

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 6 - SUMMER 2 2014**

**July 2014**

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

Please also see our on-line **Summer Sports Newsletter** from this term which highlights many of our sporting activities and achievements at George Fentham Endowed School.

<b>Term Dates</b>	
<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	<b><u>2013/ 2014</u></b>
<i>Summer 2 Term</i>	Mon 2 June 2014 - Mon 21 July 2014
	<b><u>Inset Day:</u></b> <i>Mon 21 July 2014</i>
<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	<b><u>2014/ 2015</u></b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Mon 1 September 2014 - Fri 24 October 2014
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Mon 27 October 2014 - Friday 31 October 2014</i>
	Mon 3 November 2014 - Fri 19 December 2014
<b>Spring Term</b>	Mon 5 January 2015 - Fri 13 February 2015
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Mon 16 February 2015 - Fri 20 February 2015</i>
	Mon 23 February 2015 - Fri 27 March 2015
<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 13 April 2015 - Fri 22 May 2015 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 4 May 2015</i>
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Mon 25 May 2015 - Fri 29 May 2015</i>
	Mon 1 June 2015 - Mon 20 July 2015
	<b><u>Inset Days 2014/15:</u></b> <b>Mon 1 Sept 2014, Fri 24 October 2014, Mon 23 February 2015, Fri 22 May 2015, Mon 20 July 2015</b>

<b>Dates for Diary</b>	
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Tue 15 July am	EYFS Party
Tue 15 July	Y1 Cheerleading Festival
Wed 16 July am	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Wed 16 July	Y6 Lunch (chosen by the class)
Thur 17 July	Years R & 1 Graduation party
Fri 18 July am	Church Service
Mon 21 July	<b>INSET DAY</b>
	<b>TERM ENDS</b>
Mon 1 Sept	<b>AUTUMN TERM - INSET DAY</b>
Tue 2 Sept	<b>Y1 to 6 Children to attend</b>

(Reception children - groups of 10 children over 3 days, details confirmed during summer term induction)

Fri 5 Sept

All Reception Children in school

#### Update from Mr Busby, Chair of Governors

"As another way of sharing the work of the Governors, we thought a brief summary in the newsletter from time to time might be useful for parents.

A real priority for the school and therefore Governors this year has been preparing for the implementation of the new curriculum. This is a significant change and there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes. The changes are exciting and we hope will be inspiring for the children. This will continue to be a key priority next year as it is implemented.

An area of concern for governors is the safety of children arriving at and leaving the school. The traffic around the school can cause real problems at times. The key is for all of us to avoid driving in to Fentham Road to drop children if at all possible. If it is possible to walk rather than drive or park elsewhere and then walk, this should help keep children safe when traffic is at a peak. This is something the school will discuss further with parents in the autumn to see if we can work together to improve things.

Finally, governors were of course delighted that the school was judged as being outstanding by Ofsted. This reflects great work at the school over several years and the fantastic staff we are lucky to have at school. The school and governors are focused on maintaining these high standards going forward".

**Mr Busby, Chair of Governors**

#### Staffing Updates Autumn 2014

- Mrs Morris will be leaving to begin her maternity leave, at the end of this term. We look forward to updating you next term on the new addition to the Morris family!
- We are sad to say goodbye to Miss Gibbins who will be leaving George Fentham at the end of term. She will be greatly missed by children, staff and parents and we wish her well in the future.
- Mrs Fairclough and Mr Middleton remain absent from school and we continue to send them both our very best wishes.
- Two new staff joining us in September are Mrs Kermode, who will be teaching for two days per week in Year 5 and Mrs Pittaway our new Teaching Learning Support Assistant, who will be joining our Year 3 class.
- Congratulations to Mrs Edmeades and Miss Bullock who took part in Race for Life earlier this term raising almost £500 pounds for Cancer Research and Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Year Group	Teacher	Support Staff
Nursery	Mrs Durkin	Mrs Davenport / Mrs Holder
Reception	Mrs Nicholson	Mrs Reeves (student placement)
Year 1	Mrs Smart and Mrs Salmon	Mrs Moore
Year 2	Mrs Brooker	Mrs Brown
Year 3	Miss Bullock	Mrs Pittaway
Year 4	Mr Bass	Mrs Philpotts / Miss De Luca

Year 5	Mrs Corfield and Mrs Kermode	Mrs Keast
Year 6	Mrs Edmeades	Miss De Luca

Mrs Pugh and Mrs Chamberlain will continue to cover Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) for teachers and work with small groups of children across the school to provide booster support and extension opportunities. Mrs Smart will continue in her role as Inclusion Coordinator and Miss De Luca will continue in her role as child mentor.

