

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2 2023**



December 2023

Term Dates

SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2023/2024</u>
Spring Term	Monday 8 th January 2024 - Friday 22 nd March 2024
Half Term	Monday 12 th February 2024 - Friday 16 th February 2024
Easter Break	Monday 25 th March 2024 - Friday 5 th April 2024
Summer Term	Monday 8 th April 2024 - Monday 22 nd July 2024
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
Half Term	Monday 27 th May 2024 - Friday 31 st May 2024
5 INSET DAYS	Inset Day 1: Monday 4 th September 2023 Inset Day 2: Friday 27 th October 2023 Inset Day 3: Monday 8 th January 2024 Inset Day 4: Friday 24 th May 2024 Inset Day 5: Monday 22 nd July 2024



Dates for Diary 2023/24

Monday 15 th January	Year 6 Digital Health & Wellbeing Review
Thursday 18 th January	League football 4:30pm GF Girls vs St G&T League football 5.30pm GF Girls vs Peterbrook
Wednesday 24 th January	Reception Vision Screening Programme
Tuesday 6 th February	League football 4.30pm GF Girls vs Solihull School League football 5.30pm GF Girls vs Knowle
Thursday 8 th February	League football 5.30pm GF Girls vs Peterbrook
Wednesday 21 st February	League football GF Girls vs Hockley Heath (rescheduled from 22.11.23)
Monday 26 th February	League football 4.00pm GF Boys vs St Patricks League football 4.30pm GF Boys vs Meriden

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Wednesday 6 th March	Reception and Year 6 National Childhood Measurement Programme
Monday 18 th March	Yr 4 Cadbury World
Tuesday 9 th April	Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket
Tuesday 16 th April	Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket
Tuesday 23 rd April	Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket
Tuesday 30 th April	Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket
Tuesday 7 th May	Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket
Tuesday 14 th May	Yr4 & Yr5 Chance to Shine Cricket
Wednesday 12 th June-Friday 14 th June	Yr6 Residential Culmington Manor
Thursday 13 th June	Yr4 Cricket Berkswell
Thursday 20 th June	Yr5 Cricket Berkswell

Applications for Reception and Nursery Places 2024: Reminders

- Application closing date for children to start **Reception at George Fentham Endowed School in September 2024** is 15th January 2024. Offer day is 16th April 2024. Applications are dealt with by Solihull Admissions.
- Application closing date for children starting **Nursery at George Fentham Endowed School in September 2024** was 1st December 2023. Please note late applications can still be sent into the school office. Offer day is 31st January 2024. Applications are dealt with by George Fentham Endowed School. Please see the admissions pages on our school website for more information.

Parent Pay/Contact details

Parent Pay is really important to us in school as it is one of the ways we communicate with you either on a whole school, class or individual basis. We can ask for consent to trips or activities here, inform you of upcoming events, as well as setting up payments e.g. for your child's school lunch, if that is applicable to you. In order to give consent or reply you must log into your account and, from here, the home page quite clearly directs you to what is being requested. Please can you ensure all your contact details, held by school, are up-to-date including email addresses. If you have changed your phone number/email address, please update the school office as soon as possible.

Important -School Lunches - Paying by Parent Pay

Please can you ensure your child's Parent Pay account is credited with enough money to cover the cost of their school meals. If this is not the case, we will be asking you to provide your child with a packed lunch until any debt is cleared.

Polite Request

Parking in the Nursery car park continues to be a problem and is a source of frustration to many of us. The Nursery car park is for use by Nursery parents only in the mornings. Please ensure cars are parked in one of the marked bays and not abandoned in the entrance or exit, which causes blockages and a backlog onto Fentham Road.

PLEASE NOTE THE NURSERY CAR PARK IS OWNED BY THE FENTHAM TRUST AND NOT BY GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL.



There is a voluntary one-way system at school drop off and collection times which is to enter at the bottom of Fentham Road by the War Memorial and to leave the top end of Fentham Road

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along Marsh Lane. If everyone could follow this system, the traffic would be able to flow a lot more freely making it easier for everyone.

Christmas Lunch



Thursday 14th December was the date for this year's school Christmas lunch. The tables were festooned with decorations and the children looked very festive in their Christmas jumpers and hats. An excellent meal, accompanied by Christmas music, was enjoyed by everyone.

