GPP Federation

Glebe & Picklenash

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, here we are at the end of what has been a very long and extremely busy term. Before we all immerse ourselves in festive cheer, there's still time to look back on all the fun we have had.

It was wonderful to see so many of you join us for the performances of Wiggery Nativity and the KS1 Carol Concert at Glebe. I enjoyed watching the children on both days. It was delightful to see how much the children enjoyed themselves and to see so many of them performing with such confidence. They sang beautifully and spoke so clearly. A huge thank you to all of the staff for their hard work in putting together the shows.

Earlier this half term, I received an invitation from Sycamore Class. As part of their Around the World topic, they have been researching holiday destinations and wanted to share, with me, their suggestions for my next break. They had thought about everything including the best way to get there and what I would see and do once I arrived. After much deliberation, I choose Japan! I now need to save hard to make this happen. Thank you, Sycamore, for a lovely afternoon.

We are pleased to welcome Obi to our Picklenash family. Obi (the dog) comes to us from Pets for Therapy and is accompanied by his owner Sue. They will both be visiting us every Thursday afternoon. The children will pop along to read and chat to Obi. He really enjoys a story and a stroke. In January, we will be welcoming Winnie at Glebe. More details in our next newsletter.

We enjoyed a visit from Pudsey to help us mark Children in Need. Many of you supported us by buying merchandise and we also raised over £400 on the actual day. Thank you for your support.

This newsletter is packed full of all the amazing things that have been happening and lots of useful information. You will also see an update from our Governors about the work they do to support and develop the schools.

All that remains is for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy time with family and friends at this magical time of year.

Michelle Kelly

Headteacher

Glebe & Picklenash Christmas Fayre

A reminder that Glebe & Picklenash Christmas Fayre is taking place on Wednesday 17th December in Glebe Hall between 3.30pm – 4.30pm.

Can we please have any cake donations for the Christmas Fayre brought to Glebe School Office on either Tuesday or Wednesday morning. All donations are gratefully accepted.

Governors

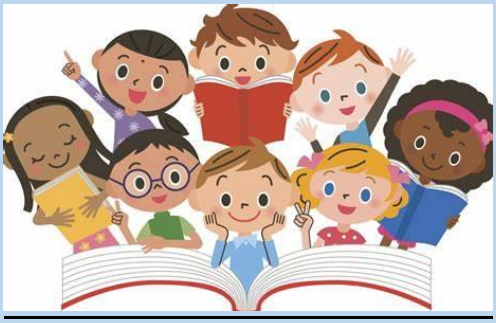
Governors have had a busy few weeks with productive meetings, useful training opportunities and getting to grips with the new Ofsted inspection framework that has recently been introduced and which fits nicely with the motto of the GPP Federation governing board which is "Children at the heart of every decision".

Since Covid and in line with many other schools, improved behaviour and attendance have been priorities for governors. It is pleasing to see that this work is now showing positive impact. As school Attendance Champion, Mrs Sleeman's work is having a real effect and the attendance at both schools has improved drastically this term, meaning most importantly that learning opportunities for the children are not lost.

Lead by Mr Davies and Mrs Beale, the additional lunchtime play opportunities as part of the OPAL programme are already reaping benefits with busy, happy and well-behaved children. We will be excited to see the portfolio of activities on offer continue to increase in number and adventurousness over the next twelve months.

Thank you to all staff and parents for working with us to improve both of these as they are vital for the learning and well-being of the children

Parents/Carers Reading Together Sessions – Wednesdays



After Christmas we are really pleased to bring back the very popular 'Reading Together' sessions at Glebe Infants. This will begin on Wednesday 7th January and will take place every Wednesday.

If you are a parent/carer with a child in Glebe we would like to invite you to come and join us each Wednesday at 2:45pm and spend 15 minutes reading with your child in school. We will ask you to leave the classroom at 3pm and wait outside, so that we can get the children ready for home time.

We really look forward to welcoming you into our classrooms and sharing our favourite stories and books with you. See you there!

Parking

A reminder to Parents/Carers not to park on the yellow zigzag lines outside of school. Parking here is a health and safety risk and must be kept clear.

