

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 4 - SPRING 2 2014**

11th April 2014

In consultation with Parent Council the half termly Newsletter will now be published on-line via the school website www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk. If you require a hard copy please contact the school office.

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2013/ 2014</u>
Spring Term	Mon 6 January 2014 - Fri 14 February 2014
Half Term	Mon 17 February 2014 - Fri 21 February 2014
	Mon 24 February 2014 - Fri 11 April 2014
Summer Term	Mon 28 April 2014 - Fri 23 May 2014 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 5 May 2014</i>
Half Term	Mon 26 May 2014 - Fri 30 May 2014
	Mon 2 June 2014 - Mon 21 July 2014
	Inset Days: <i>Fri 23 May 2014 and Mon 21 July 2014</i>
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2014/ 2015</u>
Autumn Term	Mon 1 September 2014 - Fri 24 October 2014
Half Term	Mon 27 October 2014 - Friday 31 October 2014
	Mon 3 November 2014- Fri 19 December 2014
Spring Term	Mon 5 January 2015 - Fri 13 February 2015
Half Term	Mon 16 February 2015 - Fri 20 February 2015
	Mon 23 February 2015 - Fri 27 March 2015
Summer Term	Mon 13 April 2015 - Fri 22 May 2015 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 4 May 2015</i>
Half Term	Mon 25 May 2015 - Fri 29 May 2015
	Mon 1 June 2015 - Mon 20 July 2015
	Inset Days: <i>Mon 1 Sept 2014 - 4 other days to be advised</i>

Dates for Diary	
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Tue 8 April	Y2 Trip to Thorntons Chocolate Factory
Tue 8 April 4.00pm	Y1 Gymnastics Competition - Lode Heath School
Wed 9 April 10.00am	Nursery Phonics Workshop
Thu 10 April	Y3 Tudor Trip to Compton Verney
Thur 1 May 9.00am	Parent Council Meeting
Fri 2 May am	Y4 Assembly
Wed 7 May am	Y1 Assembly - <i>revised date</i>
Fri 9 May am	Guitar Assembly
Tue 13 May	Y5 Rainforest Man
Mon 19 May	Y4 Strings Explosion - Warwick Arts Centre
Wed 21 May	Y5 Cricket Festival at Berkswell Cricket Club
Fri 6 June	Y6 Tag Rugby Festival - Birmingham Exiles RFC
Thur 12 June	Y5 visit to Aegon Classic Tennis
Mon 16 - Fri 20 June	Y6 to Conover Hall

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 4 - SPRING 2 2014**

Fri 20 June am	YR Assembly
Mon 23 - 27 June	Y5 Bikeability Week
Tue 24 June am	Y2 Golf Festival at Tudor Grange
Wed 25 June am	Tempest Class Photos
Thur 26 June 9.00am	Parent Council
Fri 4 July am	Y2 Assembly
Wed 9 July	Y4 Cricket Festival at Berkswell Cricket Club
Thur 10 July 11.15am	Y6 Leavers Service at Birmingham Cathedral
Wed 16 July am	Y6 Leavers Assembly
Fri 18 July am	Church Service

To Parents of Children in Year 6 - Please be aware SATs Week is Monday 12th - Friday 16th May 2014.

Ofsted Inspection of George Fentham School 8-9 April 2014

As you are aware George Fentham School was inspected by Ofsted on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. We look forward to sharing the final report with you after Easter. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your fantastic support during the inspection.

Sports Newsletter - Spring 2014

The termly Sports Newsletter will also be published on-line via the school website www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk. If you require a hard copy please contact the school office.

Great Daffodil Appeal 2014

Throughout the month of March daffodil broach pins have been on sale in school. The proceeds of **£72.42** will go to Marie Curie Cancer Care which provides specialist nurses who care for seriously ill people at the Marie Curie Hospice. A big thank you for your support.

Safety advise to our school community

On occasion we receive reports from the Local Authority, or the police, reminding us of the '**Stranger Danger**' message and informing us to be particularly watchful. During our assemblies we endorse these messages to children through our 'keeping safe' themes. If you or your child experiences, or witnesses anything that concerns you whilst on the way to and from school, you should either contact the police straight away, (don't worry, they would rather have a false alarm than no call at all), or speak to Mrs Gaughan or another member of the school staff immediately upon arriving at school. If it happens on the way home, we would hope that you would make the appropriate judgement, but school would need to be made aware the following day.

Nursery

Mothers' Day Celebration: The Nursery children invited their mothers into the class on Friday 28th March for a Mothers' Day celebration. They sang several songs including their favourite 'In the Hairy Scary Castle' and showed some of the work they had done this term. They then presented their mums with a carefully decorated card with a special teabag and instructions to put their feet up and enjoy a cuppa!
Inspire Phonics Workshop: On Wednesday 9th April parents of children in Nursery were invited to a Inspire Phonics Workshop. This was a great opportunity for parents and carers to learn more about phonics teaching in school and afterwards visitors enjoyed working with the children practising and developing their phonics skills together.

