

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 1 AUTUMN 2018**

Autumn 1: October 2018

Term Dates	
SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES	<u>2018/2019</u>
Autumn Term	Mon 3 September 2018 - Fri 26 October 2018
Half Term	Mon 29 October 2018 - Fri 2 November 2018
	Mon 5 November 2018 - Fri 21 December 2018
Spring Term	Mon 7 January 2019 - Fri 15 February 2019
Half Term	Mon 18 February 2019 - Fri 22 February 2019
	Mon 25 February 2019 - Fri 12 April 2019
Summer Term	Mon 29 April 2019 - Fri 24 May 2019 <i>May Day Bank Holiday Mon 6 May 2019</i>
Half Term	Mon 27 May 2019 - Fri 31 May 2019
	Mon 3 June 2019 - Mon 22 July 2019
	Inset Days 2018/19 - Mon 3 September, Fri 26 October 2018, Fri 15 February 2019, Fri 12 April 2019, Monday 22 July 2019

Dates for Diary

Wed 31 October	Secondary 2019 Closing date.
Mon 5 November	Bonfire Night Lunch
Tue 6 November am	Reception Hearing Tests
Tue 6 - Mon 12 November	Travelling Book Fair
Wed 7 November	Year 4 Cheerleading Festival at St Peters
Fri 9 November	Year 5 Greek Visitor
Mon 12 November	PTFA Discos - Neon Theme
Tue 13 November	Year 6 Visit to Coventry Cathedral
Wed 14 November 2.30 to 3.30pm	School Nurse Drop in Session TBC
Thu 15 November	Nursery & Reception 2019 Open Morning
Fri 16 November	Children in Need Non Uniform Day - Spotacular
Fri 16 November	Reading Challenge Assembly: Hampton in Arden Library
Tue 20 & Wed 21 November	Parent Consultation Evenings
Tue 20 November am	Year 6 HAPI Questionnaire - School Nurse
Tue 20 November	Secret: Year 4 Lunt Fort Visit
Wed 21 November	TBC Fire Service visit to Year 4
Thu 22 November	Tempest Photography: Individual Photographs
Thu 29 November	Year 3 to Sleeping Beauty, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
Fri 30 November	Reception Dinosaur Day (see later in this newsletter)
Sat 1 December	Nursery 2019 Closing date
Fri 7 December	PTFA Christmas Fair
Tue 11 December pm	Year 6 & Elders of Village to Nutcracker Ballet, Birmingham Hippodrome
Wed 12 December 9.30am	EYFS & KS1 Dress Rehearsal for Grandparents
Wed 12 December 6.30pm	Reception & KS1 Christmas Performance

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Thu 13 December 9.30am	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Performance
Fri 14 December	Christmas Lunch
Mon 17 December 1.45pm	KS2 Dress Rehearsal for Grandparents
Tue 18 December 1.45pm	KS2 Christmas Performance
Wed 19 December 6.30pm	KS2 Christmas Performance
Fri 21 December	Christmas Service at Church
2019	
Mon 14 January am	Year 2 visit from Warburton's for Bread making Workshop
Tue 15 January	Reception 2019 Closing date.
Thur 17 January or 22 January	Young Voices Concert
Thur 31 January	Nursery 2019 Offer Day
Mon 11 February	PTFA Discos: Pancake
Fri 1 March	Secondary 2019 Offer Day
Mon 4-Fri 8 March	Health Week
Mon 4 - Tue 5 March	Lifebus at School
Fri 8 March am	Nursery: Playhouse Theatre
Fri 15 March	Red Nose Day
Mon 18 - Fri 22 March	Year 5 Bikeability
Tue 16 April	Reception 2019 Offer Day
Wed 22 May am	Tempest Photography : Class photos
Mon 17 June	PTFA Discos: Ice Pops
Mon 24-Fri 26 June	Year 6 Residential Condoover Hall

Staffing Update

School Office:

Mrs Fatania has joined us in the school office this half term and will be continuing with us next half term. Mrs Fatania is supporting with school finance and working with Mrs Hansford to ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the school.

Lunchtime Supervisors:

This week we will be saying goodbye to Mr Woodbridge and Miss Ralph, two of our Lunchtime Supervisors. We would like to thank them for their hard work at George Fentham and wish them continued success in the future. We are currently recruiting for these posts. If you feel that you could spare between 1 and 5 lunchtimes to become part of our team please contact the school office for further information or see our job advertised on www.wmjobs.co.uk.