When picking up or dropping off children at school, it is recommended that you do the following:

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area close to school is likely to be busy.
- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.
- If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or access ways.

Please visit https://www.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/parking-outside-schools/ if you wish to know more.

Attendance

Glebe Autumn Term Attendance – 95.8%	Picklenash Autumn Term Attendance – 95.6%
Local Schools Average Attendance – 95.3%	National Schools Average Attendance – 95.6%

Both Glebe and Picklenash are currently performing slightly above the local and national averages for attendance this academic year, which is fantastic

We are thrilled to report that several classes have achieved a perfect attendance rate of 100% in a week during this Autumn Term. Special congratulations to Oak, Elm, Cedar, and Hawthorn, the latter of whom accomplished this remarkable feat twice!

Please remember to schedule medical, dental, and optician appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. We recognize that this can be challenging, but these absences significantly impact some children's overall attendance.

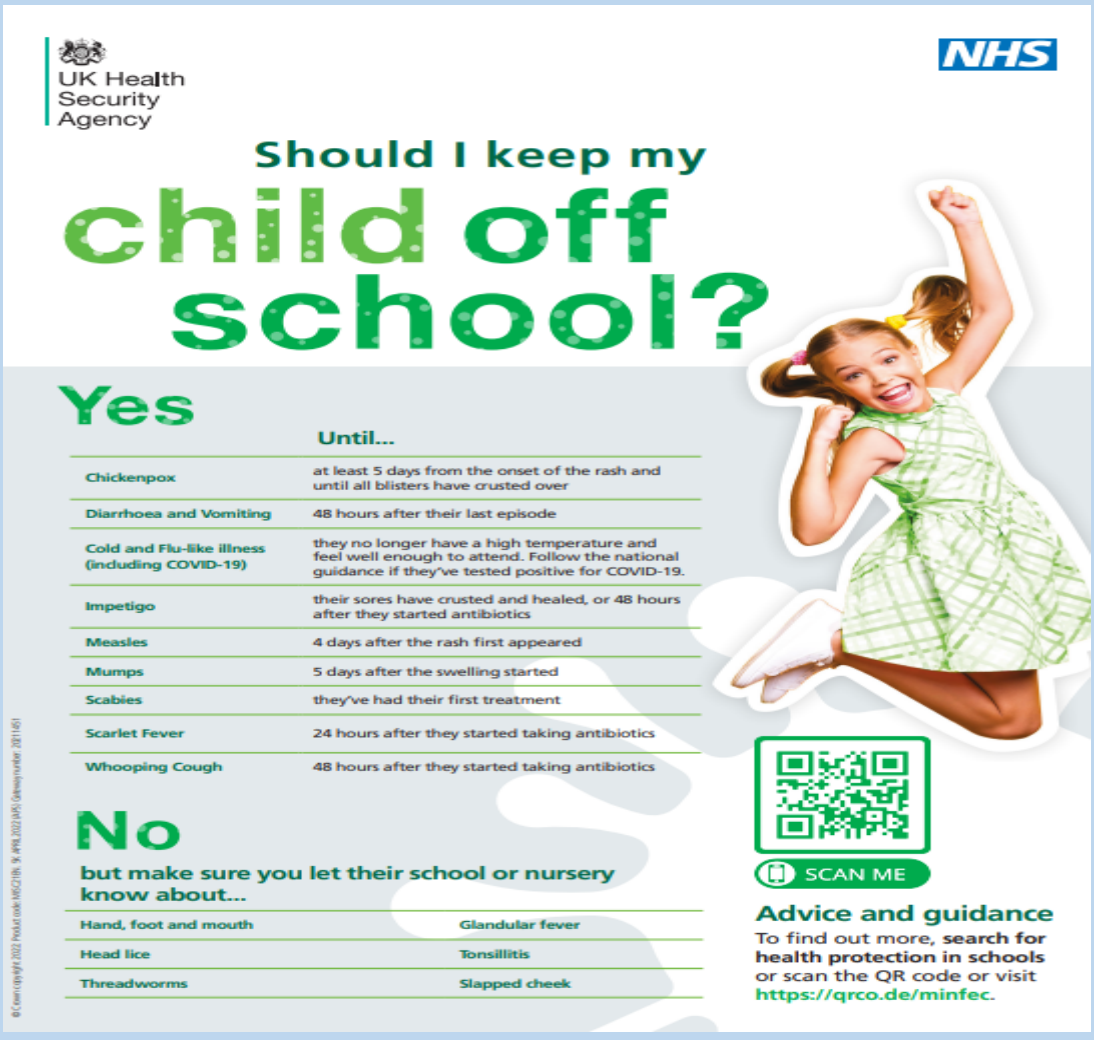
At GPP Federation, we maintain high expectations for attendance. Too many absences are often linked to minor illnesses that can be managed at school. If your child is unwell, we encourage you to consult the NHS's 'Is My Child Too Ill for School?' leaflet. This resource will assist you in determining if they can attend school. If they are indeed too ill, please inform the school as soon as possible by contacting the school office. Remember, the school decides whether an absence is authorized, and if your child feels better later in the day, you are welcome to send them in!