The judging then began of the homemade hats. It was very difficult as there were many excellent creations. The following children were announced as winners and runners up and all received a small prize. Well done to everyone!

Nursery

Oliver Winner
Suri and Rupert Runners up

Year 1

Amrit Winner
Walter and Isla Runners up

Year 2

Oliver Winner
Theertha and Rory Runners up

Year 3

George Winner
Erin Runner up

Year 4

Lana Winner
Auriana Runner up

Year 5

Hermione Winner
Cassidy Runner up

Year 6

Abigail Winner
Zac Runner up

A huge thank you to Mrs James (Cookie) and her assistants, as well as our brilliant team of Lunchtime Supervisors who worked so hard to ensure that we all had a fabulous Christmas lunch. A special mention to Mrs Kelly, who is our GFES "Chief Elf" and ensured not only the hall looked festive, but so did the entire school!

Poppy Appeal

Knowle & District Branch Remembrance, Poppy Appeal



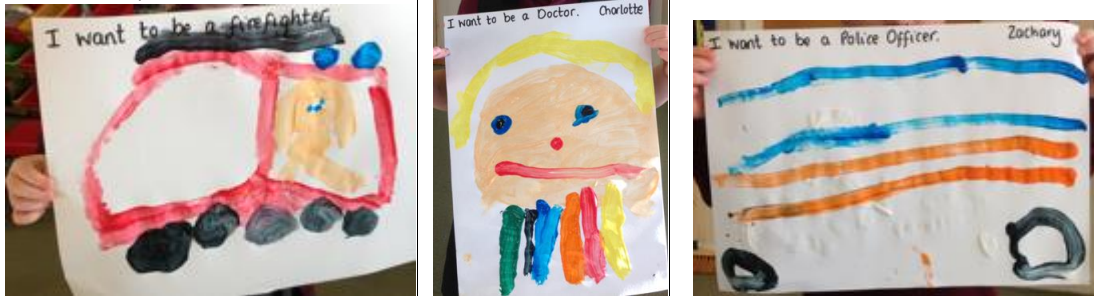
Thank you for your kind donation to the Poppy Appeal.
George Fentham School
raised
£270.82



Class Events

Nursery:

Nursery have been very busy this half-term with our learning theme 'People Who Help Us'. We had a visit from one of our parents who told us all about their very important job as a Paediatric Surgeon. The children then enjoyed taking part in role play activities as doctors, nurses and vets. The children thought about what they might want to be when they grow up and they painted some wonderful pictures.



Christmas is such a fun time in school and in Nursery we have been taking part in lots of wonderful Christmassy activities. The children have enjoyed learning about the Christmas Story and the meaning of Christmas. We have worked extremely hard learning all of the songs for our performance 'A Bundle of Joy'. We are very proud of the children; they really were amazing!

Mrs Bromhall

Reception:

The Reception children have thoroughly enjoyed our learning theme 'Big Roars, here come the Dinosaurs' this half term. The children have found out which dinosaurs are herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. They also used non-fiction books to find out why some dinosaurs have plates, frills and long necks! In Science we learnt about fossils and investigated how they are formed. To celebrate the end of the theme we had a 'Dinosaur Day'. The children were encouraged to dress up in themed clothing. They all looked amazing! We had a dinosaur menu at lunchtime which was delicious. The children took home a clay dinosaur which they made as a souvenir.

We have also had lots of Christmas sparkle sprinkled in the EYFS unit with many opportunities to role play, write, draw and explore all things Christmas. The children also took part in the play 'A Bundle of Joy' with Key Stage 1. They sang their hearts out and made us all very proud.

The children deserve a lovely break with their family after such a long and busy Autumn term.

Merry Christmas everyone. See you all in 2024!



Mrs Brown

Year 1:

We have had a brilliant half term in Year 1, the highlight being our fantastic Infant Nativity 'A Bundle of Joy'. We were so proud to see how enthusiastic and confident all the children were. They sang beautifully and remembered their positions and parts with ease!

In History, we have been so impressed by how much Year 1 have learnt about William Shakespeare and how many facts the children can recall about his life, the plays he wrote and The Globe Theatre.

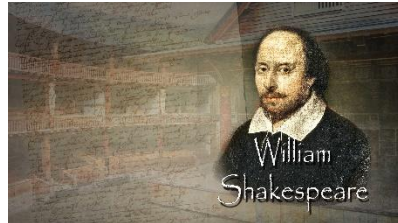
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We have come to the end of our two units in PE on 'Attack, Defend and Shoot' and, in our final lessons, we played some competitive team games. The children absolutely loved these games and we were impressed with their passing skills, team work and, newly learnt, defending skills!

