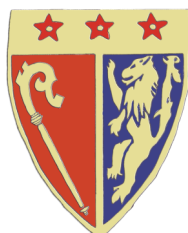


News from Glendale Community Middle School



December



2019



Maggie Moon—The Magnificent Mushroom Year

Margaret-Ann Maxwell (aka Mrs Cheese) launched her first novel at Glendale Show on the August Bank Holiday Monday earlier this year. Margaret-Ann is a past pupil of Glendale Middle School and has kindly donated all proceeds from the first edition of her wonderful book to our school. We are very fortunate to have such a talented and generous individual supporting our school. A lovely card and a cheque for £3,000 arrived at school last week. This is an incredibly generous donation and we will consider carefully how this money can best be spent on enhancing the children's learning experiences here at school.

The book is available in George C Grieve's book shop in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Doddington Dairy's Milk Bar in Wooler and on the Doddington Cheese web site. Rest assured that books will be at the top of the list and the children will be involved in deciding how to spend this wonderful gift.

Thank you Maggie!



Year 7 Birdbox Project

This term the Yr 7 technology project was making bird boxes. This project started with a visit to the sawmill at Etal where the children visited local woodland to meet the foresters and learn about sustainable woodland management. We enjoyed talking to the estate workers and watching them at work felling, shedding and moving timber. We then headed to the sawmill for a guided tour learning all about how the timber is processed and how products are made. At the end of the visit we were given timber boards from the sawmill to bring back to school to make into our bird boxes. Lots was learnt, skills developed and super bird boxes were made by all. A huge THANK YOU to everyone at the sawmill for allowing us to visit and for their generosity with their time and timber.



Swimming

From January all children will be required to wear a swimming hat for swimming as unwanted hair clogs up the filtration system of the pool. If you do not have a swimming hat you can purchase them from the office for £1.50.

Aprons

An apron is an essential item for food technology as we want the children to stay as clean as possible whilst enjoying cooking. Please could you make sure that you provide your child with an apron when cooking is scheduled in class. As Christmas is coming, this could even be the perfect item as a stocking filler!

Also should you have unwanted aprons in your kitchen cupboards and would like to donate them to children in school who haven't got any, please send them to the school office. The aprons will belong to those children so that they can take them home to be washed ready for the next lesson.



Thank you

Tour of Britain

At the start of the term the Tour of Britain made its way through our town. We were all invited to go and watch the racers, their support vehicles and police outriders power through Wooler. We gathered at the junction from the A697 onto the Chatton road opposite Farm to Freeze and enjoyed cheering the competitors on.



Sport News

Glendale Middle School has been very busy since September 2019; we've competed in a multitude of different sporting events with good success in all and occasionally, outstanding results. Once again the wide variety of sports competitions and outdoor activities that Glendale Middle School participate in has once again had a tremendous impact on the pupils.

- Boys Area Rugby – we took 2 teams to Longridge to compete in the rugby tournament, our year 7 boys and year 8 boys were fantastic, with the year 7 team winning all but 1 of their games, and taking second prize among strong opposition.
- The year 6 and 7 boys also played rugby matches against Berwick Middle School with both teams winning their matches.
- Glendale took senior football and netball teams to the Duchess High School. The football team won 8-0 and the senior girls also were victorious against older opposition.
- Girls Area Hockey – we took 2 teams to the girls' area hockey tournament, all teams showed great attitude and endeavour and were rewarded with a top 3 finish in senior tournaments. Our senior girls were especially unlucky not to win but came up against a very strong Longridge team.
- Area Cross Country Championships (Longridge Towers – November 7th) – historically a strength of Glendale, this year was no different with over 40 athletes running at the area championships. With great effort we managed to qualify no fewer than 13 runners to take part in the County Finals and from this, runners can go on to compete on the national stage.

All members of staff are extremely proud of all the athletes.

Mr Pickup

Street Dance

Some of our students working with Connor and the street dance crew performed at the Glendale Festival. Training was kindly funded by the Glendale Show Committee. Everyone had a great time. Thanks to all parents who supported us.

