



Board of Governors Annual Report 2022/23



Happy Children Achieve More

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Governors' Annual Report 2022/23

The Pupils, Staff and Governors would like to thank the whole school community for their support throughout this school year.

Staff returned to school in August to prepare for the new school year and undertake a series of professional development workshops, including Safeguarding, Bereavement and behaviour management.

Everyone was glad to be back to school and quickly got on with the business of being with friends, having fun and enjoying learning.

We continued this year with 'outdoor assembly', weather permitting, with children sitting on mats on their playground spots. We have a lovely amplifier so that everyone can hear the stories, songs and music. We reinstated singing, and the very enjoyable and mood enhancing Friday morning dance was introduced. Sorry to the whole of the Glynn who may not want to hear us! On the days when we couldn't go outside we had Zoom assemblies, with Miss Hawthorne beaming into each classroom—a treat for everyone! Later in the year we moved back inside for collective assemblies, which we very much enjoyed.

September – All children and Staff continued the Neuronimos programme – a daily programme aimed at recognising and managing mental health and well-being. Everyone very much enjoyed learning about the different parts of the brain and their functions and how to recognise our emotions and strategies we can use to manage how we react and deal with varying emotions.

8th September—We were all saddened to learn of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

13th October—We had a visit from our local PSNI Officer who visited each classroom for a question and answer session and talked about stranger danger and online safety.

20th October—P5—7 children visited the Larne Museum & Arts Centre to enjoy tales from Janice Witherspoon, Storyteller.

28th October - With the dark nights approaching we had a Ditch the Dark day; we all wore bright and fluorescent colours that can be more easily seen when out and about on winter evenings.

On 28th October—All children with permission, received their flu vaccinations.

18th November – Children in Need this year was— wear stripes and spots and raise lots. £135.50 was donated to Children in Need.

5th December—The Primary 7's had a fabulous Monday after the last AQE test—there was hot chocolate stirrers, treats and craft. In the afternoon the Primary 7's went outside and planted our Glynn PS Christmas Tree.

7th December—Arc 21 visited school and Noel provided some fabulous workshops to the children on reduce, reuse and recycle.

8th December—We all enjoyed Christmas dinner together.

8th December—The whole school put on their coats and went outside to the big switch on of our very own Christmas Tree lights. We are all excited to watch our tree grow big and tall in the years to come.

12th December - The P7 wee shop was extremely busy with boys and girls buying gifts for their families. P7 set aside a day and spent it wrapping everything beautifully before

This year we put on our usual, fabulous Christmas Productions. Each Key Stage

One Big Family

#TeamGlynn PS

Percentage attendance

2022/23

92.4%

On leaving Glynn PS pupils transferred to Larne Grammar School, Carrickfergus Grammar School, Ballyclare Secondary School, Carrickfergus Academy & Larne High School.



prepared and rehearsed their own production ready for 'Filming Day'. The children thoroughly enjoyed the whole process; we were all still nervous when it came to the 'real' performance. The films, It's a baby & Children of the World, were put onto our YouTube channel and the links sent home via SeeSaw to be viewed. Thank you so much for the fantastic comments and feedback, we really loved doing the shows.

19th, 20th, 21st December We all put on our special jumpers or dresses for Christmas jumpers and Movie Day – we spread the Christmas spirit over three days, Christmas jumper week! Sure why not, we all need a bit of Christmas sparkle and magic!

21st December We all went to the cinema for our special Christmas treat and were delighted with Polar Express.

24th January—Joanna from RSPB came to help the children with the Big Birdwatch.

7th February—Safer internet Day— Online Safety Assemblies—age and stage appropriate assemblies on keeping safe online.

3rd February—The Primary 7 annual chip lunch—always a big hit and a day to look forward to.

10th February—We all dressed in red and raised £98.20 for the Children's Heartbeat Trust.

27th February Dental Survey

2nd March – World Book Day – We celebrated the wonderful world of books with a Snuggles & Snores day in our comfy pyjamas and slippers.

30th March—Parent Survey sent out via the app.

March—For Mothers' Day the P7 wee shop opened again with the children selling primrose plants which they gift wrapped ready for presentation on the big day.

19th April—School Photographer.

5th May was a fabulous celebration party for the King's Coronation— Everyone dressed for the King or Queen theme. We had zorbs, bouncy castle, many different stalls and games, ice cream, sweets etc. All Glynn PS & Hansel & Gretel boys and girls had a voucher each for the chip van. The day closed with the famous and fantastic Duck Derby with the new King Duck launching for the first time. Thank you everyone for making it such a fabulous and memorable occasion.

16th May—the Primary 6's went for a fun morning visit to Carrickfergus Academy.