#### **Lunchtime Supervisor - we will be recruiting in the Autumn Term!!**

*We will be looking to recruit additional Lunchtime Supervisors to join our excellent team in the autumn term. If you could spare time over a lunch hour, or know someone who could, please look out for further information next term. Days and hours are flexible.*

George Fentham Endowed School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check will be required for the successful applicant.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.  
Thank you!

#### **School Meals**

#### **FROM SEPTEMBER 2014 UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS - REMINDER TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN YEARS R, 1 & 2:**

From September 2014 all children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are entitled to a Universal Infant free school meal. It is important that you have registered by completing the blue form that has already been sent to you. **For those parents in receipt of any of the qualifying benefits we would encourage you to complete the appropriate section on the form as this will attract extra funding for your child in school.** Should you require any further information please contact the school office.

#### **AUTUMN TERM 1: 01.09.14 to 19.12.14 (less 2 Inset Days)**

#### **YEAR 3, 4, 5, & 6**

The cost of school meals will remain at £1.90 per day. This will be £138.70 for the autumn term. May we remind you that it is a personal choice as to how much you deposit into your account, but we request that you stay in credit for your child's meals at all times.

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 for trips, music tuition are via a barcoded letter from the school office.

#### **Trips and Events**

#### **Year 6 Residential Visit**

Year 6 had a fantastic time on their residential visit to Condover Hall, Shropshire. The children thoroughly enjoyed a wide variety of activities including climbing, high ropes, shelter building, archery, raft building and initiative and team games. We were very proud of their impeccable behaviour, manners and support for each other. Year 6 returned to school tired but happy, having ended their time at George Fentham with a truly memorable experience!

### **Year 5 Bikeability Course**

Year 5 children spent five exciting afternoons learning how to ride their bikes safely whilst cycling around the village with the Bikeability team. The children were commended for their positive attitudes and good behaviour at all times. Everyone agreed that it was a brilliant way to learn valuable life skills about road safety. They were very lucky with the weather too!

### **Year 4 Church Visit**

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June Year 4 visited St Mary & St Bartholomew Church to support their RE work this term. Firstly, Duncan gave the children a fascinating guided tour of the beautiful stained glass windows all around the Church. The children asked lots of interesting questions and their follow up written work demonstrated excellent listening and understanding.

The second part of the visit involved the whole class taking part in the baptism of a knitted doll called Bob! The experience enabled children to understand the significance of baptism rituals and artefacts in a fun and interactive way.

Many thanks again to Duncan for his time and enthusiasm.

### **Year 3 Water Safety Talk & Visit from The Mayor of Solihull and the Mayor's Consort**

As part of our commitment to keeping children safe, swimming instructors from North Solihull Swimming Baths joined year 3 for a water safety talk. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor and the Mayor's Consort, Councillor Mrs Kate Wild and Mr Jim Wild, who joined us during the morning to see how the children benefited from such an experience. More details along with a photograph can be seen in our Sport newsletter.

### **Year 1 Visit to Herbert Museum**

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June Year 1 went to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry. The day began with a talk from an expert about toys from the past, in particular Victorian toys. The session was very hands on as the children got the opportunity to dress up as Victorian children and play with a range of toys. They compared many of the toys with toys that we have today and looked closely at the materials that they were made of. The class got to play with a cup and ball, a hoop and stick, a spinning toy and, as a treat, they got to have a ride on a very special rocking horse.

After the session the children split into groups and had the chance to explore the rest of the museum. They learnt about Lady Godiva, sat in a real air raid shelter and looked at many pieces of art work in the art gallery. A fun and informative day was had by all!

### **Year R Trip to Dudley Zoo:**

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 Reception went on a school trip to Dudley Zoo. They started their day with a Minibeasts Workshop. The children found out about different types of minibeasts and had the opportunity to touch and hold a cockroach, stick insect and beetle. They had a good look at the tarantula too! The workshop leader was very impressed with the children's knowledge of minibeasts. Next everyone made their way around the zoo to look at all the other animal including giraffes, monkeys, tigers and meerkats. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and it was a great way to start their 'Animals' topic!

### **Nursery visit to Umberslade Farm**

The sun shone on Nursery's visit to Umberslade Farm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June and they had a great time seeing a range of farm animals and pets. The tractor ride was a highlight but they also loved handling chicks, rabbits, guinea pigs and rats as well as feeding ducks, hens and some very hungry kids who drank their milk at great speed!

### Assemblies

**Reception:** On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014 Reception performed in their 'Under the Sea' class assembly. They all thoroughly enjoyed taking part and were able to express and share their learning, singing and dancing with us all. A big well done!

**Year 2:** Class 2's assembly was all about their learning journey this year. The class decided on their favourite topics and memories of Year 2 and created their assembly around these ideas. It has clearly been a wonderful year packed full of special moments and fantastic learning. Well done Class 2!