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year! May you all be well-rested and ready to kick off the new term in January!

Warm Regards,

Mrs. Sleeman attendance@gppfed.org



Head Lice

We have had reports of our little visitors in school. Please ensure you treat your child's hair immediately if you notice any head lice.

First Aid

The bandages rest, the plasters sigh,
The First Aid cupboard waves goodbye!
Sparkles settled (more or less),
No tinsel tangled — we tried our best!

Glebe & Picklenash have been such cheer,
Full of brave faces through the year.
Mrs Kelly's set for mince pie fun,
(Though knowing her, she'll still get things done!)

So put your feet up, cosy and bright,
Watch festive films deep into the night.
We'll see you all in the New Year glow —
Minus the glitter… we hope so……

Merry Christmas,

Mrs Gough
First Aid Lead

Pupil Absence

If your child is ill then you must contact the school office to let them know by 8.40am. You need to text/email or phone in. If your child has a contagious illness e.g. chicken pox, sickness bug then please advise us which date you think your child will return.

Newent Larder

A very BIG thank you to everyone for their donations to help those in need in our community.

OPAL

It has been fantastic seeing the engagement from the children during lunch times since beginning our OPAL journey. So far, we have opened up zones for small world toys, chalks, Lego Duplo construction, building blocks, skipping ropes and team building activities. Children from Year 2 up to Year 6 have been able to really show their creativity, imagination and just enjoy their play.

After Christmas, we are looking at opening a digging zone on the field and would like to open up a few more zones on the field before the end of the school year. For this to happen, I would like ALL children in Years 2 to 6 to have wellies in school with them. These will be left in school during term time so that children can make use of our wonderful site even during rainy days.

Elm Class:

Elm enjoyed a special visit to the local church as part of their RE learning. They explored how some Christians celebrate Christmas by going to church and talked about the things you can see and do inside, such as looking at stained glass windows, sitting in pews, and hearing music. The children were fascinated by the beautiful decorations and shared their ideas about why churches are important at Christmas. Afterwards, they drew wonderful pictures of churches to show what they had learned.

Elder Class:

Year 5 and 6 LOVED having a visit from a variety of animals from all across the globe: meerkats, pythons, rabbits, foxes and even skunks and many many more. The children enjoyed seeing the animals, hearing a little bit of information about them and even being able to handle them. We learnt how some animals need it to be quiet and don't like to be sociable and some animals love the attention and a cuddle. Miss Newby was brave and had the python around her neck. We have continued to learn about countries all around the world by researching countries we would love to visit and writing our own travel brochures, designing a stamp for our passport, using facts from around the world to help us with our addition and subtraction in Maths and learning how to create a travel vlog.

Maple Class:

Bonjour! Ola! Ciao! This term we've been learning lots about many places all across the world. In writing lessons, we've produced fact files about France, written a story setting for Lapland and are currently planning a persuasive leaflet about another country. We've discovered some fascinating things.