In RE we have been focusing on Advent and the Nativity story. The children loved making their very own Christingles to take home.

During our Design and Technology lessons, the children have been designing a safety jacket for Barnaby Bear to help him be seen and stay safe in the dark.

Well done Year 1 for a brilliant term and thank you everyone for all your support at home. The Year 1 team would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and we are looking forward to a fantastic Spring term in 2024!



Mrs Salmon and Mrs Mandell

Year 2:

This half term has been just as A-MA-ZING as the first half! We've continued our learning journey, laughed lots and really begun to work independently! Some of our highlights have included:

- "I loved finding out all about explorers, like Sir Francis Drake and what the Victorians invented, in our History. I didn't know that the car, camera and telephone were all invented in this time."
- "Our D & T with Mrs Mallin was brilliant. I loved designing and making our own chair for a traditional tale character. I did Daddy Bear, so my chair had to be BIG!"
- "It was fun learning about plants and what they need to grow. We planted some seeds and investigated what happened if they didn't have light or water."

In PE we have enjoyed building on our attacking, defending and shooting skills and continuing to develop our gymnastics sequences. We've explored the story of Rama and Sita, to help us better understand the Hindu festival of Diwali and the best bit...learning our lines, songs and acting for the Christmas Production - 'A Bundle of Joy'.

Mr Bass

Year 3:

Year 3 have continued with their learning all about Ancient Egypt and were visited by 'Mr Egypt', a real life Egyptologist. We handled real Ancient Egyptian artefacts, some over 3000 years old including the 7th Egyptian coin ever made! We learned some Egyptian dance moves and even had a mummy-wrapping competition! We have learned so much in this unit and some of us have been inspired to be Egyptologists ourselves so watch this space!



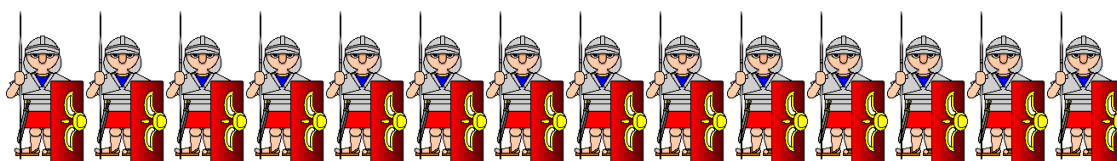
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In English, we have now finished reading 'A Bear Called Paddington'. We have looked for patterns in the Paddington stories, working out similarities and differences in the plot. We noticed that Paddington always has some sort of misunderstanding and then everything goes wrong! We planned and wrote our own Paddington Christmas stories where Paddington gets himself in a muddle with some hilarious consequences!

Mrs Hodge and Mrs Chamberlain

Year 4:

What an action packed half-term the Year 4 children have had! In the second half of the Autumn term, we have been totally immersed in experiencing life in the Roman era. We have learned all about Roman Britain in our History lessons, have created Roman mosaics in Art and read and analysed different Roman myths in English, producing some amazing writing along the way. All of our knowledge was then put to the test when we had a Roman visitor join us for a day. During this fabulous enrichment activity, we spent the whole day learning more about the Romans and trying out lots of activities that we might have experienced if we had lived during the times of the Roman Empire. Firstly, we found out what it was like to be a Roman legionary and we practised marching in formation with our shields. Our next session gave us the opportunity to try on Roman clothing and armour, investigate their pottery and write with quills. We found it was quite tricky not to produce ink blotches! In the afternoon we played some Roman games, like Ludus Latruncolorum, which we loved and which really got us thinking about strategy. We finished off the day with a Roman myth and some role play as Roman gladiators.



Aside from our Roman experience, we were also excited and a little nervous to perform in a cheerleading competition, showcasing all of the skills that we had been learning in PE. Our coach, Dani, had prepared the class well and, despite a hitch with our music, the class performed brilliantly. Dani complimented all the children on their hard work and said that they were one of the best groups that she had ever worked with. Well done year 4 for your enthusiasm and perseverance.