**Year 4 Strings Assembly:** Class 4 performed to a huge crowd of children, parents, staff, governors and members of the Fentham Trust during their final Strings Assembly. This showcased the wonderful progress made, since September, in learning to play the viola, violin, cello or double bass. The children shared information about their instruments with the audience and played a mixture of pieces demonstrating both slow and upbeat movements. This was also a great chance for Year 3 to see what they can expect next year. A big thank you to the Fentham Trust for their on-going generous support in paying for this fantastic opportunity.

### "George Fentham's Got Talent"!

A huge thank you to Mrs Kelly for organising our very own "George Fentham's Got Talent"!! During lunchtimes auditions were held in our outside classroom to find representatives from each class who would go forward, to represent their class in our George Fentham final. The standard of entry was superb and the level of confidence and commitment shown by our children was fantastic. During a very tense final our 3 judges watched each of the acts in front of a packed audience. After final deliberation it was decided that Gregory and Miles (Y6), with their very own magic show, were the winners. They were delighted with their trophy and after popular request, we look forward to holding our second "George Fentham's Got Talent" competition next year.

### RE Themed Week- Judaism

During the week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> June, all the staff and children took part in another multi-faith themed week. This year the focus was on Judaism and each day there were special visitors, fun activities or lessons related to some aspect of the Jewish faith. Our themed weeks are an exciting way to raise children's awareness of major world religions and play an important part in Community Cohesion and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural) education. Our special thanks go to Mrs Qureshi who kindly gave up her time to visit every class with a wonderful demonstration of the Shabbat meal.

### Year 2 Inspire Workshop

Our Inspire workshop focussed on the transition from Year 2 to Year 3. We took the opportunity to prepare the children, and their parents, for the move to KS2 which can often be a more emotional time for parents than the children! The workshop was attended by either a parent or grandparent of all the children and we created a message in a (very specially decorated) bottle for Miss Bullock ready for when the children arrive in Year 3 in September. Thank you to everyone who participated.

### Reception 2014 Induction - School Lunch

We were delighted to welcome next year's Reception children and their parents to our school lunch earlier this term. This was an excellent opportunity to experience lunchtime and understand how our system works ready for September. Our school cooks and lunchtime

supervisors were on hand to guide our visitors through and we received lovely comments on how delicious the meals tasted. A big thank you to everyone who made this such a successful occasion.

#### **KS1 and KS2 SATs**

**KS1:** Year 2 completed their SATs during the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> June. To their credit, the children all worked to the very best of their ability and they achieved some fantastic results. We are all very proud of their successes!

**KS2:** Having now received the eagerly awaited Year 6 SATs results, we would like to congratulate all of our children on their achievements at the end of Key Stage 2. They demonstrated real maturity throughout the week and we are really proud of them all. We will be extremely sad to see our Year 6 class leave George Fentham School as they have been such a terrific class. We very much look forward to celebrating their many achievements, throughout their time with us during their end of year assembly and Church Leavers Service this week. We wish them good luck and continued success in the future!

#### **Parent Council**

Our thanks, once again, to those parents who have represented their child's class at our Parent Council meetings. This provides an excellent opportunity to discuss issues raised and share information. There will be one more meeting, next term, of our existing Parent Council before a new Parent Council is elected for 2014/15.

#### **Stranger Danger**

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.

#### **Open Evening & Reports**

We were very pleased to see so many families attending our Open Evening last Wednesday. We are extremely proud of all of our children and this was a lovely opportunity for them to share their work with you, and for you to chat informally with staff. Once again, the children's end of year reports were a joy to read. The children have worked so hard this year and their reports highlighted their many achievements and great progress throughout the year.

Thank you to those of you who have already returned report slips. We really value your comments.

**May I remind you that we have an open door policy and you are most welcome to see class teachers at the end of the day, when children have been safely dismissed, or staff can be contacted via the school office. For parents who find it difficult to come into school, you are most welcome to phone the school office. A message can be left and a member of staff will return your call at a mutually convenient time.**

We would ask that any concerns are raised at your earliest opportunity. In this way we can work together to address any issues immediately, rather than at the end of term or the end of an academic year. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**And finally.....**

As we reach the end of another highly successful and very busy year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children and staff for their energy, enthusiasm, hard work and on-going commitment to learning. I would also like to thank parents and friends of our school for your on-going support and kind comments. It has been a fantastic year for us all and I very much look forward to continuing this journey next academic year.

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I wish you and your family a very enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**.

Mrs J Gaughan  
Head Teacher

**UPDATE:**

***CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE TO YEAR 1 BOYS AND GIRLS FOR COMING FIRST IN THE CHEERLEADING COMPETITION HELD AT LODE HEATH SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY. A FANTASTIC RESULT FOR GEORGE FENTHAM SCHOOL!!***