In Geography, we have located the equator, the Northern and Southern hemispheres, learnt about lines of longitude and latitude and the Arctic and Antarctic circles. Our map skills are improving and we've enjoyed using the atlases for research.

Cedar Class:

Wow! What a term it has been in Cedar class. The children have worked incredibly hard even with the excitement of Christmas approaching. This term, we have really looked at some hands-on learning, especially in subjects such as science and computing. In science, our focus has been around materials and their properties. We have looked at classifying materials based on their properties for example are they opaque or are they brittle. We then looked at separating a mixture of water, salt, pasta, sand and paper clips. The children showed some fantastic science understanding and their development of scientific language was a joy to hear. I can't wait to see what the spring term brings.

Poplar Class:

We have had a wonderful half term learning all about the Great Fire of London. The children have really immersed themselves into the unit and loved learning about London in 1666 and comparing it to London now. Well done on a brilliant half term. Have a wonderful Christmas and happy new year! See you in January.

Oak Class:

This autumn term in Reception has been full of excitement and learning! We have explored lots of different celebrations that take place each year around the world and discovered how fireworks are used to mark special occasions such as Diwali, Bonfire Night, Christmas, New Year's, and even weddings. We loved our visit from Pastor Dave who came to talk to us about Christmas. We were so proud of their knowledge of the Christmas Story and how enthusiastic they were to share their learning.

The children have been working incredibly hard on their phonics, learning all their sounds and beginning to orally blend them into words. It has been wonderful to see them start to read simple words with growing confidence—well done to everyone for such fantastic effort and achievement in your very first term! As we look forward to the Christmas holidays, I want to thank you all for your continued support. We are almost ready to perform our Christmas show, and tomorrow the children will be trying on their costumes—how exciting! We can't wait to welcome you into school to watch it.

Have a wonderful Christmas

Willow Class:

This term Willow Class have fully emerged themselves in learning about London and its famous landmarks. This then linked to the topic of the Great Fire of London where the children travelled back in time to the year 1666. The children explored artefacts and learnt about what happened and how people in that era lived.

The children had an amazing GFoL workshop where they took part in several fun activities, and to end the topic, the children will be baking bread like Thomas Farriner did in Pudding Lane! Well done Willow Class for working super hard this term!

Hawthorn Class:

What an amazing half term we have had! It has gone extremely quick. We have had lots of fun together this half term, as well as the dreaded assessments!

The highlight has to be the animal encounter that we were lucky enough to experience. I was so touched by how gentle and caring the whole class were with all the animals. We were all so excited to be able to handle a chameleon, bearded dragon, giant snake, skunk, owl, meerkat and lots of guinea pigs and rabbit. Thank you to Miss Newby for organising it, I am sure we will remember this for years to come!

I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas break and get to spend lots of quality time together!

Ash Class:

Ash class have been super busy this term learning all about celebrations! We've enjoyed making our own Diva lamps for the celebration of Diwali and learning about the Christmas story and performing our own nativity! We've also enjoyed our forest school sessions this half term - making bird feeders and roasting marshmallows around the fire!

Sycamore Class:

We have been working hard throughout the entire term on improving our seating position – after all, "When we're sitting right, our learning takes flight!" The children have shown great consistency with this, and it has helped them focus beautifully across all subjects.

Our main topic has been a fantastic 'trip around the world'. We explored the key features of non-fiction texts, focusing on non-chronological reports, and even wrote our own travel pages for a class book. Alongside this, we have been strengthening our grammar skills, learning to use relative clauses, colons, semi-colons and commas accurately—and we are beginning to apply these confidently in our writing. The children also drafted letters from different countries, using their imagination and research brilliantly. A highlight was welcoming our VIP visitor, Mrs Kelly, to our travel gallery, where two children proudly gave her a tour of the wonderful work we had created. After exploring the gallery, she chose Japan as her dream destination—especially inspired by the idea of seeing the cherry blossom!

In Maths, we worked on addition and subtraction before beginning our multiplication topic. We cleverly linked this with our world-travel theme by budgeting for flights, accommodation and activities in each country, planning the perfect adventure for Mrs Kelly. In Geography, we travelled a little closer to home, collecting data and learning all about the UK, its counties and major cities.

