

Glyne Gap School

Newsletter—Term 3—2024—2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

Pupils' achievements in communication feature throughout this newsletter...and rightly so as we believe communication and the ability to understand and be understood is the essential skill for learning and a happy life. Jude and Ben in Reception have quickly transferred their skills to the Infant Cafe this term, asking for snacks using their communication systems. Further up the school Rupert has been using his communication book to say he wanted to see his friend and he managed to advocate that there was a problem when he was given a drink he didn't like. Awesome progress Rupert!

A positive and effective home/school partnership is vital in supporting our pupils progress their skills. Do have a look at the Communication Team News section to find dates of our next parent/carer workshops.

In addition, on March 11th, we will be holding our second parents/carers evening of the school year (for pupils in the main school building) between 5 and 7pm. I know many of you enjoyed meeting with your child's class teacher in Term 1. If you haven't done so already, please do call the school office to book an appointment. These appointments are 10 minutes long and a double appointment could be offered if needed.

The Communication Team will also be at the evening, as will Holiday Club staff who will have information about Holiday Club plans for Easter and Summer holidays.

Enjoy half term - spring is on the way!

Kirsty

Signs and Symbols in Puffins class



Here you can see Harlie exchanging a symbol for "my turn" in a game and Lawan making a request at lunch time using his communication book.

Dates for your Diary

Half Term

17th—21st February

Whole School cinema trip—Wednesday 26th February (am)

Parents/Carers Evening (School)

Tuesday, 11th March
5—7pm

School (all sites) will close at 1pm on the following day for staff training:

Thursday, 15th May

Senior 3 cook their own dinner in school once a week. This term we are making shepherds pie and have been learning how to safely use vegetable peelers and can now peel and chop potatoes and carrots ready for our dinner. It's hard work as we need to hold the peeler at the right angle to ensure it peels the vegetable but it's always worth it!



Senior 3 - Mastering Life Skills

Fundraising for an Inspiring New Learning Space

Can you help with our fundraising campaign? Spring is in the air and students at Glyne Gap College are looking to renovate the back garden at the college which is looking tired and in need of a 'glow up'! Below is a 'wish list' of what students are fundraising for. Can you, or do you know anyone who can, help us? If so, please contact the school office on office@glynegap.org or call 01424 217720.

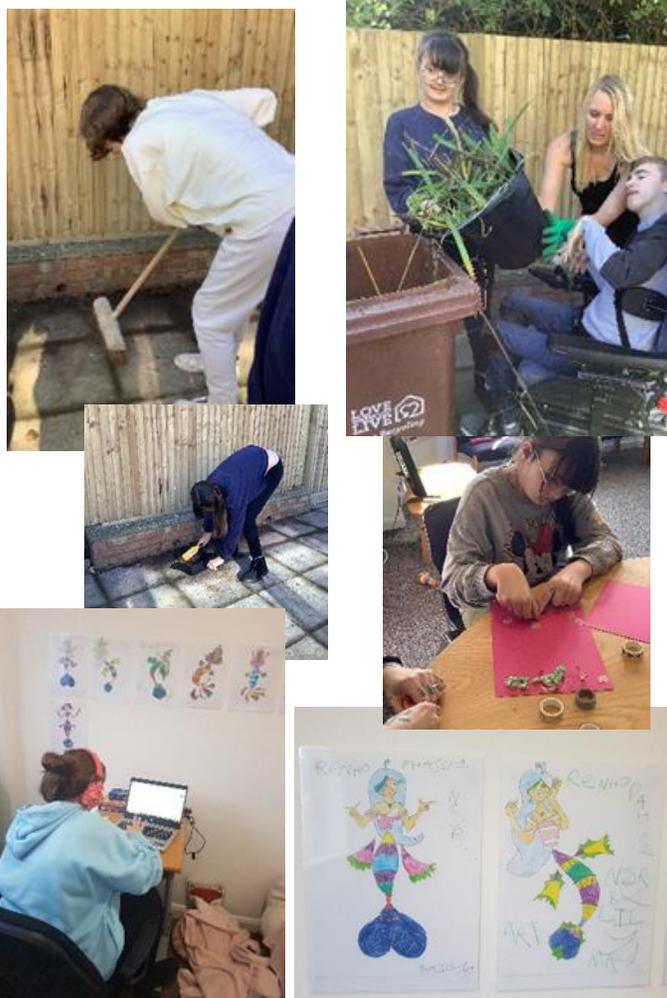
Our wish list items

- Wooden swing seat- £1000
- Accessible potting shed- £1200
- Garden parasol/shelter- £600
- Wheelchair accessible picnic benches- £850
- Garden archways- £500
- Bird bath- £100



FE3 Improving Our Environment

In FE3 we have been identifying ways we can improve our new college environment. Our Nature and Environmental club have worked alongside our Student Council to share ideas regarding improving our outdoor space. Students have contributed to garden maintenance and created some lovely artwork to display around our college.



FE2—Master Chef Sean!



Sean is currently conducting a second work placement at Crowhurst Healing Centre. His first placement was as an Assistant Gardener and now his is working as a Kitchen Assistant. Sean goes on placement 1 day a week. His duties include preparing all the salads and making all the sausage rolls.

