

Newsletter - Term 1, 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Do you remember your own school days? Do you remember maths class and algebra? If you are anything like me you have not used that algebra learning since you left school! We want to make sure our pupils' learning is useful to them both now and in their future.

So very often we talk about functional learning. Functional learning is useful, purposeful, practical and helpful learning. In this newsletter you will see pupils making gains in their functional learning:

- Jared and Hollie requesting their snack
- Meggie using the launderette to do a job for her family
- Logan operating a new toy in Skylarks

Governors have met this week to analyse and endorse pupil outcomes for 2016/17. Pupil progress at Glyne Gap is measured using a range of indicators including the school's view, parents'/carers' view and through comparison with pupils at other schools with similar abilities and needs. The headline I want to share is:

All pupils at Glyne Gap School make at least good progress and the majority make outstanding progress.

The learning this progress represents is certainly something to celebrate and I am extremely proud of all pupils' achievements. I hope you are proud of your own child's progress. However, better learning never ends and we continue to work in partnership with parents and carers to support pupils to work towards and achieve their 'Supergoal'. If you do not know your child's 'Supergoal', or want to discuss how to support your child to achieve it, please talk to your child's class teacher.

Our school development plan outlines the areas we want to focus on to further support and extend pupil learning. This year we want to focus on further developing pupils' functional literacy and numeracy skills as well as developing employability skills for those pupils to whom that might be relevant. There is further information on both pupil outcomes and our development work on our school website under the 'About Us' tab.

Thank you for your continued support this term, I do hope you enjoy the October break and I look forward to seeing pupils back in school on Monday, 30th October ready for the challenges, opportunities and fun of term 2.

Kindest regards,
Kirsty



George (Junior 1) getting to grips on the climbing wall at Robsack Community Centre this term.

Dates for your Diary

18th November
Family Day
1st December
School closure day
20th December
Christmas Carol Service
— 10 am



Pudsey's back!
Friday, November
17th.

More details to follow.

Skylarks Success with Switches and Standing

In Skylarks pupils work hard to become independent with switches so they can take control of an activity. We have recently got some new switch-adapted activities, and we have had fun exploring them. Mia, who only joined us in September, has already learned to press and hold the switch to make the carousel go round and Logan is able to press and hold a switch to make the racing cars go round and can turn his head to look at them. Isobel is working really hard to become stronger on her legs, and this term has been able to stand briefly at the ladder-back chair with adult support from behind. Brilliant, well done Isobel, Mia and Logan.



Logan racing his cars



Mia activating the carousel and Isobel working hard on her standing.



National Autistic Society talk at Glyne Gap School

Sarah Hendrickx is an autism specialist, international conference speaker, six times book author and autistic adult. Sarah will be speaking on 'Autism and Anxiety' and also on 'Girls and Women on the Spectrum' at Glyne Gap School on Thursday, 16th November 7pm—9.30pm. Tickets for this event cost £5 and can be purchased through the NAS Bexhill and Hastings website at;
www.nasbexhillandhastings.co.uk/events

FE3—Working Hard on Daily Living Tasks

This term Meggie has been investigating a "Daily Living Task" as part of her Special Access Curriculum and contribution to her family. She has been supported to go to a laundrette in the community to wash her bedding. Meggie can carry out the task with her 'Now and Next' system and prompts from staff supporting her. Fabulous work Meggie!



Harvest Festivities

Pupils enjoyed an array of activities during our September Enrichment Day dedicated to 'Harvest'.



Here you can see Flynn making his scarecrow, Lily making a chocolate nest for the Little Red Hen, Harvey making cookies and Bailey kneading dough to make some bread.

Digital Safety



The 3 C's of digital safety are;
Content, Contact and Conduct

Over the next year, the newsletter focus for Digital Safety will be on 'Content'.

Our pupils can really benefit from using the internet as a source of information, learning and entertainment. However, as with many things in life, it also comes with risks. Your child may come across content which is inappropriate, harmful or illegal.

So what can I do?

Hopefully you've already set up parental controls, using the steps on the NSPCC website, which should reduce the risk of unsuitable content getting through.

Have you tried youtube for kids?

<https://kids.youtube.com/>

Are your children supervised when they are on the internet? If you are pushed for time, perhaps they could have a set period of 'internet time' when you are able to sit with them and explore the internet together. At times when you are unable to supervise them, you can make sure they only have access to safe apps by removing the internet connection (e.g. flight mode on an iPad).

Dahlicious Senior 1

Our topic this term has been books and films. We've enjoyed reading different stories by Roald Dahl and had great fun with our friends in seniors on our Roald Dahl day, dressing up as different characters and taking part in different activities relating to stories.