Christmas Performances 2018

With increasing numbers of children in school, allocating tickets to all parents has become extremely difficult. Therefore, we would like to ask our KS2 parents to consider attending our afternoon performance wherever possible and for our Reception & KS1 parents to consider attending the evening performance.

Once again this year, if demand for tickets exceeds supply, we will allocate tickets on a first come first served basis. Inevitably this may lead to some parents not receiving tickets for their preferred performance.

Letters for ticket requests will be sent out next half term. We ask for your support in this matter so that all parents enjoy watching their child in what promises to be another fantastic year of Christmas performances at George Fentham Endowed School.

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A Message from the PTFA

This year the PTFA is continuing to raise money for 'Project ICT Innovation' to help update the school's IT resources. ICT equipment has a great impact on the children's progress.

A really easy way and fun way to support this project, if you haven't already done it, is to sign up to our new 100 Club (private lottery). Numbers are still available; please contact us via Classlist or email for a form. It's just £12 a year and a chance of winning £25, £15 or £10 every month. First draw will be during school assembly: Friday 9th November.

Another way of supporting 'Project ICT Innovation' is our Christmas Card Project, which we are undertaking in partnership with Art Projects for Schools Ltd (APFS).

The children have made some beautiful Christmas Cards at school that will look amazing in print and are great for sending to friends and family. Details to follow on how to order.

The autumn term is always a fun but busy time behind the scenes as we're starting to organise our big event of year - The Christmas Fair! So keep **Friday 7th December 3:45-5:45pm** free in your diaries and here are just a few ways you can help make it fantastic! (More details to follow.)

- 9.11.18 - Come to the Christmas Fair Planning Meeting: 9am at the White Lion.
- Could you donate a raffle prize?
- Could you donate a large cuddly toy?
- 16.11.18 - Start selling books of raffle tickets.
- 23.11.18 - Crazy Cups sent home to fill.
- 30.11.18 - Come to the christmas wreath making morning. (No experience required!)
- 30.11.18 - Buy a fresh handmade wreath - £10. On sale after school at the gates.
- 3.12.18 - Non-uniform day! Send in chocolate and wine donations and all raffle tickets.
- 3.12.18 - Help sort the chocolate donations for the tombola: 9am at school.
- 4.12.18 -7.12.18 - Send in old toys, preloved cuddly toys, children's books, old school uniform and your Crazy Cups.
- 7.12.18 - Send in homemade cake donations.
- 7.12.18 - Help set up the stalls: time tbc. Or, clear away afterwards: 6pm.
- 7.12.18 - Volunteer to man a stall at the Christmas Fair for an hour: 3:45pm or 4:45pm.

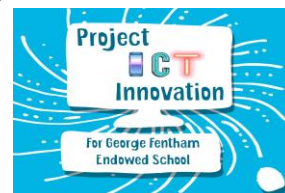
If you haven't already signed up to Classlist please go to the website (www.classlist.com) it's really easy to do. Get updates and reminders on all events going on at school, message your class and even receive this newsletter straight to your email inbox.

The PTFA's success is dependent on your support and engagement. We particularly need support from parents in Foundation and KS1 for the PTFA to be sustainable. If you would like to get more involved, any help big or small is appreciated, please contact us: gfptfa@gmail.com or via www.classlist.com. Thank you!

Date of the next meeting: 8:00pm - White Lion - Tuesday 13th November



<http://georgefenthamppta.weebly.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/PTFAGeorgeFentham/>



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Nursery & Reception Open Morning for September 2019 Admissions

Prospective parents of children starting Nursery or Reception in September 2019 are welcome to attend our Open Morning on **THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER between 9.30AM and 11.00AM.**

Meet the Teacher Evening

Thank you to all of our parents who joined us for Meet the Teacher Evening. This is an excellent way to find out about the year ahead. Should you have any queries or concerns please raise them at your earliest opportunity, with your child's class teacher.

School and Sports Events

Welcome to Nursery Workshop

Nursery parents were welcomed into school in September for a Workshop exploring the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and learning through play as well as ideas for supporting their child at home. This was a lovely opportunity to find out more about our school and to enjoy the "Play-Dough Challenge"!

