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Summer 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

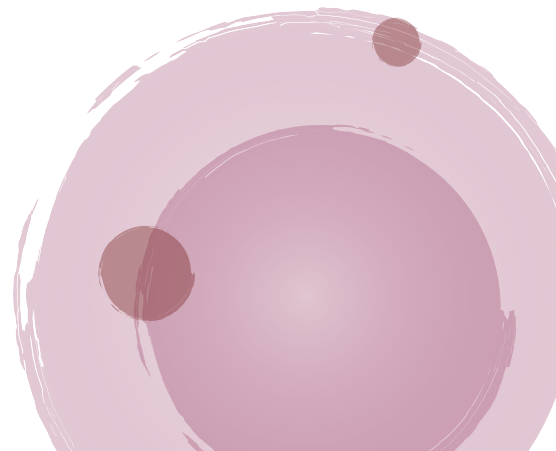
We want to share with you all of the many, engaging things that have been going on this year at Glenmere with our amazing curriculum. Our Curriculum is designed for the children in our community. We know that during the time your children spend with us they will progress both academically and personally and we plan for both types of development. We believe that we are preparing and inspiring our children today for their world tomorrow. We place particular emphasis on skills and knowledge and to achieve greater success and progress within each lesson and each unit of work and in each year group. Our curriculum is greatly enhanced by our large variety of engaging trips and enrichment activities that we carefully plan. Children have the opportunity to develop their talents at before and after school clubs as well extra-curricular activities.

We hope you enjoy this small insight to our learning this academic year and we look forward to the beginning of a whole new year of learning in the autumn term

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Conlon'.

Mrs S Conlon
Headteacher



Computing Curriculum.

We have had a great year in computing lessons across the whole school from deepening knowledge of hardware, software, programs and applications to developing the knowledge of the practices of computing.

In EYFS the children are so much more confident with using the computers now. The reception children have been completing online activities related to the topic of 'Wings, Legs and Leaves' as an extension to their class topic. They have also been introduced to basic coding and logical reasoning concepts in the form of a game using the programmable toys BeeBots.



KS1 have had quite a challenging year learning how to use a floor robot, creating digital artwork and designing and programming the movement of a character on screen to tell stories. Children have learned about photography; how digital cameras work, how to take a good photo, how to frame a shot and how to enhance the photos using editing software.

KS2 have created sequences in a block-based programming language to make music and

explored variables to code a game. They have learned how to use data bases to create charts and answer questions and also designed and created their own web pages in year 6.

Online Safety

We are using ProjectEVOLVE alongside our Computing & ICT, and PSHE curriculum to teach the children about online safety. There have been some fabulous discussions going on and our children are continually surprising the staff with their ever-growing knowledge. We also have assemblies in school about staying safe online and safe ways to use social media.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday, 6th February, the entire school spent an afternoon focusing on E-Safety activities to celebrate Safer Internet Day. Although we cover all aspects of online safety in our computing lessons, it was great to have the whole school spending time doing activities to inspire conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

Parents workshop

The children had the opportunity to showcase their learning to parents when they were invited into take part in their children's computer lessons. It's always good to see how much how parents enjoy being part of their children's learning, so thank you!



What Do our Children Say About Computing at Glenmere?

The children are so enthusiastic about their computing lessons and always love to talk about it to share their knowledge.

"I enjoyed the VR workshop. It was so much fun seeing a world in 3D!"

"I like the ProjectEVOLVE lessons because we learn how to stay safe when we're online and it gives us lots of helpful advice"

"I loved using the BeeBots and when it didn't go where I wanted it to I had to debug it so that the sequence was right"

"I like using ScratchJr and designing my own background"

"Creating a web page was really interesting and I now know how to put in hyperlinks"

RE Curriculum

The children have been busy in their RE lessons this year, learning and understanding a range of religions and world views. The children have learned about Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. In these lessons they have had opportunities for deep and meaning discussions and demonstrated their knowledge in an expert way.