Mrs Humphreys



Water in school

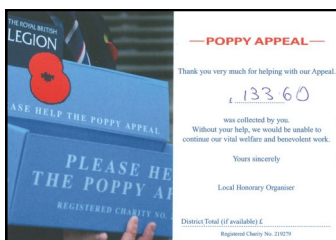
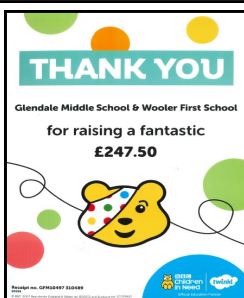
As I am sure you already know keeping hydrated is a very important part of keeping healthy and being ready and able to learn. In school we expect all children to have a water bottle to enable them to keep hydrated throughout the school day. We have found that many children are not bringing a suitable water bottle to school which means keeping them hydrated is at times challenging.

With nearly 250 children across the schools jugs and cups are not a practical or hygienic option. We have considered how we can best address this to ensure children can access water through the day, that we do not have spills in lessons that could ruin children's hard work (this can be a sticky problem with squash and juice) and of course to ensure good levels of hygiene.

At the start of the new term in January every child will receive a water bottle (red tops for Wooler First & blue tops for Glendale). Funds for these bottles have kindly been donated by the PTA and Friends groups. The bottles are made from recycled & recyclable plastic and have a space printed for children's names. Children are expected to have these bottle in school each day taking them home each evening to be cleaned and back into school each morning full of fresh water for the day ahead. Children are able to re-fill their bottles from the two water coolers in our cloakrooms.

Drinks at lunchtime will also be changing with cups and water on every table at lunchtime for both school meals and packed lunches. Children will not be permitted to bring other drinks into school such as squash or use other bottles for their water.

Thank you for supporting us with this important aspect of the children's healthy lives at school.



Bikeability Week

Year 5 successfully completed Bikeability training in October. Some children achieved Level 1 and others achieved Level 2. All children who took part now have a much better understanding of how to stay safe on the roads. Well done Year 5!



Harvest Festival

Our annual Harvest celebration was a feast of music and dancing. We came together to give thanks for all that we are privileged to have and it was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers to join us this year – the hall was full to bursting. Year 8 did a grand job with their readings and our Ceilidh Band were just superb playing along with the very experienced Penny Dot band. Having live music at our Harvest Festival is something quite special indeed. The children danced and sang brilliantly and the celebrations were enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us and to all who made contributions of food items.

Miss Johnston delivered these to our local food banks who were most appreciative.



Sponsored Walk

Our annual walks into our local hills took place in late October this year. This is one of our major fundraising events, generating funds for the Friends of Glendale to be able to support educational trips and visits for all year groups at school. The weather was kind to us and we enjoyed two days of fantastic walking where children pushed their fitness, challenged themselves climbing hills while learning about our local landmarks and history. Thank you to everyone for their fundraising efforts and to those who were able to come and join us for the walks.

This year we raised a fantastic **£1,873.00**.



Year 5 - Environment Agency

In Geography, Y5 have been studying rivers. Recently they have been studying how and why a river floods and the human and physical impact when it does.

A team from the Environment Agency paid Y5 a visit to show us how they can help. Y5 got to learn first hand how they help warn people there is danger by using megaphones, sirens and microphones. They then helped out releasing sandbags, pulling objects to safety and even got to try out a robot that could help in an emergency.

Inside the classroom, a flood resilience officer helped Y5 to understand what they could do to make our school flood proof, how to monitor changes and create a personal flood plan for our school.



First Aid Training



Our Year 7 students have been undertaking first aid training on Thursday mornings with Mr Deane-Hall. They have been learning to assess a casualty, get help and to perform CPR. As part of their training, our local first responder Mark came into school to teach them how to use an AED. Special thanks to Mark for the loan of the training manikins and also for coming into school to support the children's learning. On his last visit Mark was accompanied by Rebecca, one of our Wooler paramedics. Both Mark and Rebecca were hugely impressed with the children's knowledge and skills.



'...both Mark and Rebecca were very impressed with our teamwork! I really enjoyed our training and think it will be a very useful skill to have'. Will M.