Having initially been apprehensive about going to work in the kitchen, Sean is enjoying his new role and thriving in this environment. Sean said "I am now a bit happy". Change can be a challenge at times and not always easy but great things do happen. Well done Sean!

Goldilocks and the Three Bears come to Penguins Class

In Penguins our topic this term is Traditional Tales and we have been enjoying the story Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Our Story Circles help pupils develop their early communication skills; listening and attention, turn taking and receptive and expressive language.



Rio—What a Carnival we've had!

This term for the Senior and Junior department it's been all about Carnival. There have been lots of celebrations around school, instrumental sessions, tie-dying, mask making, food tasting and dancing!



Outstanding Again!



You will have received the full Ofsted report from Kirsty and I am sure you were as delighted as Governors were with the outcome delivered by inspectors. Being graded Outstanding is a testament to the continued and sustained hard work carried out by the whole team at Glyne Gap School and that includes parents and carers too!

I am delighted that the report recognised that 'The school continually challenges itself and ambitions are high'. I can assure you that the school does not rest on its laurels and always strives to look at exciting and innovative ways to improve on it's already outstanding status in order to better serve our pupils and their families.

Best wishes,

Sylvia Lamb—Chair of Governors

Mastering Communication in Junior 4

In Junior 4 pupils use a range of methods throughout the day to communicate for a variety of reasons. Using communication systems, such as books, choice boards and switches enables our pupils to make choices about what foods they would like to eat or leisure items they would access and to comment on things they can see or hear. Here you can see Harry, Arwen and Kellise all using their communication systems.



Hello Everyone!

January is finally over and we have just about recovered from Christmas! Last time we talked about giving your child information about what is happening now and next.

At school, working alongside this we use a traffic light system which works really well as it gives information that an activity is about to finish. To put it into context, if we were halfway through a delicious meal or even a cup of tea and someone came and took it off of us and told us it was finished, we would quite rightly feel aggrieved! So putting ourselves in our children’s shoes, you can see it helps to be warned that something is near to finishing.

This can be used for something that is highly motivating as a warning that it is about to finish; alternatively they can be used to tell children something they aren’t enjoying is nearly finished, for example brushing teeth or a feed pump.

Traffic lights are really simple—just remember to be consistent. There is no time scale so it is up to you to decide whether your child will benefit from lots of time or whether short notice is better for them.

How to use: Get down to your child’s level and present the traffic light in their eye line. Once they are giving some attention to the traffic light you take the green spot off and say their name, followed by i.e. “snack has nearly finished”. Hold it there until they have looked at it and repeat once more if necessary. Remember to give time for them to process what you have said. Sometimes they may push it away as they do not understand what you are saying and don’t want it to finish! When it is time for the activity to finish, you do the same steps of getting down to their level etc., this time once they are looking you remove the amber spot and say that “snack has finished”. Keep the traffic light with the red spot on in their eye line and then you can remove their snack from them. The instructions are on the back of the traffic lights and we have mini ones for going on a keyring or larger ones for at home. Just ask us if you want some!



RED STAYS ON THE CARD

2. Adult says "(name of activity) has finished and REMOVE the orange circle

1. Adult says "(name of activity) has nearly finished" and REMOVE the green circle

Parent /Carer Workshop Celebration

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to our workshops, this term we had a new workshop where we looked at receptive language as well as some basic signs. It was lovely to meet some new parents and get to know you. These workshops are very relaxed and informal so please do try to come and join us next time.

Our next Communication Workshops will take place on the following dates, from 10am—12 noon in the Communication Office (School);

- 19th March—Creating greater opportunities for my child to communicate
- 2nd April—Developing early communication skills
- 30th April—Early receptive and signing
- 14th May—Receptive, how to use visuals
- 21st May—Parent drop in resource making workshop

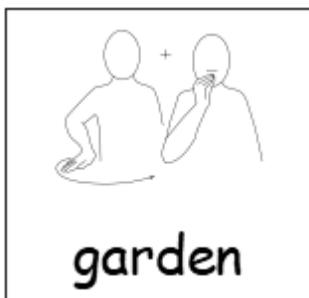
Have a lovely half term

Signing News

Welcome to our signing page. At Glyne Gap we have our own signing vocabulary; we use a mixture of Makaton, BSL and Communication Link. We also have our own signs for some of our more obscure topic words. The main thing is that they are simple, easy to understand and hopefully easy to use even when dexterity isn't great. You will see that we are using photos of signs as well as the sign line drawings which hopefully over time you will find easier to interpret.



The sign for 'outside'
flat hands points away from the body. This is a directional sign so you point to where outside is.



The sign for 'garden'.

Photo 1 shows how you start the sign. A flat hand moves across in front of your waist to sign the ground, and then a pinched hand waves under your



The sign for 'walk'.

Use you hand and 'walk' your fingers forward

On Body Sign of the Term

For some of our pupils that have a hearing or sight impairment (or both) we use an on body sign to give information.



Place your hand (palm down) under pupils then draw it away



finish

Signing Stars!

Some of our pupils are amazing signers and they are great role models for their peers.
Jelano signing "help"



Lenny signing "want"

Edison signing "chicken"