EYFS have learned about special places from stories and a visit to a church. In **KS1** children have asked questions about what Jewish people, Muslims and Christians, finding out what they believe in and how they live. They have looked at religious celebrations and traditions and learned a great deal of new facts that help them to live in a world of many faiths. Children in **KS2** have built upon their previous learning and investigated what it's like to live in Britain today as a Muslim, a Hindu and a Christian. They have also looked at how people with no faith have

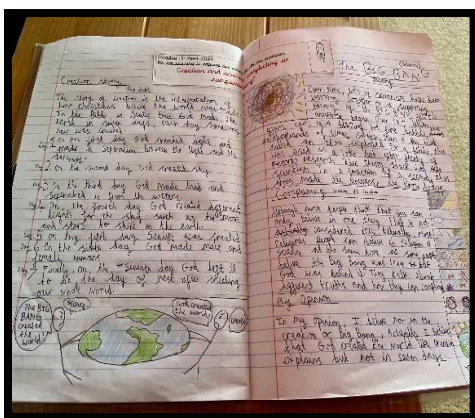


similar values to those who do. Throughout the year they have engaged in a variety of lessons that have included film clips, videos, stories and thought-provoking questions.

Places of Worship

The children have taken their learning outside of the classroom by visiting different places of

worship. Visits have been made to the local church, a Hindu temple, an Islamic visitors centre and a Sikh temple. They learned many of the traditions associated with each faith and were able to use this information back at school in their work.



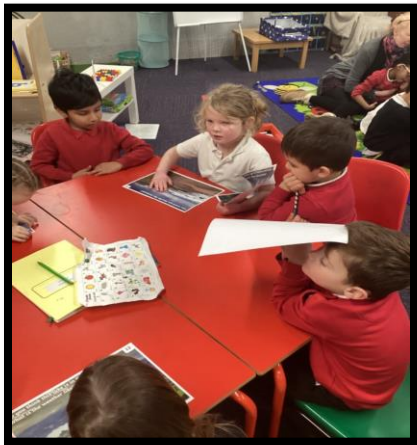
Religious Festivals and Celebration Days

Our annual multi-faith day was another huge success this year with children joining in with different workshops across the school. It was brilliant to see children wearing traditional clothing and sharing their beliefs with each other. They were able to taste different foods, take part in quizzes, watch videos, create artwork and listen to traditional music. There are many religious festivals and various celebration days throughout the year and across different faiths. We have celebrated these through assemblies and discussions in class. The children have celebrated the most important ones for each faith of the children in our school. These special days began with an assembly and then children were taught more about it in their classes in an age-appropriate way. The children who belong to the faith being celebrated had the opportunity to share their experiences, traditions and ways that they celebrate.



Geography Curriculum

Geography in Glenmere this year has been wonderful to see. The children have been defining their map skills, building their locational knowledge and making comparisons between human and physical geography.



In EYFS, the children have learnt all about where we live. They have looked at maps of local areas and discussed the purpose of keys. They also made comparisons with other countries, including our focus country of Kenya. The children explored the similarities and differences in animals, houses and even the weather between the UK and Kenya.

In Key Stage 1, the children have been developing their identification of locations, building from the countries in the UK to the continents of the world. Children discussed how the location of different countries can impact the weather and the physical features around. Year 2 explored this further with their key study of the Jurassic coast; investigating why people may visit there and how that differs from our city.

In Key Stage 2, the children have learnt more about physical features around the world. For example, Year 3 developed knowledge of how mountains and volcanoes are formed and discussed the benefits and the risks of living near them, and Year 5 developed this further by comparing their focus study of Innsbruck in the Alps with that of Wigston.

Other physical features discussed include the rainforest, rivers and oceans and the desert. The children also learn about sustainability, air miles and population change.

Fieldwork

Every unit of our geography has included a different piece of fieldwork. We incorporate fieldwork skills such as map reading, data collection and compass directions into each unit of geography. This may have been a project that connects our school environment such as Year 6's focus of "how does population affect our environment?", or it may have been a data collection project such as "How littered is our marine environment?"



Using ICT within Geography

The use of technology has added some fantastic depth to our geography learning this year with the children building their skills in geography using Google Earth and OS maps. The children practiced locating different countries and comparing terrains with the use of Google Earth. They have also worked with jam boards to answer enquiry questions.

Trips

Reception have visited the Botanic Gardens to further develop the application of minibeasts and their purposes. We explored how to increase the number of minibeast within our playground and took these ideas to explore new ways to increase the number of minibeast within our outdoor area. Year 1 took their learning through to Brocks Hill Country Park and created their own maps of different areas of the park.

What do children say about Geography?

The children in Glenmere are very enthusiastic about their geography learning and in particular the key skills they are developing.