On our weekly class trips we have visited a local cinema; we had a tour of the whole cinema, looked at the different adverts for films and then went into the auditorium to see where the films are shown.



Harvey, Ashley and Xavier working hard to find all the worms in Mr Twits dinner on our Roald Dahl day!



Senior 1 waiting with other Senior pupils outside the cinema.



Ready, Steady Lets get messy!

Seagulls pupils have been exploring sensory opportunities whilst getting very messy! We have followed the story 'Don't put your finger in the jelly, Nelly!' and as you can see here Riley is being very brave putting his fingers in to touch the very wet, sticky jelly, Willow can be very bold and put her finger in the lemon meringue pie!!

We have made chocolate waffles with squirty cream but I think the most fun had by all was getting messy when making milkshakes with ice cream.....Charlie can press and hold the switch to make his milkshake all frothy and just look at the mess that Hollie and Jared have made!!



School CLUBS

Glyne Gap School runs a varied and exciting range of after school clubs during term time as well as our School Holiday Club.

Term time clubs run as follows;

Monday— Junior club

Tuesdays— Cooking club

Wednesdays— Senior club

Thursdays - Faculty Club

After school clubs all run from 3.30pm until 5.30pm and cost £5 per session.

Our Holiday Club runs during the half term, Easter and summer breaks. The day runs from 10am until 4pm and the daily cost is £25. Please contact Eileen at school for more information on 01424 217720.

So Long, Farewell



Melanie Jukes will be stepping down as Head of The Faculty at the end of this term. Mel has led the Faculty with dedication, compassion and with pupil learning at the heart of her leadership. For this we thank her. Fortunately, we need not say goodbye as Mel will continue to work at school in a new role.

We will be saying goodbye to two members of staff. Andrea (J2) will be leaving us to follow her career path and train as an Outdoor Learning Instructor. We wish her all the best in her new chapter and thank her for her hard work in class and for the amazing opportunities and experiences offered to pupils on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Finally, our Creative Arts teacher, Philippa will be leaving us this term to work as a freelance creative tutor, running creative arts workshops in the local community. We wish her all the very best in her new path and thank her for the fun and joy she brought to her lessons and our community.

News from the Upper School

Many of our pupils have regular opportunities for learning in the community, practising a whole range of communication and PSHE skills such as advocacy, friendship, independence and team work in a real life functional context.



Elisha and Ben are walking to Tesco, happily chatting on their way.



Ben and Elisha are working together to scan, pay and bag up their shopping.



Amber can walk around the shop with an adult nearby. She chose her cakes, waited in the queue and paid the cashier.

News from the Communication Team!

Hello Everyone,

It was such a delight to return from maternity leave and see the progress pupils have made in the last year! One of my highlights was having a chat with Oli Gladman about his Summer Holiday. Oli was able to clearly tell me that he had been to Chessington and went on the Vampire Ride!

Something for you to try at home.....

In school, this term's 'Sign sand Symbol of the Week' have been all about people. Here are a selection of signs that you may find useful to use with your child, especially as a way of giving information, for example telling your child they are seeing the dentist, going to the doctor or off to the hairdresser. Good Luck! You could cut these symbols out and show your child before you leave....



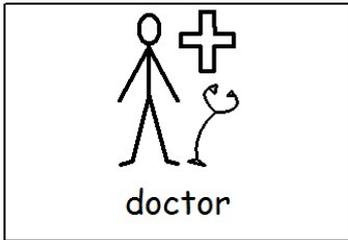
doctor



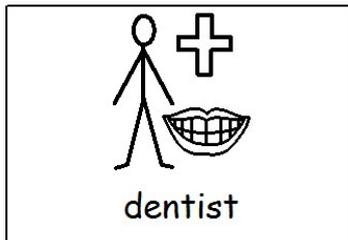
dentist



hairdresser



doctor



dentist



hairdresser

What Stars!!

Communication Cafe

The Communication Team run a Communication Café each term with different classes. This term we are running a café for pupils in Seagulls class who use symbols and photos to make requests. During the café pupils have the opportunity to practice lots of skills—including making choices of what they would like for a snack, identifying the photo/symbol of the item they would like, travelling from their table to the Café counter, gaining attention of the adult and exchanging their photo or sentence strip before taking their items back to their seats! As you can see the pupils have made a superb start to the term!



Hollie pointing to her strip to request her snack



Jared pointing to the sentence he made to request his snack



Lenny constructing the symbol sentence 'I want raisins'

And finally..... The clocks go back next week-end!