'I really enjoyed doing first aid and it was nice to learn something new'. Lara C.

100 Years of Forestry Commission Celebration at Wooler Common

In November we were invited to participate in a celebration of our local woodlands by the Friends of Wooler Common and the Forestry Commission. A small group of our Key Stage 2 pupils were able to help plant a tree on a very wet and windy day at the Common and then enjoy learning about the history of our woodlands back at the Cheviot Centre with current and retired foresters. Thank you to The Friends of Wooler Common for inviting us and for the books that were presented to the children to mark the event. Mr Deane-Hall received a letter from Steve Revell, Chair of the Friends of Wooler Common, to thank him for participating to this event:



" I just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed and appreciated you and the children coming up to the Forestry Commission 100 Year celebrations on that wet Friday two weeks ago. It was wonderful to see the children help out with the tree planting especially as Mr Oliver, the original plantation forester, was there as well. I hope the children gained an insight into the effort that goes into the forestry work in Northumberland and the timescales involved in bringing on trees to maturity. As you know, some children also attended the Wooler Walk event in September which I can also report as a successful event involving children stream dipping and listening to our resident bats with the aid of our special high frequency equipment. It's heart warming to see the continued interest and I do hope we are able to invite you to many more events in the coming year as it is important that the Schools are seen as part of the community that looks after this valuable nature area."



Wild About Adventure

Wild About Adventure has been visiting the school to work with Year 7 and 8. The team is a small, friendly, family run company in rural Northumberland. They have a passion for the outdoors and conservation. Their aim is to inspire others to reconnect with nature and enjoy what the great outdoors has to offer. By doing so they hope to build an appreciation for wildlife, nature and a culture geared towards protecting and conserving our amazing natural world. They have been providing outdoor activities to our school and teaching children orienteering, teamwork skills and problemsolving.



Hawkhirst—Year 5

From 6th - 8th November, Year 5 enjoyed a three day trip to the scout adventure centre at Hawkhirst. The activities included bell boats, abseiling, climbing wall, bush craft, zipline and (most difficult of all!) making our own beds when we arrived. Here is some of the feedback from pupils: *"I was nervous about going but enjoyed spending time with my friends"* – Josh; *"I got to the top of the climbing wall and had fun abseiling down"* – Grace; *"I enjoyed the food and the zipline most of all"* – Tyler; *"I've done the zipline, I can do anything!"* Jack B



Paxton House Writing Project

On Tuesday 3rd December, 10 pupils from Year 6 took a minibus to Paxton House to enjoy this beautiful building and its surroundings at this festive time in order to support their writing outcomes. They were not disappointed! The house was decorated beautifully in the original traditions and the personal, guided tour around the rooms along with a visit from the Victorian version of Father Christmas meant that the pupils learnt so much about this brilliant local resource. Afterwards we were treated to the most breath-taking views on this crisp, sunny winter day as we walked along to the Union Chain Bridge. We couldn't believe our luck as an otter played beneath us in the river! Following this, the pupils had the opportunity to make stylish Christmas decorations in an old-fashioned classroom. The day was finished off with den building and a walk around Scotland's only surviving 18th century waterwheel and beam pump set in the grounds of this wonderful house. Once we returned to school, we spent the next day and a half writing up our experiences. It was hard work, but using the trip as inspiration, certainly improved writing outcomes. At the end of the project Alice said 'I think this is probably the best writing I have ever done' and Farren said, 'I am so proud of myself!.' Thank you to all of the Paxton House staff who supported us and treated us to this experience along with the GMS Friends who helped us with the fees and travel. View all of the photographs on the website.



Santa's Helpers

Three of our Year 8 students were on hand to help Santa at the First School Christmas Fair – thank you to Sophie, Alyssia & Eden. They worked really hard and were super elves in Santa's Grotto. Thanks also go to their mums for helping with costumes!



Civic Carols Service

Our year 4 children performed 'Mary did you know?' and the penny whistle group joined with the Middle School Ceilidh band to play Little Donkey and Jingle Bells in the Civic Carol Service at St Mary's church on Tuesday 10th December, all to rapturous applause from the packed church.