Health & Science Week

George Fentham School enjoyed another action packed whole school 'Health & Science Week' from 3rd to 7th March. During the week, children had opportunities to take part in a wide range of cross-curricular activities in order to encourage them to make healthy lifestyle choices. These included a session on the 'Life Bus', yoga, Wake up Shake up! sessions, first aid training and a fruit tuck shop at break time. Our thanks to the Fentham Trust for funding the Lifebus again this year.

The School Council ran a whole school competition to design a bright and child friendly eatwell plate. We had a large number of entries and after much deliberation, the winners were as follows:

1st place - Harry (Year R)

2nd place - Callow and Anya (Year 6)

3rd place - Edward & Sam (Year 6)

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 4 - SPRING 2 2014

The winning entries are on display by the kitchen serving hatch and all winners were presented with a certificate during whole school celebration assembly.

Snack reminder: In line with current school policy on food education, we ask that children bring in fruit or vegetables (dried or fresh) for morning break as other fruit products may contain additional sugar. If you would like your child to have milk each morning please contact the school office for further information.

KS2 Science Assembly

Key Stage 2 enjoyed an explosive Mad Science Assembly on 25th February to preview our Mad Science afterschool club. Years 3 and 4 have had a brilliant time learning about the elements, how science helps us every day and even acting as Secret Detectives using invisible inks!

KS1 Choir

The Key Stage 1 Choir have been very busy every Wednesday lunchtime this half term preparing for their end of term performances. On Wednesday 2nd April they visited the Wednesday Lunch club at Fentham Hall and received a big round of applause from their audience at the end! They performed in a whole school music assembly shared with the Keyboard group on Wednesday 9th April and will again perform at the Easter church service on Friday. Mrs Morris and Mrs Smart are very proud of all of the children.

School Trips and Events

Year 2: On Tuesday 8th April, Year 2 went to Thorntons chocolate factory! In class we have been thinking about chocolate Easter eggs as part of our RE lessons on the meaning of Easter and we remembered that when we learnt about Mexico, the Aztecs believed that chocolate was the food of Gods. Year 2 decided they needed to know how chocolate was made. We researched this in class and made some fabulous information posters, using all our writing skills, explaining how chocolate is made. When we went to the factory, we saw the process of moulding and packaging the chocolates. We saw how the different shapes were made and how the machines checked all the chocolates before sending them out to the shops. It was an amazing experience!! When we came back, we were able to add lots more detail to our posters. Year 2 showed all their usual enthusiasm and excitement. It was a joy to see them taking their learning out of the classroom. By the way, did we mention that we got lots of yummy chocolates to eat, when we got home, too?!!!

Year 3: Year 3 had a wonderful trip to Compton Verney on Thursday extending and consolidating their learning about King Henry VIII and the Tudors. Children tried on Tudor styled clothing, drew Tudor styled portraits and had the opportunity to handle and observe replica Tudor artefacts.

Year 5: The children in Year 5 went on a fantastic trip to Hams Hall on Monday 10th March. They found out about the River Tame and looked for features such as erosion, plunge pools and meanders. It was a fascinating visit and really helped with their topic on rivers.

Year 6: On the 11th March, Year 6 welcomed Reena from Bollywood Dreams Dance School in to George Fentham for a Bollywood Dance workshop. We had a super morning learning "Mahi Ve" - a routine from a popular Bollywood film. The children were, as always, extremely enthusiastic, in fact Reena said they were the best group she has ever taught! This linked brilliantly to our topic on India and our dance theme in PE and a thoroughly enjoyable morning was had by all.

Church Visits

Year 5: On Thursday 10th April Year 5 visited Hampton Church. Duncan discussed the Easter story and the children looked for and sketched symbols of Easter around the church. It was a lovely afternoon and a super opportunity to explore artwork in our local church.

Year 6: On 14th March 2014, Year 6 visited Hampton Church in connection with our work on Easter. The children looked around the churchyard and, with Duncan, scattered poppy seeds as a symbol of memory and remembrance for those who have passed. The children showed great sensitivity and thoughtfulness in their discussions with Duncan.

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 4 – SPRING 2 2014

Class Assemblies

Year 3: Year 3 put on a stunning performance on Thursday 4th April in their Tudor themed Class Assembly. The children acted out scenes of a royal banquet, with the audience being treated to a sing song by King Henry VIII and his six wives!