During the final week of the term, we were really lucky to have a special visit from the Fire Service (all planned of course!). Our visitors came to speak to us about keeping ourselves safe from fire and how to identify potential fire risks. This work complemented our work on Electricity in our Science lessons and, once again, the children were able to amaze our visitors with their knowledge of keeping safe with electricity.

After such a fun-filled and packed half-term, the children thoroughly deserve a time to rest and prepare themselves for the next part of their learning journey in the Spring term.



Mrs Briggs and Mrs Gibbons

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Year 5:

In Year 5 this half term, the children have been tasting, designing and making their own Christmas biscuits. They tasted and examined the ingredients in shop bought biscuits, thinking about why the ingredients that manufacturers use are sometimes different, with companies perhaps adding in extra colouring or flavouring to make their biscuit's appearance better or the taste more enhanced for the consumer. All children worked hard on creating an attractive biscuits design, thinking also about appearance, texture, flavour and size. They then drew a detailed design of their biscuit before adapting a basic biscuit recipe and writing out their own recipe instructions for making it. We were so impressed with the maturity of the children when it came to making their biscuits and the sensible manner in which they went about it. Well done to all children for producing a fabulous end product which was decorated beautifully. Reports were that they tasted yummy!

In ICT Year 5 have been continuing to develop their coding skills to design 2D games and real life simulations such as traffic lights and they also used '2Design and Make' to design the packaging for their biscuits. So not only did they taste yummy, they looked good too!

Year 5 put their dodgeball skills and Games Values to the test when a team were chosen to represent GFES at the Solihull Borough Dodgeball Tournament. It was a fantastic evening; the children impressed us with their powerful shots and dodging skills, but it was their teamwork, honesty and resilience that really shone through. We were very proud to be awarded the silver medal scoring 116 points. (The winners scored 117. So close!)

'We all enjoyed it and wish that we could do it again!' TB



Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode

Year 6:

Well what a half term we have had. Year 6 have been incredibly busy:

As part of our intergenerational links, we were lucky enough to visit The Hippodrome to watch The Birmingham Royal Ballet perform, 'The Nutcracker'. The children were mesmerised by the performance and enjoyed spending the afternoon with senior citizens from the local area.



Just a few days later, Year 6 hosted a Christmas Tea party for their grandparents and Governors of the school. The children were amazing hosts and baked delicious cakes for all to enjoy!



Then there was our Christmas performance where the children learned to sing a Nigerian song in Yorabu. We linked this to our music curriculum ensuring the song was full of texture and dynamics. I hope you enjoyed their performance. I am incredibly proud of them.

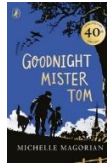
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In Design and Technology, the children have been making Ferris Wheels and designing seats for Lego men (making sure they did not fall out). They have also been coding the wheels to stop and start at set times and the lights to flash intermittently.

I would also like to mention the excellent progress the children are making in English and Maths. It has been wonderful to watch them grow in confidence, motivation and perseverance - well done Year 6.

Finally, I have really enjoyed teaching Year 6 History this term. Their enthusiasm, research and motivation has been incredibly rewarding. This is the end of our WWI and WWII topic, wrapped up with an emotional viewing of *Goodnight Mr Tom* (our English text).

Have a wonderful Christmas Year 6!



Miss Timothy

EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production - 'A Bundle of Joy'

We have had great pleasure in learning the songs and lines, plus rehearsing for our EYFS and KS1 Christmas Production. It truly was a fully inclusive show and huge congratulations to all of our children and staff for their hard work and enthusiasm in presenting 'A Bundle of Joy', which was FAB-U-LOUS and enjoyed by all!

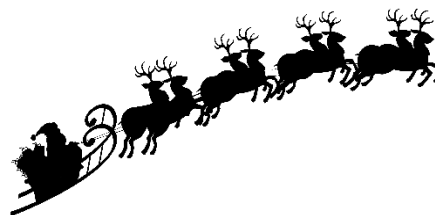


A huge thank you to everyone for following our ticketing procedures, by coming to only those performances for which they had tickets and ensuring childcare arrangements were in place for younger children.

KS2 Christmas Concert - 'A Christmas Journey'

The theme for our KS2 Christmas Concert this year was 'A Christmas Journey' which focused on the Christmas traditions in four places around the world - Nigeria, Sweden, Austria and Mexico. Each class learnt a traditional song from that country and facts about Christmas in that part of the world. This was all interwoven with the Christmas story and another journey made by Father Christmas.

