

## The South Africa Cup

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May the football team played at Sheffield Wednesday's training ground in the South Africa Cup. 32 schools were participating and Gleadless representing England were playing in a league against Carfield, Mundella and

Marcliffe Primary Schools.



We didn't get off to a great start and lost the first match 1-0 to Carfield. However, in an exciting second game against Mundella, Gleadless won 3-2. To qualify for the next stage the team also

needed to win their final match against Marcliffe. Despite some good chances Gleadless only managed to score one goal but won. Everyone watched the final game knowing that it was possible for three schools to finish level on points and goal difference. Fortunately, that didn't happen and Gleadless had finished runners up of their league and qualified for the next stage of the tournament which was to take place on Sheffield Wednesday's pitch the following Wednesday.



The team went to Hillsborough knowing that if they won the tournament they would be going on a trip of a lifetime to the World Cup in South Africa in June. The first stage was another mini league of 4 schools. Gleadless won this league winning two games and drawing the other to go through to the quarter final stages.

Playing really confidently *Gleadless* went into a two goal lead before conceding a late goal to go through 2-1 to the semi finals and two victories away from winning the tournament!

Unfortunately, playing *Abbey Lane* in the semi finals *Gleadless* conceded an early goal but did manage to equalise before half time. However, two more goals from *Abbey Lane* in the second half were to end our dreams of winning the tournament.

It had been a fantastic experience for all the players to participate in the tournament and the boys could not have played any better.