"I like working with the maps so I can work out where I want to go when I grow up"

"I liked when we were using the bar scales to track where our food comes from. It made me think about our school dinners"

"I like making my own messy maps"

Design Technology Curriculum



Glenmere children had great fun this year in design and technology. Each year, children have the opportunity to shine in food and nutrition, textiles, and either lessons for mechanisms, structures, or electrical systems. During our units, children make sure they make products for people with a purpose. During food and nutrition lessons this year, we have seen children cooking spaghetti Bolognese, biscuits, seasonal tarts, wraps, smoothies, soup and even a three-course meal!

Children have learnt different knife skills such as cutting, slicing and dicing, as well as peeling and grating.

In textiles this year, we have been busying sewing away creating hand puppets, pouches, book covers, cushions, stuffed toys and waistcoats. Although this was probably our most difficult unit, the children showed great resilience (especially when threading needles!). The summer



term sees a variety of different products being designed and made. Reception have been busy junk modelling. In year 2, they have been creating stable, sturdy chairs for baby bear, whilst in year 1 they have been creating moving picture books. In year 3 and 5 we have seen pneumatic toys and pop up books. This year, year 4 and 6 have been doing a new unit of electrical systems, creating torches and



steady hand games.

Music Curriculum.

We have learnt so much in music this year and have listened and appraised various songs by artists such as: The Beatles, ABBA, BON JOVI and Adele and there have been many genres explored, such as: Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk.

In EYFS the children are becoming increasingly musical and are enjoying the musical instruments - real ones such as glockenspiels, maracas and wooden blocks and those made from pots, pans, spoons and rice in cups. They have enjoyed singing and learning new songs and original nursery rhymes such as; I'm A Little Teapot, The Grand Old Duke of York, Ring O' Roses and Hickory Dickory Dock.

KS1 have developed their understanding of song structures and how the verse, chorus, bridge, intros and outros can change depending on the genre of music. Children have learned new musical vocabulary to use within their lessons and have developed their

understanding of how to use this within their knowledge recall grids to explain their responses when listening and appraising music.



KS2 have created fabulous compositions using written notation on staves and by using technology - using the links via charanga. They are using musical vocabulary, notation and are developing their understanding of the symbols seen in written compositions. They have also learnt how to play the ukulele, which has been very exciting.



Singing Assemblies

On a Friday morning, we get together as a school to learn how to sing properly.

The children have developed an understanding of the importance of warming their voices up using set vocal pieces, which include echoing simple lyrics and responding by copying the rhythm or pitch. They have also learnt how their mouths, diaphragms and body position can affect the way they sing. Vocabulary such as crescendo, decrescendo, pitch, dynamics, piano and forte have been introduced and modelled within various songs being sung. We have also learnt how to use sign language while singing the song 'Three Little Birds' by Bob Marley.

Musical Workshops

We have had the most amazing music related workshops, which the children across the age groups have responded to with enthusiasm and gusto!

Dance workshops including Indian, African and Street Dance as well as Maypole Dancing (which was a real hit) got the children up and moving along to the beat. We have had the opportunity to play the African drums and Steel Pans, where all children had the opportunity to play an instrument and follow the instruction of a professional musician.



What Do our Children Say About Music at Glenmere?

The children are always full of excitement and are fully engaged during their music lessons. Here are a few words they said

"I loved being able to play the African drums, it was really loud, but we all sounded great!"

"I have really enjoyed using technology and composing my own pieces to match the song 'Make You Feel My Love by Adele.'"

"Mama Mia is my favourite song...I know so many ABBA songs now, like Dancing Queen and Waterloo - they're so great!"

Science

What a wonderful year in Science this has been across the whole school, from making connections to the wider world and deepening our understanding of scientific topics.

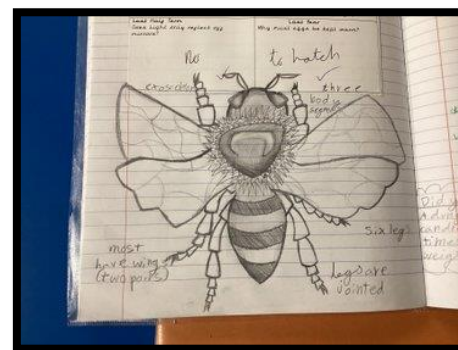
In EYFS the children have grown in confidence in using the scientific skills of observing and classifying to understand the different plants and flowers that are in our local area, the human body, and which animals belong to which habitat.