We performed this at Hampton Church over an evening and afternoon. The children were amazing and the spirit of Christmas was evident for us all to see and feel. Well done KS2!



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A huge thank you to everyone for following our ticketing procedures, by coming to only those performances for which they had tickets and ensuring childcare arrangements were in place for younger children.

The 12 Days of Fitmas

During the build up to Christmas, all of our classes have been taking part in 'The 12 Days of Fitmas'. This supports our aim to keep our children moving and promote the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle. A particular highlight was our 'Santa Dash' where we all went outside and did as many laps of the playground as possible in a set time. We were delighted that Santa came to encourage us, managing one or two laps himself!!!



Can you guess who?

School Sports Clubs-Register for your place in Spring Term Clubs Now!

Well done to all the children who took part in the Autumn Term Clubs. It was great to see the clubs so well attended and watch the children having fun while learning. A big thank you also goes out to everyone who completed the 'Have Your Say' form. I hope you will see that the Spring Clubs and Summer Clubs reflect your suggestions.

Spring Term Clubs will run for nine weeks beginning Monday 15th January 2024. The last sessions will be in the week beginning Monday 18th March 2024.

Registration for Spring Clubs is now open. Click the link below and complete the form to secure your place. Registration will close on Wednesday 17th January at Midday.

After this time enquires about club vacancies will need to be made via the school office. Please note this does NOT include JET Dance, which runs independently.

	Lunch time	Afterschool
Mon		Jet Dance 3.20 -4.30pm Open access via Jet Dance
Tues	KS1 Skipping Club Yr 1 & 2 open access (20) Adaptive Sports 12.20 -1.00pm https://forms.office.com/e/Y7uKk46Uus	Year 5 & 6 Football (32) Open access 3.20pm -4.20pm Sports Development UK Louis Andrews and Megan Smirles 1 coach for Girls & 1 for boys https://forms.office.com/e/nT5Yu58XH7

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Wed	<p>Reception Skipping Club (15) open access 12.20 -1pm Adaptive sports https://forms.office.com/e/0Fqy3vyv8a</p>	<p>Year 3 & 4 Football (32) Open access 3.20pm -4.20pm Sports Development UK Louis Andrews and Ben Maxwell. 1 coach for Girls & 1 for boys https://forms.office.com/e/9h81wUeebn</p>
Thu	<p>Reception Multisport Club (15) open access 12.20 -1pm Adaptive sports https://forms.office.com/e/GDNDmTXJTT</p>	<p>KS2 Dodgeball Open access (30) 3.20pm -4.20pm Adaptive Sports 1 coach for yrs 3/4 & 1 for yrs 5/6 https://forms.office.com/e/M2vW8h6fUR</p>
Fri		<p>KS1 Dodgeball Open access (30) 3.20pm -4.20pm Adaptive Sports https://forms.office.com/e/tJHuV4ri8J</p>

At George Fentham, we are proud to invest a significant amount of money from the school budget to fund the Tuesday to Friday clubs so that all children have equal access to these sporting opportunities. In return, we expect a high level of commitment to the club and have high expectations for pupils' behaviour during the sessions.

Match Reports:

GFES Girls' Football Team

4.12.23 GFES vs Dickens Heath: 0-0 (draw)

On Monday 4th December George Fentham girls' football team played their first match of the season against Dickens Heath. It was a promising start against a strong, physical side. Our girls held their own in defence and made lots of attacking play.

GFES Boys' Football Team

15.11.23 GFES vs Hockley Heath: 4-1 (lost)

The score did not reflect how well the boys played in their first match of the season. Some outstanding tackles were made and the goal keeper made several fantastic saves against a powerful team. GFES made some great breaks but just couldn't find the net.

16.11.23 GFES vs St Margaret's: 5-1 (win)

What a comeback! The boys took what they had learnt from their first match and used it to their advantage. Great passing and some fancy footwork in midfield created space and chances for the team.

4.12.23 GFES vs Lady K: 5-3 (win)

The boys showed great focus and determination. Their relentless energy when tracking back and solid defence gave them the edge over the opposition.

4.12.23 GFES vs OLC 3-4 (lost)

Toughest game of the season so far; this quick and skilful team kept making the most of their breaks. However, GFES kept their heads up, communicated well and worked as a team to turn it round in the second half and take control of the game. Sadly, the whistle went all too soon!