All of the children who took part did themselves and our schools proud. The readings and seasonal musical items were excellent, drawing many positive comments from members of the congregation. Sophie and Emily along with Maisie and Dakota kicked off proceedings with a beautiful rendition of the first verse of Once in Royal David's city, inches away from the Duchess of Northumberland. The Scouts played the handbells brilliantly too. Well done to all of the children who were there.

Performing in front of such a large audience is very daunting and they were all brilliant.

Special thanks go to staff members Mrs Humphreys, Mr Pearse and Mrs Simpson for attending, Susie Cochrane (musical maestro) and to families for supporting the children's participation in this important annual community event .



Dressing the Christmas Tree

The Christmas season in school was signalled with the arrival of the school Christmas Tree, kindly donated by College Valley Estates. Mr Pearse and Mr Lowery did their magic putting the tree up in the school hall and a group of Glendale Year 8 students came and helped the First School children to decorate it. The tree looks magnificent – thank you to our Year 8s for their help with our younger children.



Glendale Middle School Pantomime

Yes, it was that time of year once more and Year 8, along with the rest of the Middle School, did themselves proud by performing our annual school pantomime - this year being 'Cinderella.' After months of weekly rehearsals, hard work, dedication and hiccups along the way, this wonderful troupe of pupils managed to pull off one of the best performances ever! With two nights of full houses and contributions from all our staff, governors and parents, Year 8s have left a resounding legacy for the Friends of Glendale - from the fund-raising totalling **£1213.05**, but will also inspire our younger year groups this year and beyond.

From the exquisite Cinderella, to the glory that shall be called 'Gloria', Year 8 showed that collaboration, teamwork and resilience are some of the very best of the values we hold dear, here at Glendale Middle School. It was so rewarding to see the very finest emerge from all of our pupils and for them to recognise strengths that they never knew they had. We thank them all for allowing us the opportunity to see them shine. Here is some of the feedback from the cast:

'I learnt that when you get a chance like this, just go for it and you will feel so proud of yourself. I also realised that you need to learn to work with people you wouldn't normally work with. I will remember this amazing experience for the rest of my life and I will treasure all the memories I have made. I feel that this whole experience has brought our class together and it has been one of the best times of my life.' **Sophie – Cinderella.**

'My family loved it and thought it was the best one yet.' **Frankie – soloist and villager.**

'I learnt to be more confident and to be stronger.' **Lily-Mae – King's partner and villager.**

'Through doing the panto I think I became more care-free and confident.' **Alyssia – Squeak.**

'My family loved it and it was a relief that all the hard work paid off. My appearance was dreadful, but I think I performed to the best of my ability.' **Charlie – Gloria.**

'We should be happy and amazed. I want to say thank you to all the teachers spending their own time.' **Zak – Dobbin.**

'The acting was superb and nobody felt like themselves anymore; they felt like the characters they were acting out.' **Joshua – P.C. Plod.**

'At first it was very strange being in front of a large crowd, but you got used to it very quickly.' **Hector – Dandini.**

'I learnt that the lives of someone in drama is very hard and very pressured into learning their lines. I will remember the happy memories and the praise off everyone that watched the show.' **Finley – Buttons**

'...but surely I will never forget when I was hit on the head by the tooth fairy.' **Ryan – P.C. Dimblebee.**

'The pantomime helped me a lot and brought out a more confident and creative side to me.' **Eden – The Fairy Godmother.**