In KS1 the children have been deepening their knowledge of plants by venturing outside and naming common wild and garden plants, comparing and grouping animals based on their characteristics, physical features and diet, identifying and describing the different stages of animal life cycles.



In KS2 the children were recalling previous knowledge to support them in investigating motion on different surfaces, how to work with electricity safely and build circuits, understand different types of mixtures and different methods to separate them.



Science Workshops

The children across the school have taken part in lots of science related workshops. From EYFS to year 6, the children took part in a Silly Science Workshop, where it offered the children to experiment investigate and explore the world around them in a playful and fun



way. Lots of exciting facts about the solar system in the Wonder Dome that the PSA kindly organised. Year 6 had the opportunity to visit and participate in The Big Bang workshop, where they tested their knowledge of science topics through STEM activities. Year 3 visited the ThinkTank Museum and learnt about the different categories of animals and their characteristics.

Modern Foreign Language

It has been a fantastic year for our Modern Foreign Language lessons in our Key Stage 2 classes. In school, we focus on the language of Spanish and the children have been using their skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening to progress in their knowledge of Spanish vocabulary.

Year 3 children have been learning to say the numbers to 10, colours, simple greetings, and basic verbs. They have progressed in their conversational skills to be able to ask for a specific ice-cream flavour, and say which fruits they like/don't like.



Year 4 children have been learning the names of different vegetables, information about themselves and their family. Also, how to order from a Spanish café.

Year 5 children have been learning the days of the week, the weather, pets, and give information about where they live.

Year 6 children have been learning months of the year, clothes names, subjects that we study at school, and common verbs,

Spanish Day

The children in KS2 had a wonderful afternoon where they were exposed to Spanish outside of their weekly Spanish lessons. They were learning about the culture of Spanish speaking countries through learning about either famous artists, famous singers or stories that that were read in Spanish.

What do our children say about our Spanish lessons at Glenmere?

The children at Glenmere have always loved learning a new language. Here are some of their comments.

"I love learning Spanish because it will mean that I can travel to a Spanish speaking country and talk to other people!"

"I love learning a new language and saying sentences to my partner, especially about ice creams."

"It is so much fun learning Spanish and I really enjoyed pretending that we were in a real Spanish café ordering food."



History Curriculum

What an amazing year we have had on the history front. Children have been busy learning and understanding a range of different time periods, significant events and developing their understanding of chronology through this. In these lessons, children have developed their understanding of the key concepts: society, monarchy, war, empire, settlements, trade and government. To do this, they have used different sources and artefacts to further develop their understanding, enabling them to become historians themselves.

In EYFS, children start by learning about the history of their lives, learning about significant people on their lives as well as learning about the lives of the Royal family. They then go on to look at the history of farming and holidays in the past and present. All of this work centres around developing an understanding of a simple chronology and as well as past and present.



Key Stage 1 children have been looking at how Christmas traditions have changed and toys from the past and comparing these to the present time. They have learned about the moon landing and why this was such a significant global event. As well as this, they have been finding out about this history of castles, why they were built and how they have changed over the years. Children have also learned about The Great Fire of London and obviously the diary

of Samuel Pepys, as well as learning about how different factors added to the spread of the fire. They looked closely at Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and their impact on the world then most recently the history of Foxton Locks - which included a great trip!



Key Stage 2 have been equally busy, kicking off in Year 3 with Richard III - an obvious unit of study living in Leicester. Children develop their understanding of the Battle of Bosworth and how this was significant for Britain at the time. They have studied the Ancient Egyptians and the changes from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age as well. Pupils in Year 4 have developed their understanding of the Ancient Greeks and the Romans and the impact they have had on modern Britain! Children are always so good at making connections. Pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 have studied the Anglo Saxon and Viking invasion of Britain and

the battle for power, changes in Crime and Punishment, World War II and then finally the Mayan Empire and how they were able to grow so strong. I think from that, it is fair to say, children have learned an awful lot this year!

Visits and Visitors

It is always great to bring history to life by having a range of different visits and visitors. The children have thoroughly enjoyed different trips this year. Visits have included New Walk Museum linked to the Egyptians; Beaumanor Hall, learning about a Victorian Christmas; The National Space Centre to discover more about the moon landing and Foxton Locks, learning about the history of the Locks and the land around it. Workshops have also been enjoyed this year, including a Roman day and a Crime and Punishment workshop!



