

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 1 AUTUMN 2019**

October 2019

| Term Dates | |
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| SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAY DATES | <u>2019/2020</u> |
| Autumn Term | Mon 2 September 2019 - Fri 25 October 2019 |
| Half Term | Mon 28 October 2019 - Fri 1 November 2019 |
| | Mon 4 November - Fri 20 December 2019 |
| Spring Term | Mon 6 January 2020 - Fri 14 February 2020 |
| Half Term | Mon 17 February 2020 - Fri 21 February 2020 |
| | Mon 24 February 2020 - Fri 3 April 2020 |
| Summer Term | Mon 20 April 2020 - Fri 22 May 2020 May Day Bank Holiday :Friday 8 May 2020 |
| Half Term | Mon 25 May 2020 - Fri 29 May 2020 |
| | Mon 1 June 2020 - Mon 20 July 2020 |
| INSET DAYS | Friday 25 October 2019, Friday 14 February 2020, Monday 1st June 2020, Monday 20 July 2020 |

| Dates for Diary |
|-----------------|
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| Thur 31 October | Closing Date for Secondary 2020 Applications |
| Fri 8 November | Year 5 Greek Day & Visitor |
| Fri 8 November | Year 6 to Coventry Cathedral: Blitz Day |
| Mon 11 November | Remembrance Assembly: Rev Stuart |
| Thur 14 November 9.30-11.00 | Nursery & Reception 2020 Open Morning |
| Thur 14 November 3.30-4.15 | Book Fair |
| Fri 15 November | Children in Need Day |
| Fri 15 November 3.30-4.15 | Book Fair |
| Mon 18 November 3.30-4.15 | Book Fair |
| Wed 20 November | Tempest Photography: Individual & Siblings |
| Thur 28 November | Year 3 Visit to "Puss in Boots" at Belgrade Theatre |
| Mon 2 December | Open the Book Assembly |
| Mon 2 December | Closing Date for Nursery 2020 Applications |
| Fri 6 December | Christmas Fair |
| Tue 10 December | 1.45pm KS2 Grandparents Performance |
| Tue 10 December | 6.30pm KS2 Evening Performance (Children 6pm) |
| Wed 11 December | 1.45pm KS2 Afternoon Performance |
| Fri 13 December | Christmas Lunch |
| Tue 17 December | 9.30am KS1 Grandparents Performance |
| Tue 17 December | 6.30pm KS1 Evening Performance (Not Nursery) (Children 6pm) |
| Wed 18 December | 9.30am KS1 Morning Performance |
| Fri 20 December | Christmas Service at Church |
| Fri 20 December | School Term Finishes |

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2020

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|-------------------------|--|
| Mon 6 January | School Term Starts |
| Mon 13 January | Rev Stuart Assembly |
| Wed 15 January | Closing Date for Reception 2020 Applications |
| Mon 20 January | Open the Book Assembly |
| Fri 31 January | Nursery 2020 Offer Day |
| Wed 5 February | Y3 Synagogue Trip |
| Mon 10 February | PTFA Disco |
| Wed 12 February | Chance to Shine Assembly |
| Monday 2 March | Secondary 2020 Offer Day |
| Mon 9 - Fri 13 March | Health Week |
| Mon 9 & 10 March | Lifebus |
| Mon 16 March | Open the Book Assembly |
| Fri 3 April | Easter Service at Church |
| Thur 16 April | Reception 2020 Offer Day |
| Mon 18 May | PTFA Disco |
| Wed 3 June | Tempest Class Photographs |
| Mon 8- Fri 12 June | Year 5 Bikeability |
| Mon 29 June- Fri 3 July | Year 6 Residential Trip to Croft Farm |
| Fri 17 July | Year 6 Leavers Service at Church |

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Justice, our new Finance Officer, to George Fentham School. She has very much enjoyed her first half term with us and already knows many of our children and families.

As you may know, Mrs Hansford is currently absent from school. I am sure you will join with me in sending her our very best wishes. In order to provide some cover in the office, Mrs Kelly has been supporting at the start and end of the day and over lunchtimes.

I am extremely grateful to both Mrs Justice and Mrs Kelly for all their hard work in ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the school during this time.