Nursery Harvest Festival

Reverend Stuart visited Nursery to help say 'thank you' for our food when we celebrated Harvest Festival. The children discussed where our food comes from and thought about why we had collected tins to give to those less fortunate.

Reception Reading Inspire Workshop

Reception had a very successful Reading Inspire workshop on Friday 21st September. Lots of parents attended and found out how we approach and teach reading in Reception. After an informative presentation the parents were able to work with their child in the classroom to create a front cover of their favourite book. There was a lovely variety of story books to look at and share. All the children received a reading pack which contained a storybook and phonic activities to support reading at home.

Reception - Dinosaur Day

Next half term the children in Reception will be learning all about Dinosaurs. To celebrate the end of this topic on Friday 30th November Reception children will be dressing as dinosaurs! We would like to invite Reception parents to come in and watch the children perform a dinosaur song at 2.30pm on the same day.

Year 1 Multi-Skills Activities

Year 1 have enjoyed taking part in a range of multi-skills activities with a sports coach from our local Tennis Club. Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Salmon have noticed the fantastic progress all the children have made this half term. They have improved their throwing and catching skills and excelled in using hand-eye coordination. We look forward to continuing this after the half term holiday. Well done Year 1!

Year 2 Learning Journey

Over this half term, Year 2 have been absorbed in their learning - running as fast as they can away from the Gingerbread Man, judging the battle between Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria for who was best and exploring the work of William Morris to produce their own designs. We are now already looking forward to the visit of Warburton's, as part of our bread making topic, as well as exploring our local environment to support our scientific learning.

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Year 3 Swimming

Year 3 have had a very healthy and energetic start to the school year! The children have been attending swimming lessons once a week at North Solihull Leisure Centre. Already children have made excellent progress. Some are beginning to swim without the use of aids, whilst others have been learning new strokes and have developed different methods of floatation. All are enjoying the experience.

Year 3 Gymnastics

Year 3 children have also benefited from an experienced coach in gymnastics, who works with the class once a week. This term the coach has focussed on developing core strength and balances. As an experienced dance instructor, the coach will continue to work with the class throughout the year alternating gymnastics with dance.

Year 4 Roman Soldier

On Thursday 25th October, Year 4 were thrilled to find a Roman Soldier in the classroom, complete with weapons, marching kit, stories from Rome and tales of fighting the Celts. We learnt how to be a soldier - the training, discipline and organisation was imaginatively brought to life by several Year 4 students. We learnt how the Romans equipped themselves for battles and, rather alarmingly, we learnt about the Roman way of getting rid of their enemies effectively and efficiently! The children loved the gory and gruesome details. We looked at artefacts from Roman times and learnt how we have discovered so much about the Romans and then we explored how the Romans felt when they landed in Britain. The day ended with a battle on the playground between the Roman army and the Celts. We had so much fun! The Roman soldier really brought history to life for us and the children have reflected this enthusiasm in their history lessons. Best of all, the Roman Soldier was so complimentary about the behaviour, thoughtfulness and love of learning that Year 4 showed. We are so proud of them!

Year 4 Gymnastics

This half term, Year 4 have been working on their skills with Becky our gymnastics coach. The class have improved their stretching skills, rolls and balances. They have designed their own sequences and they have been delighted to see how much they can do with confidence now.

Year 4 Cheerleading

Year 4 have had a fantastic time this term working with a cheerleading coach. The children worked hard on a routine which combined lots of energetic new skills and involved an exacting degree of balance, timing, athleticism and teamwork. A cheerleading team will be representing George Fentham School at a Festival on Wednesday 7th November at St Peter's School.

Year 5 and 6 Tennis

Years 5 and 6 have been developing their tennis skills in PE lessons. To enhance these sessions, Ian and Jack welcomed each class to Hampton Tennis Club, where they took part in a mini class tournament. As always, the children showed excellent skills of teamwork, co-operation and fair play. We would like to thank Ian and Jack, from Hampton Tennis Club, for running these events.

Year 6

The School Bank

This term, Year 6 children have applied for and been interviewed for roles in the school bank, including Managers, Marketing Team, Record Keepers and Cashiers. They have been coming in early on a Wednesday morning to support Mrs Lowe in running the School Bank and have also

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helped run an informative assembly for KS2 children. Year 6 children have also had a talk from Mrs Lowe on fraud and how to keep their bank details safe and secure. Many thanks to Mrs Lowe and her Year 6 team for all their hard work so far this term!