Assemblies



Learning can often be seen through our class assemblies where children sometimes link these to their history topics. Year 6 retold the events of World War II through their class assembly. It is always incredible to see how much learning takes place and how much they can share with their parents and carers.

Art and Design Curriculum

The children have been busy in their Art and Design lessons this year, developing independence in their creativity, as well as confidence in experimentation, expression and exploration of art. In lessons, children have grasped the opportunity to develop their skills, nurture their talent and interests, and express their ideas and thoughts about the world, as well as learning about art and artists across cultures and through history. This year we have newly introduced a breadth of focus Artists across the curriculum so that each and every child in their year group has a deepened opportunity to appreciate the work of an inspirational Artist.

EYFS have explored some marvelous mark-making and textures using different drawing tools; from wax crayons, to chalk rubbings, felt tips to explore colour and pencils to create observational drawings of real-life stimuli. They created child-led paintings using fingers and natural items as tools; learning that colours can be mixed and that paintings can be. The children explored varied materials to make collages and landscapes using both man-made and natural materials. Mud painting was especially intriguing! The children did a fantastic



job of manipulating clay to create 3D animal sculptures, adding realistic features using colour.

In **KS1** children have worked hard to develop their mark-making skills to explore a wider range of tools and experiment with creating patterned surfaces to add texture and detail to drawings. They have consolidated their knowledge of colour mixing and create textures in paint using different tools. Year 1 enjoyed creating simple three-dimensional shapes and structures by manipulating paper and card. They practiced their skills to fold, roll and scrunch materials to make their own sculpture inspired by the 'Tree of life'. Year 2 developed their ability to work with clay by creating simple thumb pots. They explored the work of sculptor Rachel Whiteread and applied her ideas using techniques such as cutting, shaping, joining and impressing into clay.



Children in **KS2** have built upon their previous learning of drawing tools as they developed an appreciation of the differences in drawing medium, scale and tonal shading. Year 3 explored

prehistoric art, recreating the style of cave artists using charcoal and natural pigments. Exploration of spices enabled to children to create their own natural paints. Year 4 built on their prior learning of colour-mixing skills, using shades and tints to show form and create their own still life 3D painting. Using inspiration of historical monuments and modern installations, year 5 conducted their own research and planning for their own design brief. In their artists study, year 6 made some fantastic re-creations of artistic pieces. We have been especially impressed with their expression of their ideas and reflections like a true artist. We have had some real artists in the making through some exceptional sculptures too!



What do our children like about art at Glenmere?

"You can make silly mistakes."

"It shows my personality - I have been drawing at home with different themes I am interested in."

"It is creative and makes us feel happy."

"If you are stressed it can calm you down."

"You can let your imagination go."

"You can just put all your thoughts onto a page and you can tell about people things through your drawings."

Art club

The children who attended art club have thoroughly immersed into different uses of media and materials. We discovered that some methods of art can be very scientific in their approach! We are looking forward to more exciting opportunities in our art club next year.



Art Enrichment Opportunities

We are excited for our whole school art day experience in the next academic year, led by a video feed of a local artist, brought up in Leicester. He will talk about his latest piece of protest artwork. The children will have the opportunity to re-create this piece. We hope to showcase two of the best pieces from each Year group in the Attenborough art centre in Leicester City.



Femi, an amazing artist, joined forces with Oceana, a charity that helps protect the oceans in the UK. Together, they created a super cool artwork to stand up against something called overfishing, which is when people catch too many fish from the sea.

This artwork got featured on a whole page in The Times newspaper! It's like Femi and Oceana teamed up to make the world a better place for our underwater friends!

A poster with a red background. At the top, it says 'Big industry is destroying UK seas. End overfishing now.' Below that is the title 'SAVE OUR SEAS' in large, bold letters. Underneath is a drawing of a fishing boat and a large net filled with fish. At the bottom, it says 'OCEANA'.

Meet our focus artist
Femi Idowu Read

A circular photograph of a man with a beard and a hat, wearing a green jacket. He is holding a small piece of paper or artwork in front of him.

We hope that you have enjoyed learning about our exciting and challenging curriculum. As you can see the children love their learning. They remember so much of their learning and whenever we have visitors in school, they are always so very willing to showcase what they can do. We are all so very proud of each and every one of them!