Mrs Bradburn

A big thank you to Mrs Bradburn for the huge amount of work she does in organising all of our sports and PE opportunities across the school.

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Music

Since half term, the KS2 children have been focussing, in assemblies, on their singing - working on good posture, using their diaphragms to improve their breathing technique and the clarity of their words. We have been so impressed with the focus of all children in these sessions and the way that they have been committed to learning their Christmas songs for our Carol Service in Church. The services themselves really demonstrated the children's hard work and all classes performed their Christmas songs from around the world brilliantly and with confidence. Despite many children suffering with coughs and colds, you would never have known because of the fantastic sound that they made! Congratulations to you all on a marvellous Christmas performance.

Year 5 are continuing to learn the music for 'Young Voices' at Resorts World Arena in February 2024. There is a wide range of musical material and a lot to learn, so keep practising over the Christmas holidays if you can, Year 5. It is sounding great so far!

Instrumental and singing lessons have continued this half term and we love hearing the children perform when they have the confidence - please encourage your children to sign up to perform in assembly after Christmas so that we can continue to enjoy their progress! **If you are a budding musician and would like to learn an instrument, please sign up using the Solihull Music information which came home via Parent Pay.** If you would like to discuss financial support or instrumental hire, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kermode or the School Office to find out more. Solihull Music can be contacted on: solihullmusic@solihull.gov.uk or 0121 704 6500.



A special thank you to Mrs Kermode for all that she does to support a wide range of musical opportunities throughout the school.

George Fentham School Council

This half-term, the newly elected George Fentham School Council met for the first time. In our first meeting we looked at the role of the committee members and set up our constitution. This is a set of rules that we all agree to abide by.

We have 3 main aims this year:

- 1) To help to review the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- 2) To have more involvement, as pupils, in school worship.
- 3) To provide ideas and wishes which will help to redevelop our playground area.

Mrs Bailey

Eco-Council

This half-term started with a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the eco success of last year. Our Key Stage 2 Eco-Councillors, who worked tirelessly during the last school year, were invited to attend the Greener School Awards at the Civic Suite in Solihull. The children joined like-minded pupils from other Solihull schools who had also achieved the highly prized Greener Schools Award. George Fentham have been linked with the solicitors Schofield and Associates as our eco-champion for this school year and it was lovely to sit back and listen to owner and principal, Eileen Schofield, reel off our Eco-Councillors' successes. We look forward to sharing some of our ideas

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with our sponsor going forward and have been promised some funding for one initiative that we are currently keeping under wraps....to be announced very shortly!

Just after the Autumn half-term holiday, GFES held its annual elections for the different Councils in school. It was lovely to see so many children put their names down to represent their classes and, in some cases, even present their nomination formally. What a super way to demonstrate democracy in action, supporting our work on British Values. For Eco-Council, two new children from each class were appointed to the post.

Well done to Reggie & Reya (Reception), Walter & Tayla (Y1), Joshua & Bronwyn (Y2), Burt & Eva (Y3), Samuel & Chloe-Belle (Y4), Thomas & Esme (Y5) and Muhammad-Eesah & Claudia (Y6). With just a few weeks in their new roles, Eco-Councillors have already successfully organised a Christmas competition (making Christmas decorations from recycled materials) and have a plan for even more eco activities in the upcoming months.

Mrs Briggs

Eco-Council: Hot off the Press....

Eco-Councillors were thrilled with the number of entries to our 'create a Christmas decoration from recycled materials' competition. After much discussion, we are pleased to announce the following winners:

Niveda (Nursery), Emily (Reception), Walter (Y1), Amelia (Y2), Amber (Y3), Rosie (Y4), Thomas (Y5) and Frankie (Y6).

Thank you to everyone who entered.



Online Safety Committee

Following our elections in November, we are really pleased that we have a new group of Online Safety representatives who are all set to carry on the good work of last year's cohort. We have had an initial meeting to discuss 'what the committee's roles and responsibilities are' and 'agreed some initial actions for the Spring term'. We look forward to sharing these with you in January and raising the profile of Online Safety even further.

Collection for Age Concern UK

This half term, we were contacted by Solihull Age Concern UK. The Charity was collecting gifts of chocolates, biscuits and selection boxes to be given to their 'Linking People Together' clients at their Christmas lunches. Volunteers are also delivering gifts to older people who are on their own and unable to get out of the house to the lunches.