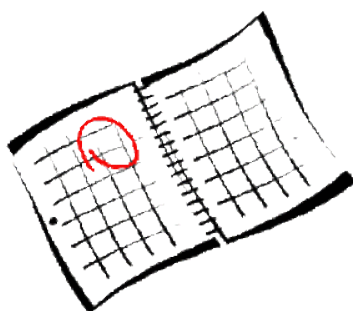


Cinderella



Important Dates for your Diary

Teacher Training Day	Monday 6 January	All day
Back to School	Tuesday 7 January	8:50am
County Cross Country	Tuesday 14 January	TBA
Operation Encompass	Wednesday 29 January	L4&5 and after school drop-in
Break-up for half term	Friday 14 February	At 15:35
Back to School	Monday 24 February	At 8:50
Year 8: Careers Hive in Edinburgh	Monday 24 February	9:00 depart, 16:30 return
Sage Gateshead Year 4 and Year 7	Tuesday 25 February	11:30 – 15:50
Alnwick Garden in school – Yr 7	Tuesday 3 March	Lesson 1 and 2
KS2 Cross Country @ Longridge	Wednesday 4 March	12:30 – 15:30
Alnwick Garden in school – Yr 8	Thursday 5 March	Lesson 4 and 5
Yr 5/6 Football @ Tweedmouth	Tuesday 10 March	12:30 – 15:30
Yr 5/6 Netball @ Tweedmouth	Monday 16 March	12:30 – 13:30
Yr 7/8 Football @ Tweedmouth	Thursday 19 March	12:30 – 15:30
Yr 7/8 Netball @ Tweedmouth	Tuesday 24 March	12:30 – 15:30
Operation Encompass Yr 7	Thursday 26 March	AM drop-in session
York Residential – Year 6	From Monday 30 March	Return Friday 3 April
Break-up for Easter	Friday 3 April	At 15:35
Back to School	Monday 20 April	At 08:50
Yr 5/6 Area Swimming	Friday 24 April	12:30 – 15:30
Yr 7/8 Cricket Festival @ BMS	Thursday 21 May	9:30 – 15:30
Break-up for half-term	Friday 22 May	At 15:35
Back to School	Monday 1 June	At 8:50
Yr 5/6 Cricket Festival @ BMS	Thursday 4 June	12:30 – 15:30
Arcor Athletes @ BMS	Tuesday 9 June	12:30 – 15:30
Alnwick Garden in school – Yr 7	Tuesday 9 June	Lesson 1 + 2
Alnwick Garden in school – Yr 8	Thursday 11 June	Lesson 4 + 5
Borrow the Moon/Space rocks – Session 1	Monday 15 June	Science Lesson
Borrow the Moon/Space rocks – Session 2	Monday 22 June	Science Lesson
Borrow the Moon/Space rocks – Session 3	Monday 29 June	Science Lesson
Break-up for Summer	Friday 17 July	At 15:35





Academic Calendar 2019 - 2020



School Holiday
 Bank Holiday
 Pupil Day
 Training Day

September 2019							October 2019							November 2019							December 2019						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24		Tue	1	8	15	22	29		Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30		Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu	3	10	17	24	31		Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25			Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26			Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27			Sun	3	10	17	24			Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

January 2020							February 2020							March 2020							April 2020						
Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24		Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue		4	11	18	25		Tue		3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed		1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu		2	9	16	23	30	Thu		6	13	20	27		Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri		3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat		4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun		5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23			Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		

May 2020							June 2020							July 2020							August 2020						
Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue	2	9	16	23	30		Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24			Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu	4	11	18	25			Thu	2	9	16	23	30		Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		1	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	19	26			Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat		2	9	16	23	30	Sat	6	13	20	27			Sat	4	11	18	25			Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun		3	10	17	24	31	Sun	7	14	21	28			Sun	5	12	19	26			Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Appointments with teachers

Please can we remind all parents that should you wish to see a teacher or Mr Deane-Hall, a prior appointment must be made with the school office. Your first point of contact should also always be the form teacher of your child. Many thanks.

We would like to thank everyone for their help and support throughout 2019.

All the staff and governors here at school would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year 2020



NHS Child Health APP

A handy NHS app for mobile phones allows parents and carers to access advice and information to help look after their children's health. The free app is designed for parents and carers of children aged 0-5 years and is available for download on mobile phones on **Google Play or Apple's App Store** under 'NHS child health'. This useful app offers easy to understand guidance on childhood illnesses, recognising when your child is unwell, and advice on when and where to seek further treatment.

School will re-open on Tuesday 7 January 2020.
Children must be on the front yard ready to line up promptly at 8.50am. Being even 5 minutes late really impacts on your child's start to the day.