In Science, we carried out a range of experiments to investigate materials suitable for travelling the world. We also explored soluble and insoluble substances—thinking about the different beaches around the globe and recognising that, of course, all that sand is definitely insoluble!

The children have also loved their swimming sessions this term and have even learned some key lifesaving skills. I'm incredibly proud of those who pushed themselves out of their comfort zone in the pool—such courage and resilience.

We also enjoyed an unforgettable animal visit, where the children were able to see and handle a whole range of exciting creatures. A standout moment was watching Zak and Will bravely hold a giant python—an experience we won't be forgetting any time soon!

It has truly been a brilliant term. The class have shown focus, determination, and such a positive attitude towards their learning. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them and can't wait to see where our learning journey takes us next.

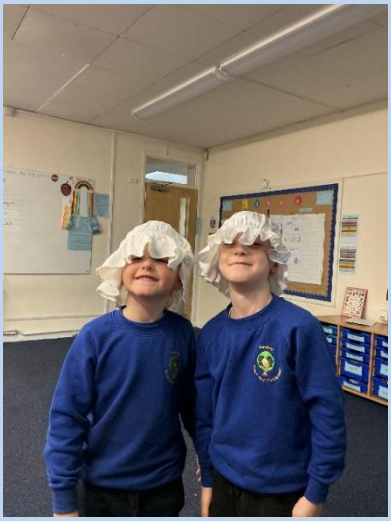
Rowan Class:

Rowan Class have had a great time in science this term learning about circuits. We built circuits and looked at circuit diagrams, and then discussed why a circuit needs to be closed to work. We tested different materials to see whether they conducted (let electricity through) or insulated (didn't let electricity through) and worked out that metal is a good conductor for electricity, but wires have to be covered in plastic to keep us safe.

Birch Class:

Birch class have really enjoyed learning French this term. They have worked really hard to learn the names of colours and shapes and apply them when talking. We have used our knowledge to look at French artist Henri Matisse, we learnt about his life and works, and then were inspired to create some artwork of our own. We can't wait to learn words to do with celebrating birthdays in French next year! Joyeux Noel et Bonne Annee from Birch class!

Beech Class:



This week, we took part in an exciting Great Fire of London workshop at school. We had the opportunity to meet Samuel Pepys, who told us all about what happened during the fire in 1666 and shared lots of fascinating facts.

Did you know that people used gunpowder to blow up houses to stop the fire from spreading even faster? We couldn't believe it!

Throughout the workshop, we enjoyed a range of activities linked to the event. We had fun dressing up in historical clothing, writing with a quill, and completing some amazing Great Fire of London artwork. It was a brilliant, practical way to learn more about this important moment in history and helped us to imagine what life was like at the time.

Key Dates:

Monday 15th December 2025	Carols at St Mary's Church – Picklenash Only. Parents Invited
Wednesday 17th December 2025	Christmas Lunch – Children invited to wear Christmas Jumpers
Thursday 18th December 2025	Christmas Parties in Classes
Friday 19th December 2025	School closes at 2pm for Christmas Holidays

Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET Day at Glebe and Picklenash – School Closed
Tuesday 6th January 2026	School re-opens at 8.40am for Spring Term
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Knex – Year 6
Tuesday 20th January 2026	Picklenash Dance Workshop
Monday 26th January 2026	Young Voices Choir at Birmingham
Friday 6th February 2026	Wear Red for Heart Heroes
Friday 13th February 2026	School Closes at 3.10pm for February Half Term
Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026	February Half Term
Monday 23rd February 2026	School re-opens at 8.40am
Tuesday 17th March 2026	Picklenash Dance Workshop
Monday 23rd March 2026	Picklenash Easter Service at St Mary's
Tuesday 24th March 2026	EYFS trip to Henson's Farm Park
Thursday 26th March 2026	School closes at 2pm for Easter Holidays
Friday 27th March 2026	INSET Day at Glebe and Picklenash – School Closed
Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April 2026	School reopens at 8.40am for Summer Holidays

Key dates are subject to change

THE MUSIC WORKS

The Library

barnwood

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