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A group of our Year 4 girls wanted to do something to support charity and this turned out to be the perfect opportunity for them to co-ordinate. They worked together to collect and wrap the donations, resulting in 88 gifts, which were gratefully received. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to such a worthy cause.

**Neave J, Nieve B-D, Havana H, Maggie D,
Lilley-Moe F, Auriana H and Mrs Bailey**



REMINDER: Be Bright Be Seen

Please ensure when out and about children can be seen, by wearing some reflective clothing to help ensure their safety.



Attendance

To support us to secure good attendance for all of our pupils and to address concerns regarding any child's poor school attendance and punctuality, we will be continuing to work with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS) next term.

Each half term, attendance registers are rigorously scrutinised to identify any attendance issues. This includes children falling below 95% attendance, children who are below 90% attendance and therefore at risk of becoming persistent absentees, children with any unauthorised absence and any punctuality concerns.

Your child may be referred to a CSAWS Attendance and Welfare Officer if their attendance or punctuality is causing concern. They will then contact you by phone, letter or home visit to discuss the school's concerns and how attendance and punctuality can be improved.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Reporting Absence and Leave of Absence Forms

Schools have a duty to account daily for all children registered at the school. Therefore, if your child is absent due to sickness or other unexpected circumstances, it is critical that you let us know by 8:30am on that day. This can be done via our phone line on 01675 442800 option 1, or through emailing the school office at office@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk.

Please be aware, if we have not received a reason for your child's absence, we will work through your child's contact list to try to establish the reason for this absence. If after doing everything possible we are still unable to establish why your child is absent, we may escalate this to a safeguarding concern.

Parents / carers are asked to complete a Leave of Absence Form, in advance, for every absence. Please note this includes planned absences or short notice absences due, for example, medical appointments during the school day. Forms are available by contacting the school office.

Holidays in School Time

Head Teachers are only allowed to grant leave of absence in very exceptional circumstances and where the application has been made two weeks in advance. This does not include family holidays, therefore, we ask that you do not book holidays in school time as these will be unauthorised and could lead to a referral to the Local Authority Enforcement Team for a fixed penalty fine or prosecution.

Should you require any further information, or wish to discuss a leave of absence request please contact the school office.

Medicines in School - REMINDER

Our Medicines in School and Administering Medicines policy are both on our school website, along with the permission forms for prescribed and over the counter medicines.

Should your child require any medication during the school day, please complete the relevant form and bring this, with the medicine, directly to the school office. **Medicines must not be sent in with children.**

It is really important that your child's medicine has the prescription label on it and that your instructions exactly match the dosage prescribed.

Medical, Dental & Optician Appointments

Following advice from CSAWS, we would like to ask for your support in organising medical, dental and optician appointments outside of the school day. Please note if there is no alternative, you may be asked to show a copy of your appointment letter or card to the school office and complete a leave of absence request.

Dietary Requirements / Food Allergies

Please note it is the responsibility of Parents/Carers to advise the school office, in writing, of any dietary requirements or food allergies for each individual child. This is not required for food preferences but for medical conditions such as allergies or religious beliefs. This information will be stored on your child's record throughout school.

Healthy Schools: Break time Snacks and Water Bottles

Snacks

As part of our Healthy Schools approach, we ask for your support in **only sending in pure fresh or dried fruit and vegetables for morning snack. No other snacks are permitted.** Please note fresh fruit or vegetables are provided by school for all children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Key Stage 2 children should be provided with a fruit or vegetable snack from home.

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Water Bottles

Children have access to their water bottles during the day and are regularly reminded to drink. Please encourage your child to do this and **ensure that drinking bottles contain water only**. Should you wish your child to have milk at break time details are available from the school office.

No Nuts in School

We have a number of children in school who have a severe nut allergy. These allergies can be life threatening. **In order to keep all of our children safe, please ensure that you do not send any nuts or products containing nuts into school with your child, at any time.**



The BASE

The BASE provides before and after school care and Nursery wrap around care during term time. The BASE is not run by school, but by a completely separate Voluntary Management Committee. If you have any queries regarding this provision, please contact Mrs Tina Coley directly on 01675 443913.

And Finally...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for their hard work during an incredibly busy (and long) half term. We hope our Christmas celebrations and performances have added some Christmas magic and sparkle at this special time of year!

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A reminder that Monday 8th January 2024 is an INSET Day. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 9th January 2023**.

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher

