





The Sports Spotlight



Glenleigh Park Primary Academy

Volume 4: December 2025











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SNOW MUCH SPORTING SPIRIT

Hello, Glenleigh families! Welcome to what is now the fourth volume of *The Sports Spotlight*, the first volume of this academic year.

We're only two terms in, but already our children have been busy with an exciting mix of sports, games and achievements, and there's plenty to celebrate!

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SLEIGHING INTO THE HOLIDAYS

Glenleigh has been buzzing with energy so far this year, and it's been brilliant to see every child stepping up, trying something new, and showing real team spirit. From first-time competitors to seasoned pros, the enthusiasm has been infectious. As we head into the next chapter of the school year, we're excited to build on this momentum and keep the joy of movement alive. Here's to more moments that make us proud. Wishing you and your families an active, relaxing break



Mr Marchant, PE Lead

Sports Round Up

For those of you new to the Glenleigh Park community, one thing you will soon discover is that we pride ourselves in taking part in a wide range of sports events, here you can see just some of the things that we've been up to in years gone by.









Our children have been kicking off the year with football fixtures, bowling over the competition in cricket, going the extra mile in cross country, and sliding into success with new age kurling. We are extremely proud to offer a wide variety of sporting opportunities for our fantastic children, the last two terms have featured a whirlwind of activities that have kept us on our toes and warmed us up nicely for the winter break.

Read on to find out what we've been up to over the last two terms.

Sports Round Up

OFF TO A RUNNING START





We began the year with the annual cross country event at St Richard's Catholic College, where our Year 5 and 6 children did Glenleigh proud. The event featured two races — the girls' race followed by the boys' — with each group taking on two demanding laps of the school field, competing against some of the strongest runners from across the local area. One of our standout moments came when one of our Year 5 girls stormed to a first-place finish, showing incredible determination and pace. Alongside this, nearly all of our runners qualified for the November area finals, which was a fantastic achievement. Most importantly, every child completed what was a tough course, demonstrating resilience, effort and true team spirit. It was a brilliant way to kick off the term and set the tone for the sporting successes that followed.

Sports Round Up



GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Following the success of our Y5/6 pupils, our Year 3 and 4 pupils took on the cross country challenge with fantastic energy and determination. Every child gave their best on a tough course, showing great resilience and team spirit. A standout moment came when one of our Year 3 boys raced to first place, impressively beating older Year 4 competitors. It was a brilliant achievement and a proud moment for the school. Well done to all who took part — your effort and enthusiasm were outstanding.



BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM DEBUT

Back in Term 1, our boys' football team took part in their first tournament as a newly formed squad. Despite having never played together competitively before, they showed impressive teamwork, determination and focus throughout the day. The team came close in several matches, holding their own against tough opposition and demonstrating real resilience. Their commitment and positive attitude were clear in every game, and they represented Glenleigh with pride. It was a strong start to their journey as a team, and we're excited to see how they continue to grow and develop in future fixtures.

Sports Round Up

GIRLS FOOTBALL STARS





Later in Term 1, our Glenleigh Park's girls football team made school history with an outstanding performance at the St Richard's tournament, finishing as runners-up. For many of the players, this was their first taste of competitive football, yet they rose to the occasion with remarkable teamwork, resilience and composure. Their efforts secured a place in the area finals, an achievement no previous girls team from Glenleigh Park had reached.

The area finals took place just two days later, and the team continued to impress. They dominated the group stage, scoring 11 goals in just three matches and topping their group with confidence. After a series of intense fixtures, they reached the semi-finals and narrowly missed out on third place in a dramatic final match. Every player gave their all, showing not only skill and determination but also a collective spirit that stood out across the tournament.

This is the furthest a Glenleigh Park girls football team has ever progressed, and with such a strong foundation, we feel that this could be the start of great things to come! We are so proud of you all.

Sports Round Up



SWINGING TO SUCCESS

Our Year 5 and 6 cricket squad hit the ground running at an indoor tournament hosted by Ark Alexandra Academy in Hastings. Facing strong competition from schools across the area, they showed skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the afternoon. Their efforts paid off with an impressive third-place finish—a fantastic result that reflects their hard work and enthusiasm for the game.



RELENTLESS RUNNERS

Representing Glenleigh Park at Claverham Community College, our pupils showed grit, stamina, and sheer determination on a challenging course. Every runner gave their all, and we couldn't be prouder of their effort and attitude. A special shout-out goes to two of our athletes who have qualified for the next stage of the competition, a fantastic achievement that deserves celebration! Well done to the whole team for flying the Glenleigh flag with pride.

