

**GEORGE FENTHAM ENDOWED SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 1 AUTUMN 2021**

October 2021

Term Dates	
<b>SCHOOL TERMS &amp; HOLIDAY DATES</b>	
	<u><b>2021/2022</b></u>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Thu 2 September 2021 - Fri 17 December 2021
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 25 October 2021- Fri 29 October 2021
<b>Spring Term</b>	Tue 4 January 2022 - Fri 8 April 2022
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 21 February 2022- Fri 25 February 2022
<b>Summer Term</b>	Mon 25 April 2022- <u>Thur 21 July 2022</u> - one day's holiday to be taken in place of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday on Friday 22 July 2022(the actual date of Friday 3 June 2022 is during the Summer half term holiday) <b>May Bank Holiday:</b> Mon 2 May 2022
<b>Half Term</b>	Mon 30 May - Fri 3 June 2022
<b>INSET DAYS</b>	<b>Thu 2 September &amp; Fri 3 September 2021, Fri 22 October 2021, Mon 28 February 2022 &amp; Mon 6 June 2022</b>

Dates for Diary 2021-2022	
Sun 31 October	Secondary School Applications Closing Date
Wed 3 November	Nasal Flu Vaccination Programme Reception to Year 6
Tue 8 - Mon 15 November	Travelling Book Fair
Wed 10 November	Reception & Y6 National Measurement Programme
Mon 15- Fri 19 November	Anti-Bullying Week - One Kind Word
Mon 15 November	Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Sock Day
Wed 17 November am	Tempest Individual Photographs
Wed 1 December	Nursery Applications for September 2022 Closing Date
<b>2022</b>	
Sat 15 January	Reception Applications for September 2022 Closing Date
Mon 31 January	Nursery Place September 2022 - Offer Day
Tue 1 March	Secondary School Offer Day
Tue 19 April	Reception Place September 2022 - Offer Day

**COVID-19 Update**

Following on from my previous letter, levels of COVID-19 in school have continued to reduce and, at the time of writing, we have no COVID-19 related absences. This, however, is an ever changing picture and one that we are monitoring on a daily basis.

With the onset of winter, we anticipate that there will be further "waves" of COVID-19 throughout school. We will continue to do all that we can to mitigate risk in order that we can minimise disruption to children's short and long term learning. With this in mind, we have been reviewing our provision for next half term and have made some decisions based on what we believe we can do to keep our school community safe.

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For those of you who have had children in school for a number of years, you will know that some of the highlights of our school year are our Christmas Performances. These productions take a huge amount of work and involve classes mixing together, in limited space, with large audiences of Grandparents and Parents/Carers attending a total of six productions. Based on our experiences this half term, and the expectation that this may be a "challenging winter", we have made the decision not to go ahead with Christmas Performances this year. However, please be reassured that we are developing alternative plans to celebrate Christmas with the children and to make it as magical as ever. We are also looking at the possibility of holding an outdoor Carol Concert for Parents/Carers to attend. We will keep you updated and provide more information next half term. Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

**Staffing Update**

This term we have welcomed Miss Timothy to our Year 6 Team. Mrs Edmeades continues to teach Year 6 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Miss Timothy now teaches Year 6 on Thursdays and Fridays. Miss Timothy brings with her excellent Year 6 teaching experience and has really enjoyed her first half term with us.

**Nursery and Reception Admissions September 2022**

**Nursery Admissions September 2022:** If you would like to apply for a Nursery place for your child from September 2022, please visit our Admissions page on our school website. **You will need to complete our "George Fentham Endowed School Nursery Application Form" and return it directly to the school office by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.**

**Reception Admissions September 2022:** Applications for a Reception place for your child from September 2022 should be made through your Local Authority. **The closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.** Please see the Admissions page on our school website for further details.

**Parent Consultations Autumn Term**

Due to advice from Public Health, our Parent Consultation meetings were moved to SchoolCloud this half term. Thank you to all of our Parents/Carers who joined us for these meetings. If you did not make an appointment and would like to speak with your child's Class Teacher(s), please contact the office directly.

**Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Review Meetings Autumn Term**

As you are aware, Mrs Morris is our Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo)/Inclusion Leader. She will be inviting all Parents/Carers of children with additional needs to book an online review meeting on **TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> or WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> November** (letter and booking instructions will be sent via Parent Pay straight after half term).

This is an opportunity to discuss your child's targets, provision (including support from other agencies e.g. Speech and Language Therapy), celebrate achievements and to address any concerns or queries that you may have.

If any other Parents/Carers wish to discuss concerns or queries they may have about their child, Mrs Morris can be contacted via the school office every Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Class Events**

**Nursery:**

It has been lovely to begin to get to know the new Nursery children as they settle into school, get accustomed to our routines and explore their new classroom and outdoor environment.

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Our learning theme has been 'Autumn All Around Us' and we have considered where our food comes from as well as observing the changes that occur outside at this time of year. One of our highlights has been our work based on the story of the Little Red Hen; we particularly enjoyed investigating ears of wheat and making (and tasting!) our own bread.

**Mrs Durkin**

**Reception:**

This half term we have welcomed our new class of children into Reception. We have focussed on the children settling well into new routines, developing independence and ensuring they are happy and ready to learn.

Our theme 'Marvellous Me' really inspired us all to get to know each other. After sharing the 'Chatterboxes' that the children put together over the summer, we have talked about ourselves, our family, our favourite toy and delved a bit deeper into our body and found out about our skeleton. We have even had a skeleton in our classroom! We have observed the changes in the weather and the seasons too. We have collected Autumn treasures to use in the classroom. In PE we have been focussing on our fundamental movements and have used apparatus to develop our balance and jumping skills.

The children have worked so hard they definitely deserve a week off! Happy Half Term.

**Mrs Brown**

**Year 1:**

The children in Year 1 have been amazing and settled well into the new school year. We have been very busy this half term and have produced some super work in all areas of the curriculum.

We have especially enjoyed our Art lessons. We have been learning all about Andy Goldsworthy and looking at all the fantastic sculptures he has created using natural objects from outside. We have been inspired by his work and created our own sculptures using leaves and sticks. We thought carefully about the colours and shapes we used and were so pleased with our final creations.

**Mrs Salmon and Mrs Barratt**

**Year 2:**

We have had a FAB-U-LOUS start to Year 2, with plenty of fun and laughter and lots of learning too! Asking the children what they have enjoyed so far, they said: "Investigating materials in Science was cool. We got to see what happened if we tried to bend or squash plasticine and a rock". "I have enjoyed doing Art with Mrs Mallin. We have learnt about William Morris and produced our own print and design". "In History we have been looking at the lives of Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. They were both fearsome woman and I didn't know they did so much for our country".

We've done lots of other interesting things as well - finding out about the Festival of Sukkot in RE, gymnastics in PE and discovering how to be a better learner in PSHE. Now we can't wait for the next half term (and Christmas!!!!!!)

**Mr Bass**

**Year 3:**

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the academic year. We have been exploring Ancient Egypt and have created some fantastic Canopic jars using clay and Modroc. The children have worked incredibly hard on their clay skills, shaping, moulding, pinching and joining. They would not look out of place in a museum! In PE, we have been so proud of their progress with their skipping. Each week, we have practiced a different skipping skill, some trickier than others! All of the children have persevered, working hard and focusing on their own goals.

**Mrs Hodge**

**Year 4**

Year 4 have started their weekly strings lessons and, after a nervous start, they are enjoying exploring their musicality and the technical aspects of both their instruments and making music. We have been fascinated by listening to different genres of music and finding out how the strings

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instruments are used and played in each of these. These first few lessons require the children to use all their BLP skills especially noticing and perseverance. The children have carried these skills from the Year 4 classroom across to the music lessons and I'm expecting many marvellous things from them in the next half term. Well done Year 4 - what a musical and creative class you are!

**Mrs Brooker and Mrs Briggs**

**Year 5:**

Year 5 have shown that they are great scientists this term! They have been investigating pendulums, friction and air resistance, planning experiments and taking measurements accurately. They have demonstrated good collaboration skills working within small groups to set up and conduct fair tests. Well done to all!

**Mrs Bradburn and Mrs Kermode**

**Year 6:**

Mrs Edmeades and Miss Timothy are so proud of the way Year 6 have settled in, despite a few disruptions to Autumn 1! The children are really enjoying work on the 2 World Wars, including learning in English, History and Art. They always have thoughtful and interesting ideas to share in discussions. We are really looking forward to continuing our learning together after half term.

**Mrs Edmeades and Miss Timothy**

**Year 6 Cross Country - 11<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

We are immensely proud of both our **Girls and Boys Year 6 Cross Country Teams**. Last week they took part in the Solihull Cross Country Competition against other one-form entry schools, completing a mile course around the grounds of Silhillians. Standing at the start line, surrounded by all the other runners and a huge field in front of you, can be a little bit daunting but our teams showed great self-belief and determination. Every single one of them completed the course and gave their all. Congratulations- you are all awesome!

A special congratulations go to Ethan who came **first** in the boy's race and Frankie who came **second** in the girl's race.



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**A message from Mrs Bradburn: PE Kit**

As the weather is getting colder, please can we remind you that on PE days your child may wear a plain tracksuit in line with our school uniform policy. This should be a plain dark colour (preferably black) and it should NOT have a logo emblazoned on it. Alternatively children may wear their school jumper/cardigan instead of a tracksuit top if that is more comfortable.

Please also make sure they are wearing trainers and have a coat as, unless the weather causes a health and safety concern, PE lessons will take place outside as planned.

Your cooperation is much appreciated.

PE Kit	Black shorts Round neck white tee shirt	Black shorts Round neck white tee shirt
Games Kit	Dark plain tracksuit or jogging bottoms (in cold weather) Trainers	Dark plain tracksuit or jogging bottoms (in cold weather) Trainers

**Autumn 2021 Clubs & Music Lessons**

Day	During the school day	After-school
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Strings Lessons Wider Opportunities - Y4 Strings	
Thursday	Woodwind	3.20-4.20 pm Sports Club
Friday	Keyboard & Guitars	3.20-4.20 pm Sports Club

**Anti-Bullying Week 2021: One Kind Word**



## THE ONE KIND WORD CALL TO ACTION

Ask if someone's OK. Say you're sorry.  
Just say hey.

In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying.

Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. So from the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, together, our actions can fire a chain reaction that powers positivity. It starts with one kind word. It starts today.

**ONE  
KIND  
WORD**

Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons that 'One Kind Word' has been chosen as the theme of Anti-Bullying Week, taking place from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. Alongside our Jigsaw unit 'Celebrating Differences', children will be exploring some of the Anti-Bullying Alliance resources based on the theme 'One Kind Word'.

**To launch our anti-bullying week, pupils and staff are invited to wear odd socks to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Why not join in at home too?**

During the week we will be reinforcing the definition of bullying and discussing prevention strategies. At George Fentham, we define bullying as: **Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally (and that this is different to an occasional fallout with friends).**

To help children understand this we will be reinforcing the **STOP** message:

**Bullying is....**

**S**everal  
**T**imes  
**O**n  
**P**urpose

**What to do....**

**S**tart  
**T**elling  
**O**ther  
**P**eople

The Anti-Bullying Alliance website has a wealth of additional information for Parents/Carers. Please click on the following link to find out more.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

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**British Legion Poppy Appeal**

We will be selling poppies on behalf of the British Legion from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, we are suggesting a minimum donation of 50p.



Thank you for your support.

**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 2021-22. 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, Headteachers 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.

**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 medicine during the school day, please complete the relevant form and speak directly to a member of the office staff.

**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.

**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 the child's record throughout school.

**Healthy Schools: Break time Snacks**

As part of our Health 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.

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.

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**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.**

**School Meals - Outstanding Debt**

**Parents of children in KS2:**

School meals are currently £2.20 per day and will remain at that price from September 2021

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.

**Voluntary One-Way System Fentham Road**

Please support us by using our Voluntary One Way System outside school on Fentham Road.

Between 8.30am - 9.15am and 3.00pm - 4.00pm please join Fentham Road using Butchers Lane or at the junction by the Engine housing development and leave Fentham Road by using Marsh Lane.

There are a small number of parents who continue to park, causing congestion outside school, or across driveways often blocking the drives completely. We continue to have a number of complaints from local residents about this and would once again ask that parents park considering both the safety of our children and access for local residents.

**Please note: Parents are invited to park in the Fentham Hall car park and walk their children down to school to try to ease congestion on Fentham Road.**

**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.

**PTFA Update**

Please see the information at the end of our Newsletter sent from our George Fentham Endowed School PTFA.

**And finally.....**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable half-term holiday and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.**

**Mrs J Gaughan**  
**Headteacher**

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**OUR NEXT PTFA MEETING IS ONLINE VIA ZOOM –  
8PM, MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER – PLEASE JOIN US**  
(DETAILS BELOW)

### **Welcome from George Fentham School PTFA**

The PTFA would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new parents to the school and wish their children a very happy time at George Fentham. You are now a member of a fantastic community of parents, teachers and friends and we and look forward to getting to know you.

Starting school is an exciting time for the whole family. Studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved from the start! This letter will provide you with information about GFPTFA and will tell you how you can join in.

### **Why do we have a PTFA?**

Over recent years we have raised money for equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience and the school's facilities. From IT kit to Sports and Playground equipment – our fund raising really has made a difference. All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available.

### **The PTFA Committee and Supporters**

The PTFA at George Fentham School is ran by a small number of committee members and supporting parents. We aim to hold a few events each year to raise funds for the school and provide entertainment and fun activities for the children.

Our current Chair, Rhona Cloke has done an amazing job over the past 3 years and we would like to say a huge thank you for all her dedication and hard work. Rhona is now ready to hand over the reigns to a new Chairperson and we would like to appeal to all parents to consider volunteering for this extremely rewarding role.

We are also in need of new committee members, parent supporters and occasional helpers and would encourage everyone to consider joining the team and seeing how you can make a difference by raising some much-needed funds and coordinating events for our children to enjoy.

We would welcome all parents, new and old to come along to our next meeting which will be held via Zoom Video call **Monday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 at 8pm**. Joining instructions will be sent out via the Class WhatsApp groups prior to the meeting.

The meeting will be a great opportunity to meet new parents and find out more about how you can support the school by joining the PTFA. If you can't make this time but would still like to be involved, please let us know via email (below) and thank you!

### **How we communicate**

You will hopefully have received an invitation to follow the PTFA on Classlist which is an online social media application for parent communities. Here we will update you on opportunities to support fundraising and planned events.

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There are also WhatsApp groups for each year group – each class has a parent representative, who will occasionally provide update messages regarding PTFA events etc. Our class reps play a very important role, providing a link between individual classes and parents, and the PTFA committee.

The school will also send out key updates via ParentPay.

Any questions / issues relating to how we contact you can be raised via the following email address: [gftfa@gmail.com](mailto:gftfa@gmail.com)

Our website (for more info on fundraising and ways to support us including direct donations):

<http://www.georgefenthampfa.co.uk>

**Committee Officers:**

Rhona Cloke	Chair	(Mother of Year 6 Pupil)
Leanne Perry	Secretary	(Mother of Year 2 Pupil)
Suzanne Coulthurst	Treasurer	(Mother of Year 4 Pupil)

**Thanks for reading and we hope to see you soon!**