



24 November 2020

Dear parents and carers

This is a busy half term with lots going on, but also one where we are all getting ready for very different types of COVID-restricted Christmas celebrations. Our aim is that it will also be a term where you and your children will not be missing out on any of the special events Christmas brings - but we just have to do things a little differently this year!

Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Week

We spent time as a whole school recently looking at our rules, charters and our blue print for behaviour. We emphasised rewards and team work and asked the children to think about ways they can support each other to stop any unkind behaviour.

All the children made a class or individual 'Together, We Can' statement which will soon be displayed as a strong message to us all.

Thank You Club

During Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Week, all of the children who kept to the school rules each day were given a big **THANK YOU** at playtime. They had lots of toys and equipment and even disco music on the loud speakers for an extra playtime.

All of the staff supported and let the children who are always so well behaved, know how much we appreciate their efforts.

Children In Need

Thank you for your amazing support for Children in Need! Most of the children came dressed up or with a spotty accessory and a donation of a £1. Once the money is safely counted we will be able to share the total with you and let you know how you have helped to support the children who need it the most. Together, we can transform lives.



Focus on World Religions

During our RE focus lessons and assembly times we have explored the major world religions at different points throughout the year. This half term, we have explored what Diwali celebrations involve and learnt a little about the Hindu religion. We have also found out about Guru Nanak, who founded the Sikh religion, and talked about how Sikhs might be celebrating his birthday this month.

Leading up to Christmas we will be discussing Advent and what it means to Christians. We will of course explore the Christmas Story and its huge importance in the Christmas celebrations for Christians across the world, and are starting to practice for our virtual concerts and nativities!

Class Dojo

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SIGNED UP TO CLASS DOJO! All of the nativities and concerts will be available on this platform only. Make sure you don't miss out on your little angel... or donkey... or innkeeper... or even a star or two!

Please also ensure you have completed the online form giving photo permissions for your child so they can be included on Dojo, the website or Trust wide newsletters, link below. Also check out our most recent upload - Cherry Class assembly.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HCBDF7GBoEOqWbJW_OwBUanHQSAkeEhAsDSI1DyLH_BURFhSVENXUk85TTBLR0NUQjEzNTVCVFJIUy4u



Letters to Santa

I was very excited to receive a very special message from Santa via Elf-mail recently! He is very sad that he won't be able to visit school this year and asked if your children would still like to write to him? One of his helpers has delivered a special post-box into school this week so you can do just that! **If your child would like to write a letter to Santa, they are welcome to post their letter into our Santa post box. DEADLINE FOR POSTING IS FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER** as all of the letters will then be sent off to Santa on Monday 7 December. Santa said that he will try and find the time to write back to every child who posts a letter before we finish for Christmas because he has a little bit of spare time this year before he heads up to the North Pole to get ready for the big day.

Please write the following on your letter to make sure that Santa doesn't make any mistakes:

- **Child's name**
- **Child's age**
- **Child's class**
- **Any allergies (this is because Santa may have time to send a little gift)**

Christmas Cards to our Friends at School

Each class will have its own Christmas post box in school to safely collect Christmas Cards. **Christmas Post week is from Monday 7 to Friday 11 December only.** No cards should be brought into school outside of these times due to COVID restrictions. The cards will be quarantined and distributed safely in class during the last week of term. Cards to your teachers and other staff should be posted during this week too.

This way we can send and receive cards safely and keep the Christmas spirit going. Of course if you want to use this time to make an environmentally friendly change you can e-mail messages to staff or to whole classes (not individual children) via e-mail: admin@glaptonacademy.co.uk

Messages & Gifts to Staff

I know at this time of year many children want to buy a small gift or card to say 'Happy Christmas' to their teacher. Messages by e-mail were gratefully received in the summer so are welcome again at admin@glaptonacademy.co.uk where they will be passed on to teachers. **Cards can be posted in class during Christmas post week and small gifts may be sent in on Monday 14 or Tuesday 15 December only.** This will allow 72 hours quarantine time and taken home safely on Friday 18 December.

Please be reassured that no-one expects a gift or card especially in these difficult times so please do not feel under pressure to do so. This arrangement is in response to questions we have been asked by a number of parents.

Wainman Trust

Everyone at Wainman Trust were so grateful that Glapton Academy were involved earlier in the year writing to their members during the first lockdown. They said it was wonderful to see how much it meant to the members to know that someone in the community was thinking of them. Unfortunately they have not been able to re-open their friendship group since the first lockdown due to limitations of Covid-safe practices. With a second lockdown in place and Christmas looking uncertain for families, The Trust would love each of their members to receive a Christmas card and letter from someone as a surprise through their letterbox during December. They have invited us, as a local school, to be involved by making Christmas Cards which they will send to their members. All of the members are over 70 years old, most live alone and some have had very limited contact with the outside world this year due to underlying health challenges. Miss Allmark is co-ordinating this project and will be making sure we have lots of lovely cards and messages to send. Your child's first name will be the only name on the cards so that they cannot be identified.

Governor News

We are delighted to let you know that we have a new Chair of Governors - Mr Martyn Turner. Mr Turner has had a long and successful career in education and is keen to support Glapton in its next chapter. Mr James Strawbridge, who has stepped down as Chair, will remain on our governing body and we thank him for his years as Chair. Our new Vice-Chair of Governors is Miss Erica Stirrett, who many of you will know from her days as Glapton's School Business Manager.

We currently have a position for an additional parent governor. If this is something that is of interest to you please contact Mrs Hurst via the school office for more information.

Water Bottles

Please could I remind you to send your child to school each day with a named water bottle filled with fresh water only.

Children have access to water throughout the day from their own bottle so it really is an essential part of their daily equipment.



Upcoming dates for your diary

Thursday 3 December 2020

Tuesday 8 December 2020

Wednesday 9 December 2020

Friday 11 December 2020

Wednesday 16 December 2020

Thursday 17 December 2020

Friday 18 December 2020

Monday 4 January 2021

Tuesday 5 January 2021

Whole School Flu vaccinations

KS2 Christmas Concert upload to Class Dojo

KS1 Nativity upload to Class Dojo

EYFS Nativity upload to Class Dojo

Whole School Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

Bubble Christmas Parties

Break up for Christmas

INSET day

Children return to school

Yours sincerely



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