24th May—The children enjoyed an online workshop with author Rachel Chivers Khoo.

5th June—Aisling from Scripture Union, along with Gary and Lorna from Magheramorne Presbyterian Church CE, came along to begin a series of workshops with Primary 7 entitled, 'It's your move', to help the transition to post primary school.

22nd—25th May -Fitness Frenzy week – each day this week the children, and Staff, took part in a different fitness activity . We enjoyed Zumba, Orienteering, potted sports and the steeplechase (the big water jump with the fish is the best!)

8th June—P1—4 enjoyed an Ulster Scots musical workshop.

6th to 9th June -The P7's, Mrs Ingram and Miss Hawthorne set off for 'the best holiday ever' at the Lorne Estate. Our instructors took great care of us and the children learnt such a lot about their environment, themselves and each other. We did orienteering, zip line, high ropes, archery, the crate challenge, bushcraft, climbing wall, beach walk and had a campfire (I have probably left something out). We all loved the food and were royally looked after. Our bedrooms were amazing! We loved every moment of it, it was fantastic! Lots of snoozing on the way home in the bus.

14th June— Larne Primary Schools' Swimming Gala—We took a very successful team to the swimming gala. Every member of our team came home with at least one medal. Among our success was a silver in the Team relay. Well done boys, girls and supporters, we had a glynntastic morning.

15th June—Arlene Thompson from the Livestock & Meat Commission came along and gave us a cookery demonstration. We all loved it and learnt such a lot about the food we eat, how to prepare it and we tried some new foods. Thanks Arlene, it was brilliant.

15th June—the new Primary 1's came to school to have a look at their new surroundings and get a wee head start on what it's like to be a big P1.

20th June—Larne Ladies Hockey Blitz day held at Larne High School—We had the most amazing day. We took the opportunity to take lots of boys and girls to have a go, meet other people, enjoy the exercise and the atmosphere. We entered two girls teams, a boys' team and a mixed team. Everyone was brilliant and had a great time. We were delighted for our Oliver who won best boy Player of the tournament. Woo-hoo!

23rd June Sports' Day – While the weather was looking a little dodgy for Sports' Day we held off cancelling and with the mist and drizzle clearing in time, we were able to carry on with the event. It was a great success with everyone putting in their best efforts and enjoying the day.

26th June the Primary 6's visited Larne High School and had a fabulous day trying out some fun activities—science, technology, physical activity.

After School Activities

Children enjoyed a variety of after school clubs throughout the year—Running Club, Multi-skills, Bible Club, Board Game Club, Cycling proficiency to name but a few.

House competitions—We have three Houses, named after prominent Ulster-Scots Families of the locality—Agnew, Johnston and Shaw.

In September the sorting process placed the Primary 4 children into their Houses – Letters were delivered to each child; very exciting for us all.

House competitions throughout the year included –

* Potato People competition. There were some really fabulous, creative, extraordinary creations. Judging was very difficult!

* A handwriting competition; we have some beautiful writing in our school!

* Spelling Bee – we have great spellers in our school; the competition was quite tense at times.

* Baking competition—this year the baked and decorated items were German biscuits.

Therapy Dog

Following a lot of research and preparation we put out name down with Assistance Dogs NI, to have visits from Lexi, Therapy Dog. The purpose of a Therapy Dog to improve the social, mental, emotional, physical and educational regulation and outcomes for those who spend time and interact with the animal. Therapy dogs are non-threatening and non-judgemental. We were fortunate to begin weekly visits with Lexi in November 2022 and we saw immediate benefits for our children who were on a rolling timetable for visits—although this could be adjusted if anyone particularly needed Lexi's particular expertise. In March an unbelievable opportunity was presented to us to get our own full time therapy puppy to begin training. After much consideration of the huge implications, benefits and challenges, for our Staff and pupils we took the plunge and on 11th April Mrs Best, Mrs McMaw and Miss Hawthorne went to pick up our wee Nuala. After the Easter break Our Nuala started coming to school just to get used to the sights and sounds and started her training every Friday with Assistance Dogs NI and her brothers and sisters, all of whom are also school therapy dogs in training. By the end of June Nuala was starting to go out among the boys and girls a lot more and was able to help immensely with calmness and focus, around summer test time. Nuala continues to work hard with her training and is hoping to pass her test to be a fully trained therapy dog soon. Governors, Parents, Staff and Pupils have been busy working hard to raise money to pay for Nuala's costs. Thank you everyone, your help and support is much appreciated.

Happy healthy Minds – The Healthy Happy Minds programme introduced and funded by the Department of Education, has seen a counsellor visiting school weekly to work with any children who can benefit from her support. Children can opt in themselves or be referred by school staff or parents. Parental permission is sought before an intervention takes place. Unfortunately the programme ended in March 2023 when funding was withdrawn.

Sport

All pupils are encouraged to take part in the range of sports offered by the school and in keeping with the following aim: 4(b) "To develop and encourage every pupil's intellectual and physical potential". Sporting activities available to the pupils are as follows: Athletics, football, rugby, hockey, netball, swimming, cricket, dance. All children in Key Stages 1 & 2 participated in P.E. All pupils in P 5, 6 & 7 participated in the school swimming programme travelling to Larne Leisure Centre on Tuesday mornings throughout the year.

Special Educational Needs

We are committed to the provision of a broad, balanced curriculum, which offers equal access for all children. As a school we recognise that some pupils during their school career may have special educational needs and/or a disability and we will make every possible arrangement to provide for their individual needs. We follow the three-stage approach for the identification, assessment and provision of special educational needs, as set out in the New Code of Practice. Responsibility for pupils within stages 1 – 2 lies with the school (with help from external agencies) and with the EA, NE Region and the school at stage 3. Throughout the year we liaised with parents and professionals providing, receiving and sharing information and advice and facilitated support within school. We also continued preparations for the New SEN Framework implementation.

Staff Development

All staff undertook on-going professional development both individually and as a whole staff, throughout the year. Training took the form of attending afternoon cluster groups, whole staff afternoon training, external courses and school development days, the majority of which were delivered remotely but with some face to face courses returning. Areas covered included Bereavement, Managing Challenging Behaviour, Dyslexia, SEND Framework – PLP's (Personal Learning Plans), Calm Plans, Precision teaching, Safeguarding/Child Protection, Operation Encompass, Toe to Toe, Theraplay, Nurture in Five, anaphylaxis and the Pawsome Reading Gang.



Building and Maintenance

Essential maintenance was carried out throughout the year as and when necessary.

Arrangement for Safety & Security

There is a high perimeter fence around the whole school estate. The playground area is completely secured by high fencing and once the bell has gone in the morning the gates are locked. Children can gain access to the playground by pressing a button and electronically opening the door into the playground but they can go no further. All other doors can only be exited using a fob, which children do not have access to. No one can enter the school building without having the door electronically opened from inside or using a fob. Fobs have been issued to authorised persons and a record kept of who has fobs. Visitors to the school must sign in. The exterior of the school is monitored by security cameras which operate 24 hours a day. At night security lighting automatically comes on to ensure the security of the building.

ENROLMENT DETAILS

The enrolment number for the school was set by the Department of Education at 103 with an admissions number of 15. Enrolment in September 2022 89. We had 11 new children join us in Primary 1.



STAFF

Principal

Miss D Hawthorne

Class teachers P7

Mrs C Thompson & Miss D Hawthorne

Class teachers P5&6

Mrs S McMaw & Mrs Best

Class teacher P3&4

Miss C Johnston

Class teacher P1&2

Mrs M Dougan (Mrs Reaney while Mrs Dougan on maternity leave)

Classroom Assistants

Mrs T Ingram, Mrs L Ringland, Mrs Z Wilson, Mrs E Robinson,

Mrs A Crowe, Miss K O'Lynn, Mrs M Elliott.

Secretary

Mrs N Allen

Caretaker

Mr M McRoberts

Dining Assistant

Mrs S Paisley

Miss DM Hawthorne
MEd, BEd(Hons), DASE.
Principal.

Please speak to me at
anytime if you have
a question or concern.



Local Management of Schools Budget Deployment 2022/23	
Total Staff costs	366,361.00
Premises and fixed plant	10,132.00
Operating costs	8,894.00
TOTAL	385,387.00

Private Funds Account – 2022—2023	
Opening balance as at 1 st April 2022	8,356.73
Plus income lodged	5,983.51
Less expenditure	6,753.62
Closing balance as at 31 st March 2023	7,586.62



The Glynn Primary School family were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Crowe and Miss Johnston .



We love to celebrate the achievements of our boys & girls in and out of school. What a wide variety of activities!



Glynn PS Staff, past and present, attended the Families First Education Awards in Titanic, Belfast and were delighted, on behalf of Governors, Parents, Pupils and Staff, to receive Highly commended awards in the Best Primary School, Best Classroom Assistant, Best Teacher and Best Principal categories.



In September the Primary 7 pupils laid a wreath of remembrance for Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of the Glynn PS Community



Throughout the year the boys & girls compete in House competitions. This year the baking competition was for decorated German Biscuits. What a glynnntastic effort was put in by all!