Nursery 2020-21 Admissions

Applications for a Nursery Place

If you would like to apply for a Nursery place to start in September 2020 you should apply to George Fentham Endowed School by 2nd December, 2019. You may make a late online application after the closing date, but this will have implications should we be oversubscribed. Offers will be made on 31st January, 2020. Please go on-line to our school website <http://www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/admissions.html> where you can see our Admission Policies and download an application form.

Class Events

Reception Reading Workshop

Reception had a very successful Reading Inspire workshop at the beginning of term. Lots of parents attended and they found out how we approach and teach reading in Reception and how they can support at home. 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 and make a bookmark. 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.

Year 4 Roman Soldier visit

On Thursday 10th 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 and love of learning that Year 4 showed. We are so proud of them!

Y4 Gymnastics

This half term, Year 4 have been working on their cheer-leading skills with Becky the coach from Animated Dance. The class have improved their co-ordination, rhythm and performance. They have finessed their cheer-leading sequences and they have been delighted to see how much they can do with confidence now. Well done year 4!

Year 5 Armonico Workshop & Year 5 Kings Singers Concert at Solihull School

Class 5 were very lucky to have been involved in two musical workshops with the Armonico Consort this term and they have worked incredibly hard in their music lessons with Mrs Kermode to learn and memorise a variety of different works—from Native American chants, to an African song called 'Kelele' and a traditional Shaker melody called 'The Gift'.

The children were then specifically invited to sing this music in a concert with the world-renowned male vocal group, The King's Singers. The concert featured a piece which was specially commissioned from the composer Toby Young called 'A Suitcase Full Of Songs', which incorporated different movements centred around the journey of refugees.

On the day, the children showed their enthusiasm throughout the long rehearsal and concert. Mrs Kermode and Mrs Bradburn were incredibly proud of the way that the children embraced the music in the performance and their behaviour was, at all times, exemplary.

Very well done to all children who took part!

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Year 5 Playground Leaders

Congratulations to the New Year 5 Play Leaders.

At the beginning of term Year 5 took part in two sessions of Play Leader Training with Chris Davis from the Solihull School Sports Partnership. They learned about the personal qualities that make good play leaders and then spent some time learning fun, fair and active games that they could teach to others on the playground. The children rose to the challenge and demonstrated fantastic qualities -we think they will make a great team of play leaders.

Look out for your Year 5 play Leaders on the playground, they'll be a friendly face to help the younger children in their play.

Year 6 Tennis Tournament

On Monday 14th October, Year 6 braved the weather for a very enjoyable afternoon at Hampton Sports Club playing tennis exercises and then a mini tournament.

The wet weather did not dampen their enthusiasm and they all had a fun time.

Year 6 Harvest Tea

On the afternoon of 21st October Year 6 entertained thirty grandparents and senior friends of the school with a tour and then served them tea and cakes which they had baked themselves. Feedback from our visitors was excellent and they were most impressed with how proud our children are of their school and how much they could talk about their learning.

Charities

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Wear it Pink Non Uniform Day - After School Cake Sale

On Friday 27th September 2019, we held our annual fundraising event for three different Cancer Charities. Children came dressed in a variety of shades of pink to show their support. Parents came to enjoy our Macmillan Coffee Morning and our end-of-day Bake Sale for Marie Curie was very well-attended, with a queue of people stretching round the playground! Thank you for all your support for these very worthy charities. We raised an amazing £515.52

Clubs

Lunch Time Sports Clubs

Well done to all the children who have participated in Lunch Time Sports Clubs this half term. They are now running at full capacity and the coaches are really pleased with all the children's dedication and enjoyment. These clubs will continue for five weeks after half term until the week beginning Monday 2nd December, which will be their last session.

Tuesday After School Club

Paige and Jack have been really impressed with your netball and basketball skills, this club will continue after half term until Tuesday 26th November, which will be the last session.

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Jet Dance After School Clubs

Jet Dance will continue to run on Wednesdays after school. It is run by an outside agency. If your child would like to join this group please contact the school office for details.

Complete Cricket

This club will finish on Thursday 24th October and return again in January for all you budding cricketers.

If you have any suggestions for new clubs in the Spring Term please speak to Mrs Bradburn.

The BASE

If you have any queries about places please contact Mrs Tina Coley 01675 443913.

100% Attendance - Summer 2019

Congratulations and well done to the 54 children who achieved 100% Attendance Award Certificates for the **Summer Term 2019**. Below is a breakdown by pupil numbers in each of our classes:

| Previous Year | Number of Pupils |
|---------------|------------------|
| Reception | 6 |
| 1 | 12 |
| 2 | 9 |
| 3 | 9 |
| 4 | 10 |
| 5 | 8 |

REMINDER: 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. **We request that these images are not published on any form of social media.** This is in line with our school policies and procedures. Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off and put away at all other times. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Medicines in School

Please be aware 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 or whilst on school site for extra activities e.g. clubs and discos. 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 label with the above details. Should you wish to discuss this in any further detail, please contact the school office.

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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

From 1st September 2019 School meals have increased to £2.15 per day.

Please ensure that you check your account regularly and credit your account with sufficient funds to pay for your child's school lunches. If a debt exceeds one week's school lunches a hot meal cannot be provided until the debt is cleared and the account is in credit.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

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

REMINDER: 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 will be continuing to work with Central School Attendance and Welfare Service Ltd (CSAWS) in 2019/20. 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, 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.

And finally.....

On behalf of everyone at George Fentham Endowed School, I wish you and your families an enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 4th November 2019.

Mrs J Gaughan
Head Teacher

A Message from the PTFA

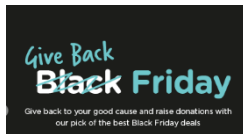


This year the PTFA is continuing to raise money for 'Project ICT Innovation' to help update the school's IT resources. ICT equipment has a great impact on the children's progress.

A really easy and fun way to support this project (if you haven't already done it) is to sign up to our **100 Club** (private lottery). Memberships will need to be renewed in October for this academic year 2019-20. New parents will also be able to join. The first draw of the new year will be in November. More information to follow for joining/renewing. It's just £12 a year and a chance of winning £25, £15 or £10 every month. Any questions please contact: Aileen Spain.



Another way of supporting 'Project ICT Innovation' is our **Christmas Card Project**, which we are currently 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 soon on how to order.



With Black Friday coming up on Friday 29th November, don't forget to shop through the online fundraising portal <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gfeschoolptfa/> so we receive a small % from the retailers.

School Name Labels. Remember if you buy your school name labels from: www.mynametags.co.uk quoting the **school ID: 26751** - we will receive 20% of your order!



Thank you to everyone who came to the school disco and to the parents who volunteered to help. We raised an amazing **£300!**

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 6th 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.)

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| 18.11.19 | Christmas Raffle Tickets sent home to sell to friends and family |
| 30.10.19 | Christmas Card Project – website open for purchases. <i>Deadline for last orders: 08.11.19</i> |
| 29.11.19 | Christmas Wreath Making Workshop – no experience needed. |
| 29.11.19 | Crazy Cups sent home to fill (details to follow) |
| 02.12.19 | Non-uniform day! Please send in chocolate and wine donations. |
| | Volunteer to help sort donations – 9am at school |
| | Return Raffle Tickets to school (including any unsold tickets). |
| 02.12.19 | -06.12.19 Christmas Donation Week... Start sending in old toys, pre-loved cuddly toys, children's books and second-hand school uniform to be sold at the Christmas Fair. Send in your filled 'Crazy Cups.' |
| 06.12.19 | Send in homemade cake and mince pie donations. |
| 06.12.19 | Christmas Fair 3:45 – 5:45pm |

If you haven't already signed up to Classlist please go to the website (www.classlist.com) it's really easy to do or download the App. Get updates and reminders on all PTFA events straight to your email inbox. This year we will be using Classlist as our main source of communication to parents: moving away from paper letters and also to sell tickets for events. So please make sure you're signed up and don't miss out.

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. Thank you!

Date of the next meeting: 8:00pm - White Lion - Monday 4th November

Keep in touch:

Visit our website: <http://www.georgefenthamppta.co.uk>

Follow our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/PTFAGeorgeFentham/>

Communicate with us on: www.classlist.com

Email: gfptfa@gmail.com

Take a look at our notices on the school gate notice board.