Collaborative Rural Schools - Workshops

On Monday 15th October, two of our Year 4 pupils spent a very enjoyable morning at Berkswell Primary School taking part in a 'World Music' workshop. Over the course of this academic year, other George Fentham pupils from Year 2 upwards will be invited to participate in a range of workshops in collaborative rural schools (St George and St Theresa, Meriden, Lady Katherine Leveson, Knowle, Bentley Heath, Dorridge, Balsall Common), including enterprise skills, Science, ICT coding, Maths, debating and English. Pupils are nominated by their class teachers for demonstrating a particular gift, talent, skill or aptitude in different areas of the curriculum.

Harvest Church Service

On Monday 15th October, Reverend Stuart welcomed us to Church for Harvest Festival. The Church was beautifully decorated for the Harvest season and the children enjoyed our service.

Year 6 Harvest Tea

On Monday 22nd October, Year 6 invited their grandparents and senior members of the village to come into school for a guided tour, followed by a cup of tea and piece of cake. Year 6 made excellent guides and we received many positive comments from our visitors. We were so proud of our pupils' beautiful manners and behaviour, well done Year 6!

St Basil's Refuge

Thank you for your tins and groceries collected from the Harvest Church Service on Monday 15th October and the Nursery Harvest Service on Wednesday 17th October. Several large boxes were distributed to the St Basil's Homeless Project, Mildenhall House, in the Solihull area. Your donations were greatly appreciated by St Basil's.

GFES Football Club

The George Fentham Football Club is now up and running, with children from Years 5 and 6 completing training sessions focused on developing their basic skills and understanding of the game. We are already looking forward to competing against other local primary schools, after half term, and will keep you updated on our progress.

Hampton-in-Arden Arts & Crafts Exhibition

As a school, we have once again taken part in the Hampton-in-Arden Arts and Craft Exhibition, 2018. Every child from each year group, Nursery to Year 6, produced a piece of art work based upon the theme 'A Splash of Colour'. Two pieces from each class were then chosen to be displayed at Fentham Hall on the 20th and 21st of October 2018. This year was the 45th anniversary of the Art Exhibition so, where possible, we linked the colour 'sapphire' in with the art work to celebrate this momentous occasion.

This is always a wonderful opportunity for the school to participate in and for the children to have their work displayed, outside of school, for the local community to see.

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Autumn 18 Clubs & Music Lessons

Day	Lunchtime	After-school
Monday	Guitar Lessons Keyboard Lessons 12.15-1.15 Games Club on Playground	Football Club 3.20-4.20pm. <i>(from 15 Oct 2018)</i>
Tuesday	KS2 Homework Club	3.20-4.20 KS2 Sports Club - Tennis
Wednesday	12.45-1.15 KS1 Sports Club - Multi Sports Strings Lessons	3.20-4.45 Learning Curves
Thursday	12.45 - 1.15 Y1 & 2 Tri-golf Saxophone Lessons	
Friday	Cello Lessons 12.45 - 1.15 KS2 Tri-golf	3.20-4.20 Y4,5 & 6 Netball Club

100% Attendance - Summer 2018

Congratulations and well done to the 82 children who achieved 100% Attendance Award Certificates for the **Summer Term 2018**. Below is a breakdown by pupil numbers in each of our classes:

Previous Year	Number of Pupils
Reception	15
1	10
2	13
3	14
4	15
5	15

Macmillan Coffee Morning/Wear it Pink Day

Thank you so much for all your support with our charity fundraising day on Friday 28th September 2018. The children looked fabulous in their pink outfits! We raised a fantastic **£684.06**

Cake Sale = £ 275.25

Coffee Morning = £ 190.82

Non-uniform = £ 217.99

This has been divided between Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie and Breast Cancer Now (Where it Pink!)- three charities that are very close to our hearts at George Fentham, each will receive £228.02.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

We will be selling poppies on behalf of the British Legion from Monday 5th November; we are suggesting a minimum donation of 50p. We will also be selling poppy themed stationery with suggested donations of between 50p to £2.00.



Thank you for your support.

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The BASE

Please be aware that after half term the BASE (Before & After School Club) will be open each morning from 7.30am. There is a possibility of spaces in the BASE for various sessions during the week. If you are interested please contact Mrs Coley at the BASE or telephone 01675 443913.