Reminder – Medicines in School

We ask that medicines, other than in exceptional circumstances, are not sent into school. Should your child urgently require medicine during the school day, you are asked to take the medicine directly to the school office. Please do not send any medication into school with your child. You will then be asked to complete a medicine form. If this form is not completed we will be unable to supervise your child taking their medicine. Should you have any questions regarding medicines in school, please contact the school office or the school nurse for advice. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sickness

May we remind you that the advice from our School Nurse, regarding sickness and diarrhoea, is that your child stays off school for at least **48 hours after** the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea and does not return to school until they are feeling fit and well along with eating and drinking normally. Other basic hygiene rules should be observed to avoid the spread of germs. i.e. thoroughly washing and drying hands before handling/eating food and after using the toilet, discarding tissues once used.

PLEASE SUPPORT US IN FOLLOWING THIS GUIDANCE, CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE SENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE UNWELL.

Data Protection

Please see the school website www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk for the latest version of Solihull MBC's Privacy Notice- Data Protection Act 1998 (Feb 2014) which gives information on how your child's information is collected, used and stored. A hard copy can be obtained from the school office.

It is important that the school office is updated on any change of address, telephone numbers or contact details as soon as possible.

Collection of children at the end of the school day

As you are aware, we take the safety of your child as an absolute priority at George Fentham. It is for this reason that we ask you **to inform us if your child is going home with a different adult** at the end of the day. This may be done through the home/school book, or a short note addressed to the child's teacher. Staff have been instructed to only release a child to a different adult if they have parental consent. Please note it can be extremely distressing for children, adults and teachers if there is confusion at the end of the day. Whilst we do our absolute best to pass on the numerous messages we receive by phone from parents regarding individual arrangements, it is not always possible with 219 children on role, to guarantee every message is given. We would ask, therefore that phone messages are only used in an emergency. Please be reassured that no child would ever be left on their own on the school playground. Any children who are not collected are taken back to the school office where staff do their best to contact parents.

Late collection after school

There have been, on several occasions, children who have not been collected by parents for up to an hour after the end of the school day. Please be aware that all late collection will now be monitored and if persistent referred directly to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO).

We hope that we can rely on your support and understanding in this matter.

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting is planned for Thursday 1st May at 9.00am. Agenda items should be given to Parent Councillors in advance. Please note we are always delighted to hear positive feedback and things that are going well in school from your point of view.

ParentPay

The cost for school meals for the Summer Term will be £100.70 and for the first half of term £34.20. However it is a personal choice as to how much you deposit into your account, so long as you stay in credit for your child's meals. The above figures do not take into consideration the Year 6 residential trip in June when the children will be absent from school for 5 days.

GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 4 - SPRING 2 2014

If any parent wishes to pay for their child's school meals via a PayPoint card at a store where the logo is displayed, please contact the school office to arrange for a card, this facility is only available for school meals, all other payments are via a barcoded letter from the school office.

BASE

The BASE now have their own direct telephone line, the number is **01675 443913** and email address thebasechildcare@gmail.com The Base will be open over the Easter Holiday on **Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th April 2014.**

Solihull Music Service

The image contains four promotional posters for Solihull Music Service events. The top-left poster is titled 'SOLIHULL MUSIC SERVICE WELCOMES YOU' and includes contact information for their website, SMS, YouTube, Flickr, and Twitter. The top-right poster is for 'BRASS BLAST' on February 25th, 7PM at Warwick Arts Centre, featuring various brass ensembles. The bottom-left poster is for 'The CAVERN CLUB' on March 10th, an all-day event celebrating 50 years of the club. The bottom-right poster is for 'String Explosion' on May 4th, 7PM at Warwick Arts Centre, featuring all local schools and village string groups.

Solihull Music Service. Where Every Child's Music Matters.

Solihull Music Service provides a week long programme of after school ensembles and a highly successful Saturday Morning Music Centre. All the groups are open to everyone, and we have a group to suit every level from beginners to advanced players and from traditional bands and orchestras to choirs, steel pan and samba ensembles.

This term the Music Service has an extensive diary of events including performances held in the Cavern Club, Liverpool, the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Warwick Arts Centre, and many other local venues. Please pop along to the website to find out all about the performances.

We have invited all the children learning an instrument as part of our Whole Class Instrumental Tuition in schools to join our starter ensembles at the Music Service. However, any player could consider joining a guitar ensemble, rock band, ukulele group, or jazz band and we'd love to see more of the community get involved. It is never too late to join one of our groups and you don't have to learn your instrument with the music service to take part, so please visit our website at www.solihullmusicservice.wordpress.com to find out about how you can enrich and inspire your life long musical journey.

We are based at Lyndon Music Centre, Daylesford Road, Solihull, B92 8EJ and we'd love to see you if you'd like to try out any of our activities.