Sports Round Up

KURLING CHAMPIONS





Earlier this term, Glenleigh Park made its mark at the annual New Age Kurling Tournament hosted by All Saints Primary. Two of our teams represented the school with incredible determination and teamwork, showing great tactical play and encouragement for one another throughout the competition.

One team finished in a strong third place, just missing out on the knockout stages by the narrowest of margins. Our other team, however, went all the way, storming through the semi-finals with a record-breaking 9-0 score, then holding their nerve in a tense final to claim Glenleigh Park's first-ever New Age Kurling trophy!

Miss Kennard and I could not have been prouder of the champions who lifted the trophy and of every child who took part. Their sportsmanship, resilience, and enthusiasm were outstanding. This was a truly memorable achievement for our school, a huge well done to all involved!

Sports Round Up

ATHLETICS ALL STARS



In our final sports event of the term, we travelled over to St Richards Catholic College to compete in an indoor athletics competition, testing speed, stamina, agility and teamwork with a series of different races across the course of the afternoon. Our Year 5 and 6 children performed brilliantly, never giving up and giving 100% in each race. A big well done for how well they represented Glenleigh Park!

Sports Premium Boogie Bounce

For parents who may not be familiar, Sports Premium is a government initiative that provides additional funding to primary schools to improve the quality and breadth of PE and sport provision. The aim is to ensure that all children have access to high-quality physical education, increased opportunities for physical activity, and the chance to develop lifelong healthy habits. At Glenleigh Park, we use this funding in a variety of ways to benefit our pupils. It supports PE activities within the school day, after-school sports clubs, transport to competitions and events, and the purchase of equipment to enhance our curriculum delivery, along with so much more.

One example of how we spend this funding that you will already be familiar with is Boogie Bounce. This is a fantastic programme we have worked with both last year and this academic year. Each class enjoys a session once per term, where pupils take part in a fun, high-energy trampoline workout set to music. Every child has their own trampoline, and the sessions are designed to promote fitness, coordination, and enjoyment in a safe and structured environment. It's always a highlight for the children and a brilliant way to keep them active.

Sports Premium funding allows us to provide these experiences and much more, ensuring that PE and sport remain a vibrant and valued part of school life.



"Our visits to Glenleigh Primary have now become the dates we most look forward to seeing in the calendar.

The interaction of the children with us creates such a fantastic and positive atmosphere, its such a great feeling for us to see the enjoyment and hard work everyone puts into their class, the children are a credit to the school and the teaching team and it's a pleasure to return each term to deliver to the school."

The Boogie Bounce Team



Sports Premium - JOLF



Now in its second year at Glenleigh Park, JOLF has truly become part of our school culture. This innovative approach to golf has captured the imagination of our pupils and continues to thrive, offering a fun and inclusive way to develop coordination, focus, and confidence, all thanks to our Sports Premium funding.

JOLF wouldn't be what it was without the amazing Neil, 'The JOLF Man', who has already inspired so many of our children, and has very quicky become very popular at Glenleigh Park, our children always enjoy the opportunity to work with him, which they get to do once per term! Funnily enough, Neil loves working with our amazing children too, here's what he had to say:



"We absolutely love visiting Glenleigh! It might be a little unprofessional to admit that we have favourite schools to visit (and we visit a lot!), but Glenleigh is definitely near the top of our list.

Every time we visit, both the children and adults show fantastic enthusiasm for the experiences we offer. The children always follow our golden rules — listening carefully to instructions and playing safely, sensibly, and fairly. Some even earn a golden ball — possibly the most coveted prize in the world of golf!

Our sessions challenge the children in a variety of ways. They play a range of different shots using various clubs and balls, completing tasks that encourage independent thinking, teamwork, and creative problem-solving. It's wonderful to see how much they all get involved and develop as they play.

We have lots planned for our visits throughout this academic year and can't wait to see everyone again soon!"



Clubs at Glenleigh

It has been a very busy first two terms filled with sports clubs, but what exactly have we been up to at Glenleigh Park?

Football Club

Football has always been a popular part of school life at Glenleigh Park, and this year it kicked off in style! Term 1 saw a fantastic Year 5/6 club, followed by an equally successful Year 3/4 club in Term 2. The children have loved taking part, showing plenty of competitive spirit alongside great sportsmanship and fair play. A big well done to everyone involved over the past two terms! These clubs are always a highlight of the year for me, and I'm already looking forward to the girls' football club later in the year.





Running Club



""Last term's Running Club was fantastic! The children showed fantastic enthusiasm and commitment week after week, and I was so impressed by their positive attitudes and willingness to take on feedback to improve. It's been especially exciting to see some of our runners excel in the cross country races!

We've explored both short and long distances, practised pacing, and worked on relay techniques, with a special focus on smooth handovers. We've also had fun using hurdles and parachutes to mix up our sessions and keep things engaging.

Although the colder weather means we've paused for now, I hope the children continue to run when they can to keep up their great progress."

- Mr Green

Clubs at Glenleigh

Basketball Club

Continuing from last academic year, we've been lucky to have a fantastic basketball club led by John Lucas, a parent member of our Local Academy Board. John's energy and commitment have made the 'Glenleigh Gulls' basketball club hugely popular, and it's already a firm favourite among the children. His sessions are engaging, well-structured, and full of enthusiasm —thank you, John, for providing such a brilliant opportunity for our pupils!



Here's what John had to say:

"2025 started off with a bounce with 29 pupils attending our Friday after school basketball club focusing on teamwork and on the ball skills. All the children did exceptionally well and showed the Glenleigh way with Growth, Perseverance, Positivity, Achievement. Basketball will return in the spring when the weather improves."

Time 2 Dance

Since the start of the year, our talented Glenleigh Park dancers have been rehearsing tirelessly for their annual performance at the White Rock Theatre, which will take place in February. This year's routine is inspired by the hit Disney musical Newsies, and the children have been working hard to perfect every move while capturing the energy and spirit of the show.



Their costumes are looking fantastic, and the excitement is building as the big day approaches. This event is always a highlight of the year, giving pupils the chance to showcase their creativity, confidence, and teamwork on a professional stage.

SAMA Karate

Every Friday, our SAMA Karate club brings energy and excitement to Glenleigh Park! This popular club has become a real talking point among the children, who love the challenge and discipline that karate offers. It's fantastic to see pupils developing confidence, focus, and respect while learning new skills in a fun and supportive environment. The enthusiasm from the children shows just how much they enjoy these sessions—SAMA Karate is definitely here to stay!

Clubs at Glenleigh

Earlier this term, I conducted a pupil survey to find out what clubs our children would love to see at Glenleigh Park, and the response was incredible! We've listened carefully and reached out to high-quality local providers to make these ideas a reality. Thanks to our Sports Premium funding, we're able to offer more sports clubs than ever before, and at a heavily discounted rate. These clubs are open to children across Years 1–6, giving every pupil the chance to try something new, develop their skills, and have fun. This is the biggest and most exciting range of clubs we've ever offered!

Boxing Club – HIIT Box

You may already be familiar with HIIT Box, a fantastic local boxing club based in Bexhill. We're thrilled to announce that their popular non-contact boxing club will be returning to Glenleigh Park this year! Last year, this was one of our most in-demand clubs, and it's easy to see why. Children learn discipline, coordination, and fitness through fun, structured sessions that focus on technique rather than sparring. It's a brilliant way to build confidence, strength, and resilience while having a great time.

Dodgeball Club – Defiant Sports

We're excited to introduce a new to Glenleigh Park, Defiant Sports, who will be running dodgeball club! Defiant Sports are a highly regarded local provider known for working with a wide range of children, they will be facilitating a club that promises fast-paced fun and plenty of action. Dodgeball is fantastic for improving agility, teamwork, and quick thinking, and we can't wait to see the children enjoying this exciting addition to our after-school programme.

Cricket Club – Sussex Cricket

We're delighted to be working with a specialist coach from Sussex Cricket, who already supports us during competitions. This new club will complement our PE provision perfectly, giving children the chance to develop their batting, bowling, and fielding skills with expert guidance. With professional coaching and engaging activities, this promises to be a high-quality experience for all budding cricketers.

There are still some places available in these clubs, but they're filling up quickly and we expect them to be full soon. Please make sure you sign up your child on Arbor as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Happy Lunchtimes

"Last term, staff and children worked with Steve Harris from Wellbeing Education to help set up the new year for lunchtimes and playtimes. We are continuing with our Happy Lunchtimes activities on the playground, in an area known as 'The Zone'. Each day a different activity takes places, drawn from a wide range of games, challenges and competitions designed to appeal to differing 'styles' of play. This makes every day feel special and gives children the chance to learn new games and make new friends. An adult chooses that day's activity and ensures that the rules are shared and respected.



In other exciting news, all Year 5 and 6 children now have the option to be a 'Play Leader'. Each day, they can select from over 70 ideas for competitions, games and challenges and then choose to run these in the playground. Other children can identify Play Leaders by their High-Vis vests and children are really enjoying the variety of options available to take part in, on the playground."

-Mr Gillham, Assistant Head









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