Admission to Secondary School - September 2019

The closing date for submitting your child's application for secondary school is **31st October**. If you live in Solihull and you have not yet applied, you must submit your application via the parent portal at www.solihull.gov.uk/pp. Applications received after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers have been made in March. Applying late is likely to affect the outcome to your application.

If you live outside of Solihull you should contact your home council to apply.

Mobile Phones in School

May we remind you that mobile phones must not be used in school. The only exception to this is if parents use their phones to take photographs, of their own child, for their own personal use at the end of Class Assemblies or Performances. This is in line with our school policies and procedures. Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off and put away at any other time. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Medicines in School

May we remind you that a medicine permission form must be completed and discussed with a member of the office staff if your child requires any medicine during the school day. It is extremely important that all medicine has the prescription label clearly displayed on the medicine, stating your child's name, dose and frequency. If this information is displayed on packaging, we will need this packaging to be supplied. This arrangement will also apply for Calpol, therefore, if your child requires Calpol during the school day the bottle must have a prescription label with the above details.

Should you wish to discuss this in any further detail, please contact the school office.

Dietary Requirements / Food Allergies

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

School Meals - Outstanding Debt

Parents of children in KS2

Due to the flexibility of the ParentPay system allowing parents to choose which days they wish their child to have a school meal, it is important to keep your account in credit; reminders are generated daily for children who have no credit on their accounts. Please note that if a debt exceeds one week's school lunches of £10.50 (£2.10 per day) a hot meal cannot be provided until the debt is cleared and the account is in credit.

Please contact the school office if you think your child may be eligible for free school meals.

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Punctuality Update

Our school gate opens at 8.45am each morning and is closed when the bell rings at 8.55am for children in Reception to Year 6. Registers are taken promptly at 9.00am. After the register closes any child arriving late will be awarded an unauthorised late mark. We would like to make you aware that this unauthorised mark will lower your child's overall attendance percentage and could lead to legal action. We would, therefore, ask for your support in ensuring that your child arrives on time for school **every day**.

Any child arriving after the gate has been closed must be taken into the school office where a member of staff will document why your child is late, sign your child in and update the class register. **All children must be accompanied at the school office and not sent in on their own to sign in as we consider this a SAFEGUARDING issue.**

Please note, Nursery children should arrive in Nursery by 9.00am and should be fully supervised on the small playground until the Nursery door is opened at 8.55am.

Attendance and Requests for Leave of Absence

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 are continuing to work with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS). 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 and 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.

Please note, in line with the Local Authority Solihull Attendance Policy, 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. Should you require any further information, or wish to discuss a leave of absence request please contact the school office.

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.

School Bank

We run a School Bank every Wednesday morning from 8.30am to 9.00am under the supervision of Mrs Lowe from HSBC and Year 6 cashiers. As a school we feel it is very important to help children become financially responsible, so the School Bank is a fantastic way to help teach children how to manage and save from an early age. All children from age 7 are invited to open a savings account, with an opening deposit of £10.00. Further deposits in cash or cheques can be made from as little as £1.00. Once children reach the age of 11, the bank will open a current account for them, which will run alongside their savings account and with parent/carer permission the children would be able to have a debit card. For more information you can come into school to see the School Bank Team in the library area every Wednesday morning.

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A message from the Bikeability Team at Solihull MBC.

As part of the promotion of Bikeability, and to ensure children in Year 5 are well prepared, we have compiled a promotional video to explain the areas that need checking to ensure the bike and the trainee are safe to ride.

We look forward to working with the children in the summer when George Fentham School's Bikeability course is booked.

<https://youtu.be/iLGXp6Rm0aE>



George Fentham - School Uniform

PALMERS 1640 HIGH STREET, KNOWLE. B93 0NA TELEPHONE NUMBER; 01564 776590

A Message from Palmers:

We would firstly like to thank all of you who have once again supported Palmers School-wear on Knowle High Street over the last year. Alongside school uniform we now offer a wide range of Geox School shoes. All of our staff are qualified fitters.

Could we please ask for your continued support in shopping with us locally and supporting your local High Street. We look forward to seeing you in the near future. We offer competitive prices and quality uniform and our staff are all extremely knowledgeable of the schools we supply.

And finally.....

As you can see from our Newsletter, this half term has been extremely busy with lots of exciting things happening in school! We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family an enjoyable half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 5th November 2018.

**Mrs J Gaughan
Head Teacher**